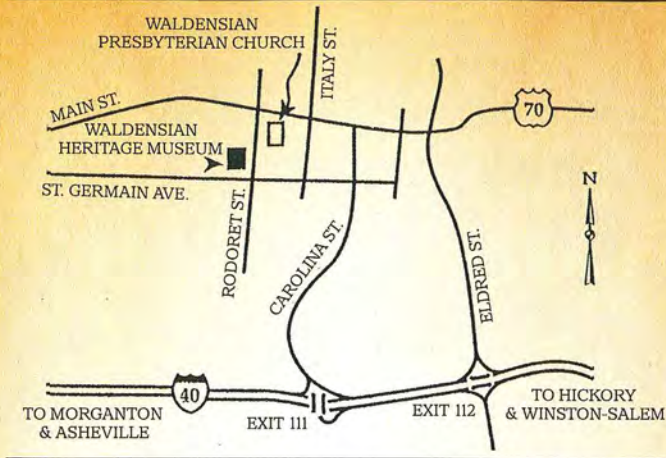
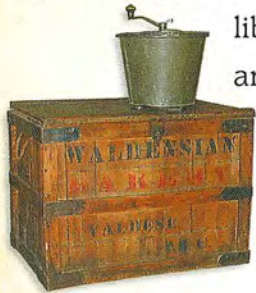
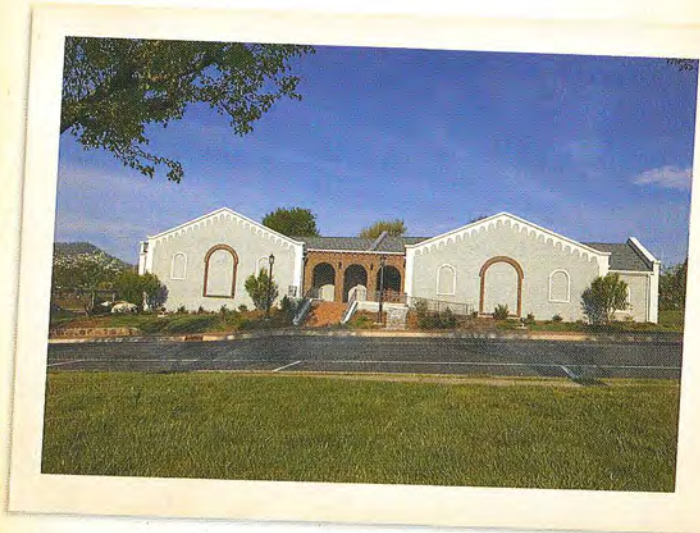

  
 Welcome to  
 the Waldensian  
 Heritage Museum.

Explore and learn as we retrace the lives of these Christians from the Middle Ages in Europe across the centuries to the settling in a new world. See drawings and maps marking the sacred spots where they worshiped in secret. Experience their daily lives as settlers and see items they used in their crafts of bread baking and wine making. Then, explore the genealogy of the Waldenses in a research library filled with images and archives to help visitors trace their own spiritual roots from a quest for liberty, through a journey of faith to a proud heritage of honor.



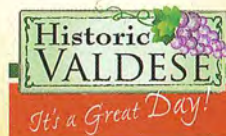
Valdese, NC: east of Asheville and west of Winston-Salem.  
 Take I-40 Exit 111. Drive north on Carolina Street 1.1 miles. Turn left on St. Germain Avenue and drive 2 blocks to Rodoret Street.



## Waldensian Heritage Museum

208 Rodoret Street South | PO Box 111 | Valdese, NC 28690  
 828-874-1111 | [www.waldensianheritagemuseum.com](http://www.waldensianheritagemuseum.com)

Handicap Accessible



Valdese Tourism Office

# WALDENSIAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

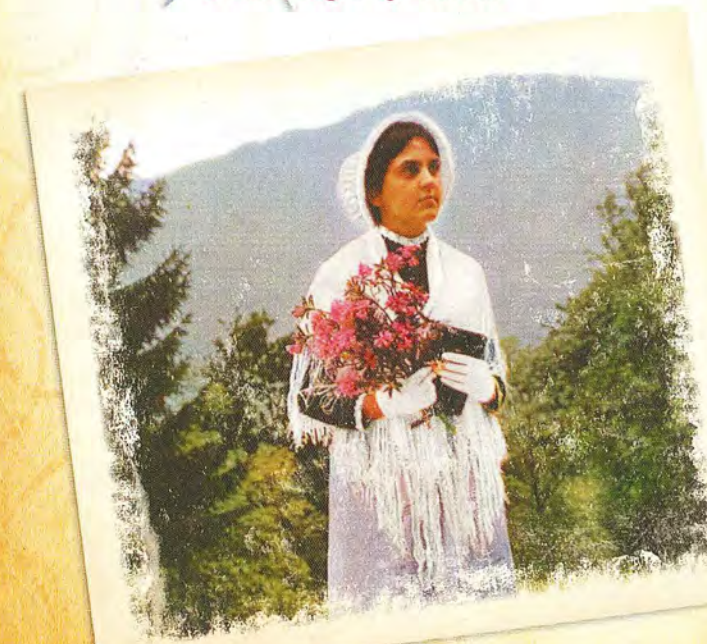
*a quest for liberty*

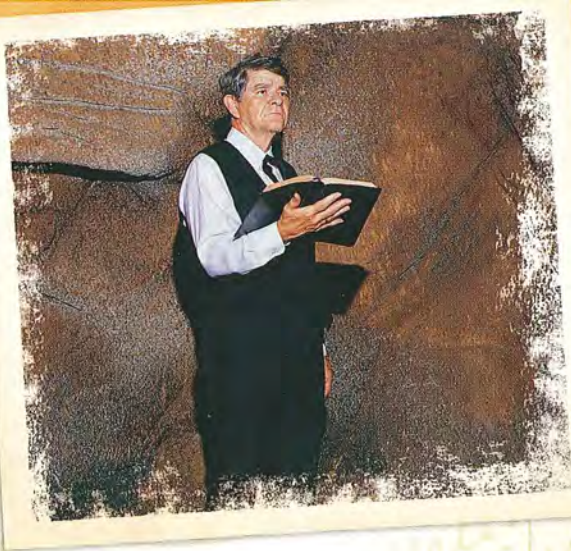


*a journey of faith*



*a heritage of honor*

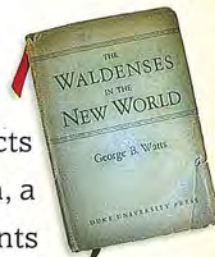




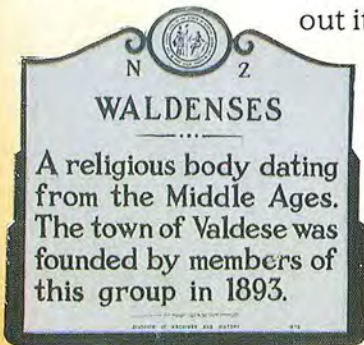
# Liberty, Faith and Honor.

*These are the legacies of the Waldenses.*

They were a persecuted people who for centuries survived the edicts of rulers calling for their extinction, a barbaric exile and the cruel elements of nature. Together, these faithful people wanted only to read the Bible, preach its Gospel and live



out its tenets. Today their traditions live on in the small community they founded in North Carolina.

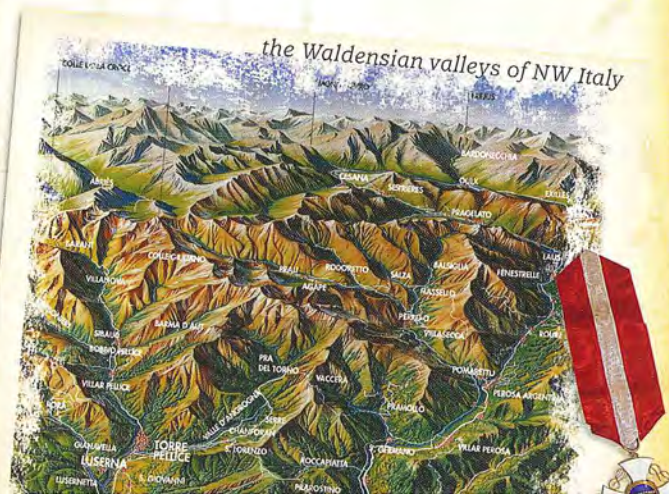


## The story of the Waldenses is a story of survival – of a people and their faith.

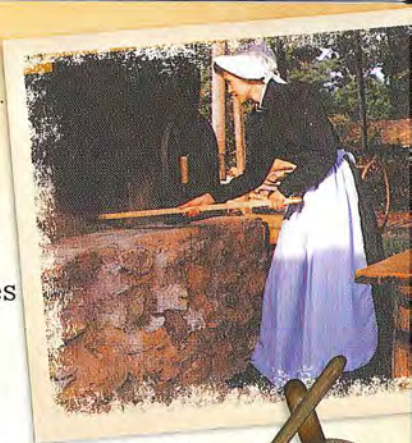
During a period of Roman Catholic dominance, they vowed to live out the teachings of the Bible in a time when only priests were allowed to read and preach the Bible. Going against the church's doctrines, the Waldenses were declared heretics.



Though many were massacred, miraculously some survived centuries of Inquisition. Those remaining joined the Reformation in 1532 and suffered more persecution as Christians were killed or imprisoned. Eventually, they were exiled into the Swiss Alps. In 1689, a contingent of men began the journey back to their valleys in the "Glorious Return." The Edict of Emancipation (February 17, 1848) gave the Waldenses political and legal rights.



Then, a growing population and limited farming land forced the Waldenses to seek new land. In 1893, the first 29 arrived in Burke County, NC, where they founded the settlement they named Valdese.



Their story is chronicled in the museum. Artifacts such as baptismal gowns, wooden tools and other furnishings record their daily lives. Photographs document the building of one-room homes, a community oven, and laying of the church cornerstone on Feb. 17, 1897.



Today, the Waldensian story survives as descendants and townspeople celebrate the annual heritage festival.

A quest for liberty. A journey of faith. A heritage of honor continues.

### The Waldensian Emblem

"Lux Lucet In Tenebris" (*The light shineth in the darkness*): These words surround the lighted candle in the church's emblem, a reminder of Christ's words in Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father who is in heaven." Two green branches, an oak and laurel are tied with light blue ribbon, symbolizing strength, hope and the glory of God. The laurel wreath is "The Church Triumphant."

