

**Prior to May, 1893** Valdese hardly more than a virgin forest

**June 20, 1893** First bread baked in new outdoor oven; sawmill at work

**August 13-15, 1893** 3 babies born to colony (boys)

**November 12, 1893** First baby girl born

**June 1894** Arrival of Barthelemy Soulier and wife (Savior of Valdese)

**August, 1895** Tried to start hosiery mill to employ Waldenses; unsuccessful but Garrou brothers worked at mill; was to prove helpful later.

**1900** INDUSTRY BEGINS: Accounts for growth and success in Valdese (See attachment of businesses)

**1903** Train depot built

**1905** Waldensian schools came under control of Burke County Board of Education

**1913** The Valdese Manufacturing Company opens. Banner Knitting Mills became Martinat Hosiery Mills

**1916** The Waldensian Paper Box Factory opens

**1920** Valdese Incorporated as a town with John Long as 1st Mayor. Pauline Knitting Mills opens (later merged with Waldensian Hosiery Mill)

**1927** Main street paved using mules and pans

**1930** Valdese Food Shop, Benlee's, B. and B. Market, City Market, Belk -Broome, the Masonic Lodge and the Chamber of Commerce all open in this year

**1932** City water and sewage disposal systems began. Eastern Star organizes

**1935** Blackstone Mills opens

**1937** The Dolly Hosiery, Wright Machine Shop, Frances Louise Full Fashion Mill, & John Massey Company all open during this year

Valdese, which was hardly more than a barren forest in 1893, was a growing industrial community by 1920. In 1938 Valdese was known as North Carolina's Fastest Growing Town. This is certainly exemplified by the following list of businesses, civic groups, and town improvements that were established or happened in the town from its inception through the 1930s. The formation of industry in Valdese was to save the small colony and make it prosper.

## *The most significant events in Valdese during the first 120 years of the town...*

**May 29, 1893** Arrival of 1st 29 in Valdese; Valdese Corporation began

**June 26, 1893** Nine Waldensians arrive from the Utah Colony

**August 16, 1893** Colony visited by NC Gov. Elias Carr

**November 23, 1893** 178 new settlers arrive from Italy

**January, 1895** Valdese Corporation was dissolved; everyone able to purchase own land

**1898** First church completed

**1901** Waldensian Hosiery Mills opens

**1908** Meytre roller mill erected at McGalliard Falls

**1915** Waldensian Baking Company opens. The Waldensian Swiss Embroidery Mill (Valdese Weavers Inc) opens

**1917** Valdese Credit Union (Valdese Savings and Loan) opens. Valdese Co-operative Store opens

**1923** Valdese Shoe Corporation opens

**1928** Pilot Full Fashion Mills opens

**1931** Colonial Theater opens

**1933** Valdese Building and Loan opens

**1936** Lion's Club organizes

**1937** Secondary streets paved

**1938** Valdese News first published

**1939** Valdese General Hospital, Pilot Club, & Northwestern Bank all open this year

**1954** Alba-Waldensian Inc. begins to make "Pamper Pants"; The name "Pamper Pants" was sold to the diaper manufacturer. Yes, the trade name "Pampers" originated in Valdese.