Transcription of an Old Littell Family Bible

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28 Oct 2000

A crumbling Bible, printed in 1793, was obtained by the author via an email transaction, Oct 2000, because it contained family records of old New Jersey families, particularly the Littell family. The Bible originally belonged to Mary Ross Clark, wife of Caleb Maxwell Littell. Following is a transcription of the family data in the old Littell family Bible and an analysis of it. Digital scans of the actual Bible pages are attached as an appendix (at approximately 75% full size).

First frontpaper, as received (separated from binding)¹:

Mrs Mary C Littell's Book
13 College Place
December 7th 1848 — New York
&
Caleb M Littell
13 College Place
December 7th 1848 — New York

Second frontpaper (separated from binding):

Mary R Littell [ornate ink calligraphy, an unreadable notation below it right]

Caleb M Littell [very faintly, in pencil]

Caleb M Littell's [Bible?] book [very faintly, in pencil]

First printed page, numbered A2 at bottom, contains a formal introduction addressed to "Moft High and Mighty Prince, James"—ie, to King James for which this version is usually named.

v1.2

 $^{^{1}}$ There are also two lines of pencilled handwriting that have been crossed out. The words of the second line are "and two silver dollars."

On the reverse side is a listing of, respectively, the books of the Old Testament, the Apocrypha, and the New Testament, showing the order of the books and the count of chapters in each. It is like a table of contents, but without page numbers. The single word "The" appears at the lower right of the page. It is a practice in this book to place the first word of the succeeding page at the lower right of the current page. Thus this page, though not attached, is assuredly the first page before the first still bound page, which we discuss next.

The first bound page begins "The First Book of Moses, called Genesis". At the lower right corner is the word "And". The reverse page begins "And God bleffed the feventh day". Etc.

The pages of the Old Testament are still bound together. Between Psalms and Proverbs were inserted, as received, three pages of Psalms printed a different way (see more about this below).

On the front side of the last bound page of the first bound section appears the words "The End of the Old Testament." On its reverse side in ink handwriting is the following:

Ages

Anthony Littell was born September 3rd, 1768. Annie Littell was born March 7th, 1769 Eliza Littell was born May 22nd, 1790 Caleb [Maxwell]² Littell was born November 16th, 1791 Samuel Cory Littell was born June 16th, 1793. Amos Littell was born July 22nd, 1794. Fanna Marsh Littell was born August 6th 1797

Elizabeth³ Littell was born May 22nd 1790 And was married to William Hand October 14th 1848 and Died at Scotch Plains N. J. January 6th 1869 and was buried at Westfield N. J.

At this point a complete break occurs in the binding. There are five loose sheets, followed by the entire New Testament, still bound, beginning with "The Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chap. 1". Bound to this is an Index to the Bible and then the Psalms "in Metre". The three pages of Psalms mentioned above, inserted between Psalms and Proverbs, are in fact from this last section of the original Bible. They are the last pages of the metered Psalms section, and have become unbound. Its now remaining last pages are beginning to unbind too. The back cover is entirely separate from the binding, as is the front cover. Thus the two major bound sections of the Bible, as received, are essentially the Testaments.

² Someone has inserted a caret here and the name "Maxwell" above the line. The additions are in pencil, and the handwriting is not that of the inked items. ³ Someone has, with pencil, hatched across the "beth" in "Elizabeth", apparently to make the en-

try consistent with the one above beginning "Eliza Littell".

The New Testament is the one expected for the given Old Testament. It is printed in exactly the same style as the Old, with the succeeding page's first word at the lower right of each page. The two "halves" of the Bible, as received, are clearly parts of one original object.

There is no Apocrypha. Either it has been entirely removed, or it was never present. It is curious that the Apocrypha was listed if it were not intended for inclusion.

The five loose sheets between the Old and New Testaments contain most of the genealogical information. First is apparently the title page of the New Testament:

Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Translated out of the Original Greek; and with the Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised, By His Majesty's Special Command. Appointed to be Read in Churches, [Seal of Great Britain here] Edinburgh: Printed by Mark and Charles Kerr, His Majesty's Printers. MDCCXCIII.

This is the only publication notice anywhere in the Bible, as received. Someone has conveniently penned "1793" next to the Roman numerals. Clearly, the dates for the oldest people have been recorded after the fact, since they occurred pre-1793.

The title page features several curiosities. A small dried flower is mounted at the center of the page, held in place by a strip of paper glued to the page. Its right end has been folded around the stem of the tiny flower. A straight pin has been inserted through the paper strip into the fold surrounding the stem. A tiny dot of red—sealing wax perhaps—has been applied to the lower edge of the strip to hold the fold closed. It is broken in two now. The strip has the following handwriting in pencil on it:

Taken from Mother's hand, before she was buried at Westfield May 1st 1863 – M.CBriggs

There are two small newspaper clippings pasted along the top edge of the title page. They might be pasted above some writing because at the right edge of the rightmost clipping are visible the words "New Testament", positioned as if there were more writing to the left. The two clippings are:

Died.

LITTELL—On Wednesday, 29th instant, Mary R. Littell, widow of Caleb M. Littell, of the city, in the 65th year of her age. Further notice of the funeral will be given.

HICKS—On 26th inst. of old age, Betsy Hicks, wife of Captain Sandford Hicks, in the 72d year of her age. Her relations are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, which will take place on Friday morning at 8½ o'clock,

from the residence of her daughter, No. 18 Horatio-st. Her remains will be taken to Westfield for her interment. 🖙 Californian papers please copy.

The reverse of the title page has this:

Deaths.

Anthony Littell Departed this Life 16th, May 1798 Samuel Cory Littell Departed this Life, the first Day of October 1793. Fanna Marsh Littell Departed this Life, April 22nd, 1798 Amos Littell departed this life April 11th 1823

The front of the second of the five loose sheets:

Jonathan [fragment missing, but enough is showing to suggest it is "Acken was"] born Sept^r. 19th 17[fragment missing] And was married to Sarah Marsh March 22^d, 1786 1786⁴. She being born January 24th 1770.

Ages of the Children

Rachel was born Decem^r 4th 1786, & died 21st of the same mon^h
Second Rachel was born Decem^r 1st 1787.

William Acken was born Sept^r 3^d 1789.

Jonathan Acken was born Augst 23th 1791.

Simeon Acken born July 5th 1793. & died Augst 24. 1793.

Gideon Acken was born Sept^r 14th 1794.

Jonathan Acken died March 11th 1796.

John Acken was born Augst 28th 1796.

Gideon Acken died Nov^r 8th 1797.

Joseph Acken was born June 16th 1798. died July 1st 1798.

Sarah Acken Mother to the above Children died February 22^d 1802. in the 33^d year of her Age.

The reverse of this sheet:

Births

Caleb M Littell was born Nov 16th 1791 Mary R Littell was born Nov 22 1797 and was Married Dec 4th 1813.

The following in two columns, left column first:

 $^{^4}$ The second "1786" is written below the first which is crowded against the edge of the page.

Thomas P Littell was born Oct 4th 1814.
Ann Elizabeth Littell was born Jany 24th 1817
Amos C. Littell was Born Dec^r 26th 1818.
Geo. W. Littell was Born Feby 22^d 1821
Marcus A Littell was Born Feby 21 1823
John C Littell was Born July 6th 1825
Mary & Irene Littell was Born Aug 10th 1827.
Mary C Littell was Borne 28 Sep^r 1829
Sarah Ann Brown Littell was born 15 Oct 1831

Second column:

John C. M Littell was Born 2^d Apr 1834
John C M Littell was Born 18 Nov 1836
Josephine A. Littell was Born June 27. 1840
Mary Agusta Littell was Born June 12th 1847
Marcus Frederick Briggs was Born Feb 28th 1849
Josephine Hilyard Tappen was Born December 21st 1852
Albert Howe Tappen was Born December 21st 1855
George Littell Tappen was Born January 19th 1858.
May Tappen was born June 4, 1862

Third sheet, front side:

Jonathan Acken [fragment missing, but context makes what is missing clear] & Anna Littell, was married August 10th 1803.

Ages of the Children

Sally Ann, was born Sep^r 21st 1804. Joseph Acken was born Sept^r 11th 1806. and died Feb^y 19th 1806 (or 1807) [6 and 7 are superimposed, could also be read as a 9]. Jonathan Acken died December 2nd 1807

Deaths & Marriages of the Family of Caleb M & Mary R Littell

The following is in two columns. The first column:

John C Littell Died Apr 14th 1827 Mary C. Littell Died Sep^r 1st 1827 John C M Littell Died 28th Nov 1834 John C. M. Littell died Aug 27th 1837 Mary Agusta Littell Died June 26 1847 and Mary G Littell Died August 24th 1847.

Second column:

Ann Elizabeth Littell Married [to Wm S. Archer]⁵ 11th Sep 1836

Thomas P. Littell & Mary C. Archer were married May 12th 18[fragment missing]

George W. Littell & Mary G. Acken were married June 2nd 1846.

Amos C. Littell & Emeline G. Oldis were married May 184?[a pencil 4 has been drawn—gouged actually—over the 1, 7, or 9 originally there, using the stem of the 1, 7, or 9 as the left edge of the 4]

Reverse side of the third sheet:

Deaths & Marriages of the Family Caleb M. & Mary Littell

The next two items are side by side:

Caleb M. Littell Died May 28th 1848 Aged 57 years Mary Clark Littell Married May 16th 1848 To Gilbert C Briggs Esq

The following are in two columns. Left one first:

at Sacramento City California Gilbert C. Briggs died March 29th 1850 Aged 25 years.

Ann E Archer was Married to Albert G H[ouse?]⁶ December 23rd 1851

Betsy Hicks died October 26th 1854 Aged 72 years

Captain Sandford Hicks died April 4th 1858, Aged 78 years.

Mary R. Littell died April 29th 1863, Aged 65 years 5 months & 7 days

Right column:

Sarah Ann Littell Married January, 22nd 185[fragment missing] To Frederick D Tappen Esq

George W. Littell died January 15^{th} 1863 aged 41^y 10^m 24(or 26)^d [6 overwritten with a 4]

Josephine A. Littell was married to John W. Brown Nov 30th 1864

Mary Clark Briggs died March 30th 1881. Wednesday morning 51y 6m 2d

Fourth sheet, front side:

Feb 22nd 1821. C M Littell

 5 Inserted by writing a caret above this location and the words to be inserted below the line.

⁶ I am sure of the "H", that the other letters have no ascenders or descenders, that there is no dot for an "i", and that the second letter is either "a" or "o". The name is definitely not "Hicks".

Mary Ross Clark Provision Businefs 101?. West 22nd

Mary Agusta Littell June 12, 1847 not known — New Brunswick

Its reverse side, in very faint writing left by a pencil, that might be, by reading indentations left by the pencil in the paper:

Caleb M Littell [with a line drawn through it]

Caleb M Littell [Corner? Cones? bones?]⁷ of [Curch[sic]? back? birth?] of [Water? Weber?] St reformed Ducth[sic] Curch[sic] N Y [Irene? Jane? June?] Littell

[then strongly]
C M [with several dispersed single letters "l" sprinkled about page]

The fifth sheet is blank on both sides.

Analysis

This Bible might be—but probably is not, as we shall see—the raw source material for John Littell's *First Settlers of Passaic Valley*, 1852, p 217:

DOCT. ANTHONY LITTELL lived at the head of the west branch of Green Brook. He died May, 1798. His mother died 13th Jan. 1784. Doct. Anthony Littell married Anna Maxwell, daughter of Caleb Maxwell, son of Samuel Maxwell, of Boston, and had children:

- 1. Caleb M. Littell, who married Mary Clark, daughter of Joshua Clark, of Westfield.
- 2. Elizabeth, born 22d May, 1790, who married, 14th Oct. 1848, William Hand, son of Hezekiah.
- 3. Amos, who inherited his father's farm of 257 acres, and sold it to Ezra Miller, of Westfield. He died at 28 years, unmarried.

CALEB M. LITTELL, (son of Doct. Anthony Littell,) and Mary Clark, daughter of Joshua, lived in New York, was a grocer, and had children:

1. Thomas Picton Littell, who married Mary Archer.

⁷ My first choices are listed first in the bracketed lists of words and question marks.

- 2. Anne Elizabeth married William Archer, cousin of Mary.
- 3. Amos Clark Littell married Emeline
- 4. Geroge W. Littell married Mary Aikin, daughter of John.
- 5. Marcus.
- 6. Irene.
- 7. Mary Clark Littell married Mr. Briggs; he went to California, and died.
- 8. Sarah Anne Littell married, 5th Feb. 1851, Frederick Tappen, of New York.
- 9. Josephine.

Caleb M. Littell died 28th May, 1848, aged 57 years.

The widow of Doct. Anthony Littell married, 2d, Jonathan Acken, son of Deacon Joseph Acken, whose wife was Rebecca Crane, daughter of Jonathan Crane.

Jonathan and Anna Acken had children:

- 1. Rachel Acken, who married Ezekiel Ross, son of David, of Westfield.
- 2. William Acken married, 1st, Elizabeth Miller, daughter of Benjamin; 2d, Hannah Squier, daughter of John.
- 3. John Acken married Margaret Vail, daughter of William, of Piscataway.
- 4. Sarah Anne Acken married Matthias A. Brown, of Titusville, and had children: 1. Ellen Louisa Anna Brown; 2. Amos Littell Brown; 3. Caroline Elmer Brown.

Mrs Brown lives in New York, and keeps a select school for young ladies.

I will remark here that Anthony Littell may have been a brother of Samuel, and Andrew son of Anthony.

I attempt a similar listing below, trying to preserve Littell's style, based only on what can be gleaned from the Bible data:

ANTHONY LITTELL was born 3d Sept. 1768. He died 16th May, 1793. Anthony Littell married Annie _____, born 7th March, 1769, and had children:

- 1. Eliza, or Elizabeth, Littell, born 22d May, 1790, who married, 14th Oct. 1848, William Hand. She died, at Scotch Plains, 6th Jan. 1869, and was buried at Westfield.
- 2. Caleb [Maxwell] Littell, born 16th Nov. 1791, who married, 4th Dec. 1813, Mary Ross Clark, born 22d Nov. 1797.
- 3. Samuel Cory Littell, born 16th June, 1793, who died 1st Oct. 1793.
- 4. Amos Littell, born 22d July, 1794, who died 11th Apr. 1823.
- 5. Fanna Marsh Littell, born 22d May, 1797, and died 22d Apr. 1798.

CALEB M. LITTELL, (son of Anthony Littell,) and Mary Clark, lived in New York⁸, was a grocer⁹, and had children:

- 1. Thomas P. Littell, born 4th Oct. 1814, who married, 12th May, 18__, Mary C. Archer.
- 2. Ann Elizabeth, born 24th Jan. 1817, who married William S. Archer, on 11th Sep. 1836. She married, 2d, Albert G. H[ouse?], 23d Dec. 1851.
- 3. Amos C. Littell, born 26th Dec. 1818, who married Emeline G. Oldis, in May, 184_.
- 4. George W. Littell, born 22d Feb. 1821, who married, 2d June, 1846, Mary G. Acken¹⁰. He died 15th Jan. 1863, aged 41 years¹¹, and his wife died 24th Aug. 1847
- 5. Marcus A. Littell, born 21st Feb. 1823.
- 6. John C. Littell, born 6th July, 1825, who died 14th Apr. 1827.
- 7. Irene Littell, born 10th Aug. 1827.
- 8. Mary C. Littell, twin to Irene, who died 1st Sep. 1827.
- 9. Mary Clark Littell, 2d, born 28th Sep. 1829, who married Gilbert C. Briggs, Esq., on 16th May, 1848; he went to California, and died, 29th Mar. 1850, at Sacramento, aged 25 years; and his widow Mary died 30th Mar. 1881, aged 51 years. They had a child: 1. Marcus Frederick Briggs, born 28th Feb. 1849.
- 10. Sarah Ann Brown Littell, born 15th Oct. 1831, who married, 22d Jan. 185_12, Frederick D. Tappen, Esq., and had children:
 - 1. Josephine Hilyard Tappen, born 21st Dec. 1852.
 - 2. Albert Howe Tappen, born 21st Dec. 1855.
 - 3. George Littell Tappen, born 19th Jan. 1858.
 - 4. May Tappen, born 4th June, 1862.
- 11. John C. M. Littell, born 2d Apr. 1834, who died 28th Nov. 1834.
- 12. John C. M. Littell, 2d, 18th Nov. 1836, who died 27th Aug. 1837.
- 13. Josephine A. Littell, born 27th June, 1840, who married John W. Brown, 30th Nov. 1864.
- 14. Mary Agusta Littell, born 12th June, 1847, living in New Brunswick, 12th June, 1847, who died 26th June, 1847.

Caleb M. Littell died 28th May, 1848, aged 57 years. His wife Mary died, 29th Apr. 1863, aged 65 years, and was buried, 1st May, 1863, at Westfield.

The widow Annie of Anthony Littell married, 2d, 10th Aug. 1803, Jonathan Acken, born 19th Sep. 17__, as his second wife. He married, 1st, Sarah Marsh,

⁸ We know from the Bible's first frontpaper, that they were living in New York on 7 Dec 1848.

⁹ "provisions business".

¹⁰ Littel has this surname "Aiken".

¹¹ So the Bible entry for George W Littell's death should be "41y 10m 21d".

¹² Littell gives 5 Feb 1851 for this date.

on 22d Mar. 1786. Sarah was born 24th Jan. 1770, and died 22d Feb. 1802, aged $33\ ^{13}$ years.

Jonathan and Sarah Acken had children:

- 1. Rachel Acken, born 4th Dec. 1786, and died 21st Dec. 1786.
- 2. Rachel Acken, 2d, born 1st Dec. 1787.
- 3. William Acken, born 3d Sep. 1789.
- 4. Jonathan Acken, born 23d Aug. 1791, and died 11 Mar. 1796.
- 5. Simeon Acken, born 5th July, 1793, and died 24th Aug. 1793.
- 6. Gideon Acken, born 14th Sep. 1794, and died 8th Nov. 1797.
- 7. John Acken, born 28th Aug. 1796.
- 8. Joseph Acken, born 16th June, 1798, and died 1st July, 1798.

Jonathan Acken and his 2d wife, Annie¹⁴, before his death on 2d Dec. 1807, had children:

- 1. Sally Ann Acken, born 21st Sep. 1804.
- 2. Joseph Acken, born 11th Sep. 1806, and died 19th Feb. 1806 (or 1807).

Littell has four children listed for this last marriage: 1. Rachel; 2. William; 3. John; and Sarah Anne. It is just barely conceivable that four children could have been born to the couple between their marriage 10 Aug 1803 and his death 2 Dec 1807. But Joseph, listed in the Bible, does not match any of Littell's list of four children.

I am unable to determine who Betsy Hicks, wife of Capt Sandford Hicks, was, but for completeness, I have created the following entry for her:

Betsy _____, born about 1782, married Capt. Sandford Hicks. She died, 26th Oct. 1854, aged 72 years, and he died 4th Apr. 1858, aged 78 years.

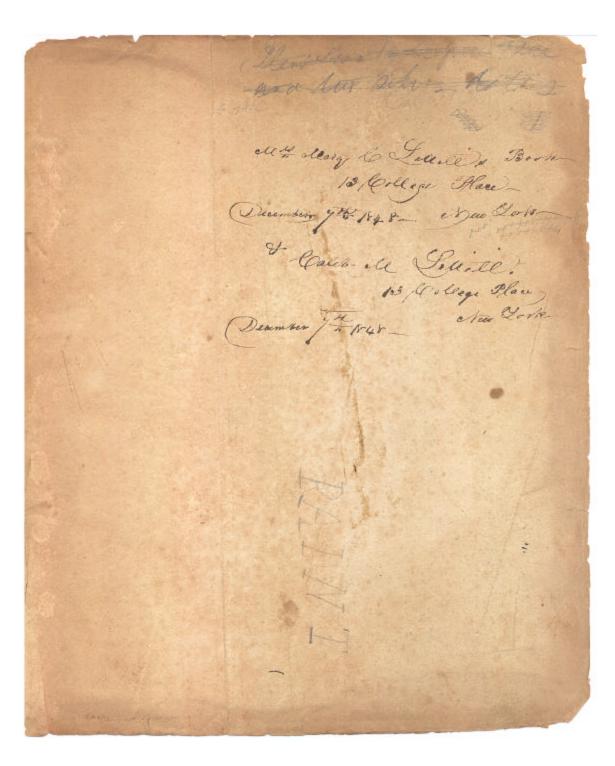
There are two Elizabeth's in the Bible, but neither one matches this Betsy. Elizabeth Littell, wife of William Hand, was born 1790 and died 1869. Ann Elizabeth Littell, wife of William Archer and then Albert House(?), was born 1817.

So this old Bible has much more information than appears in Littell's *First Settlers*. Where they intersect, the two agree to a large extent with a date or two not quite matching. Jonathan Acken's first family is not mentioned, to my knowledge, in Littell, so is a contribution of this Bible. The most questionable items in Littell are the children of Jonathan Acken's second family, which apparently don't agree in name (save one), number, or order. However, identifying Littell's listed child John with the Bible's listed Joseph, and ignoring birth order, it is just possible that Littell has this right too. This, plus the Hicks couple, must remain

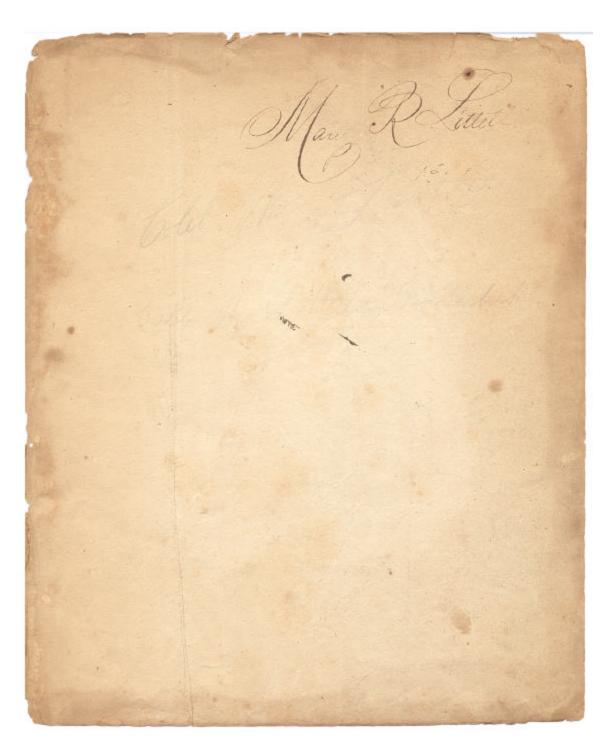
¹³ It appears that this should be 32 years.

¹⁴ A curious omission of the Bible is matriarch Annie's death.

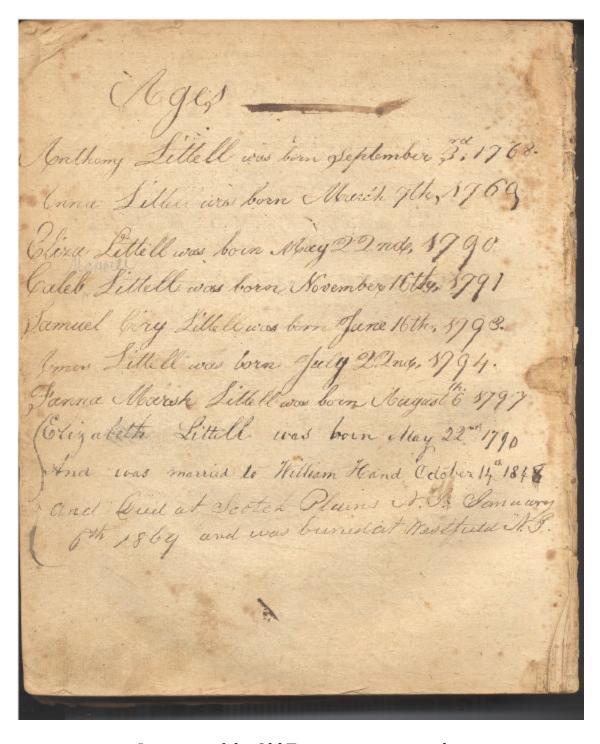
the unsolved puzzles of this analysis. I should add to this list the final mystery of the relationship between Caleb M Littell and the Dutch Reformed Church on Water or Weber St in New York. I attach scans of the actual pages, in their received order, so you can make your own transcriptions and check mine.



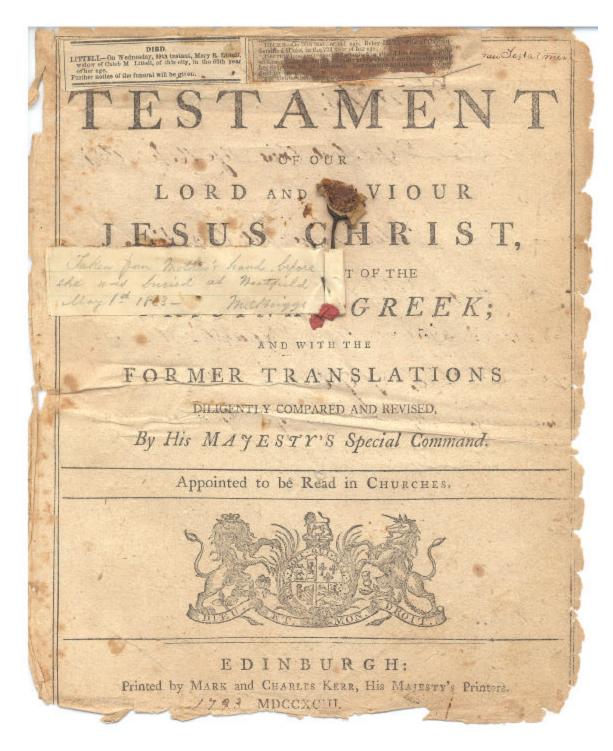
First fontpaper, front side



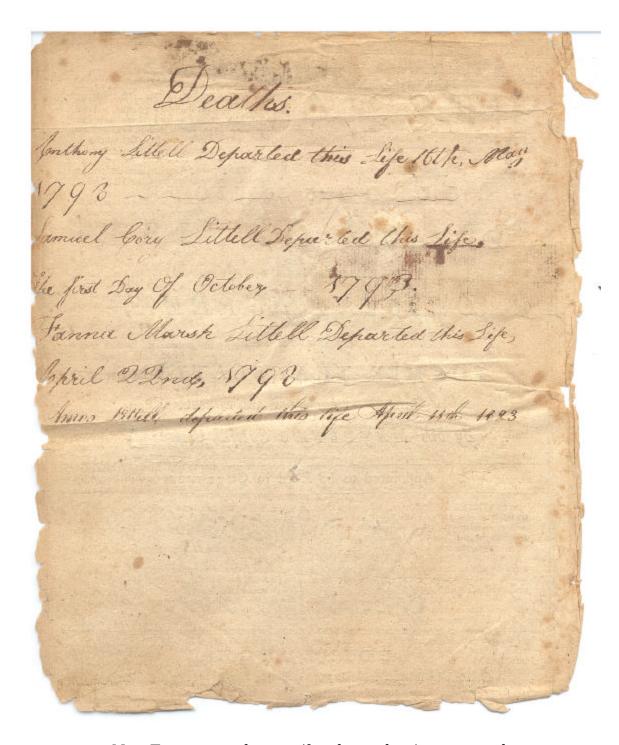
Second frontpaper, front side



Last page of the Old Testament, reverse side



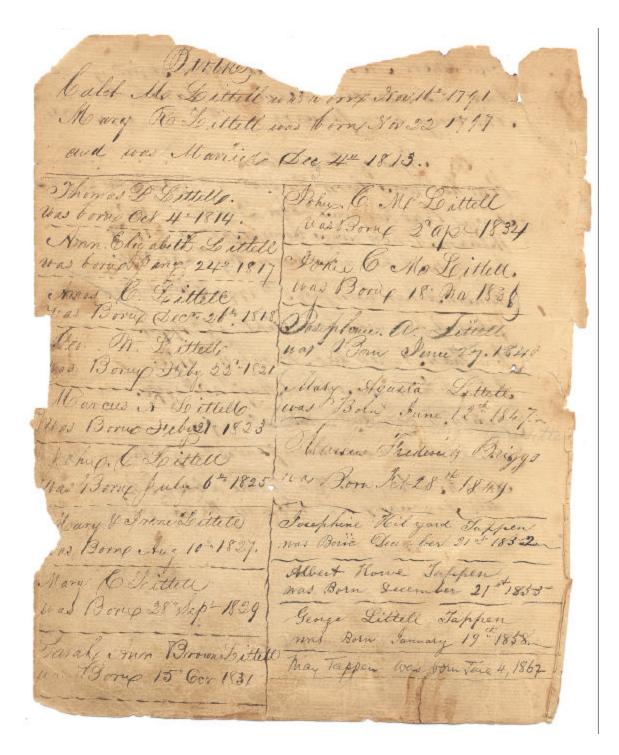
New Testament title page (first loose sheet), front side



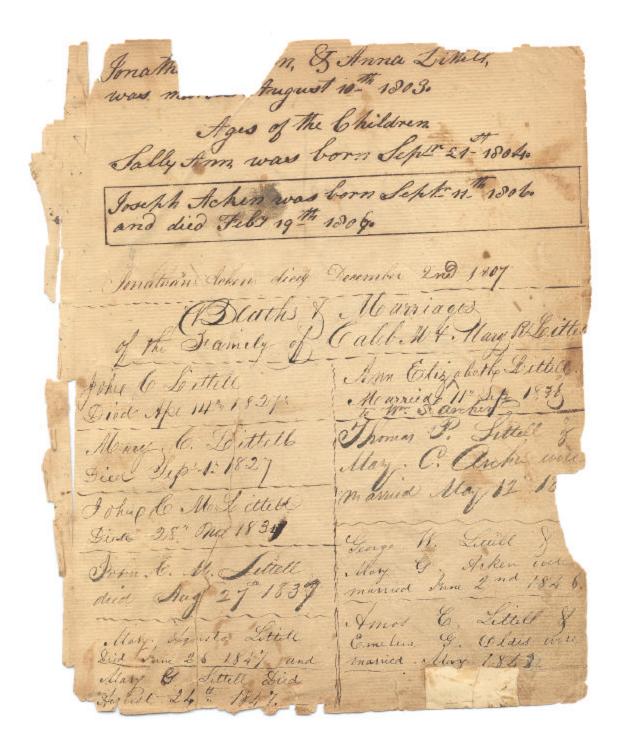
New Testament title page (first loose sheet), reverse side

And was marrie to Sarah March March 22, 130 She being born January 24th - 1970. 21706. Rachel was born Deceme 4th 1706. 8 died 21. ofthe Second Rachel was born Deceme 1st 1784. William Achen was born Septer 3. 1409. Sonathan Achen was born Aug " 25" 1991. Simeon Achen born July 5th 1793. 8 died they 24. 1793. Gideon Achen was born Sept 1 14th 1994. Jonathan Achen died March 11. 1796. John Athen was born Ang 128th 1996. Gideon Achen died Nor ATh 17970 Joseph Achen was born June 16 19 9 on die July 1- 1998. Sarah Achen Mother to the above Children died February 22 1802. in the 33 year of her lige

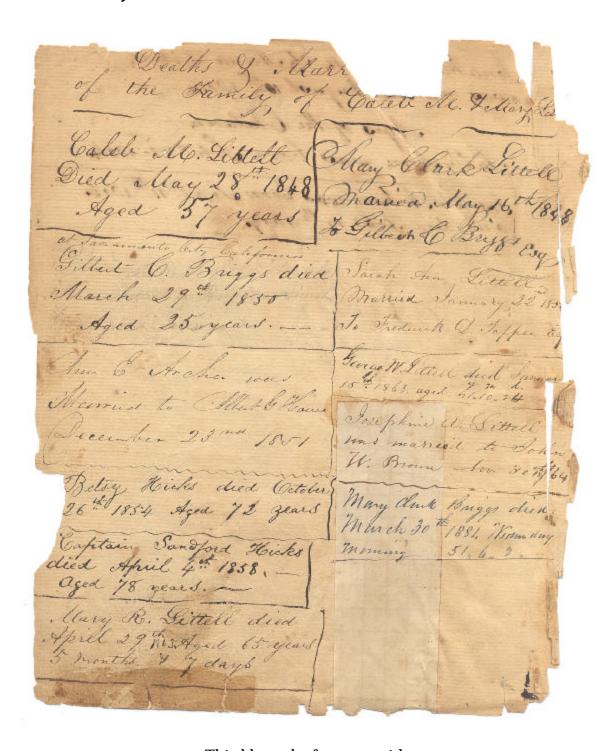
Second loose leaf, front side



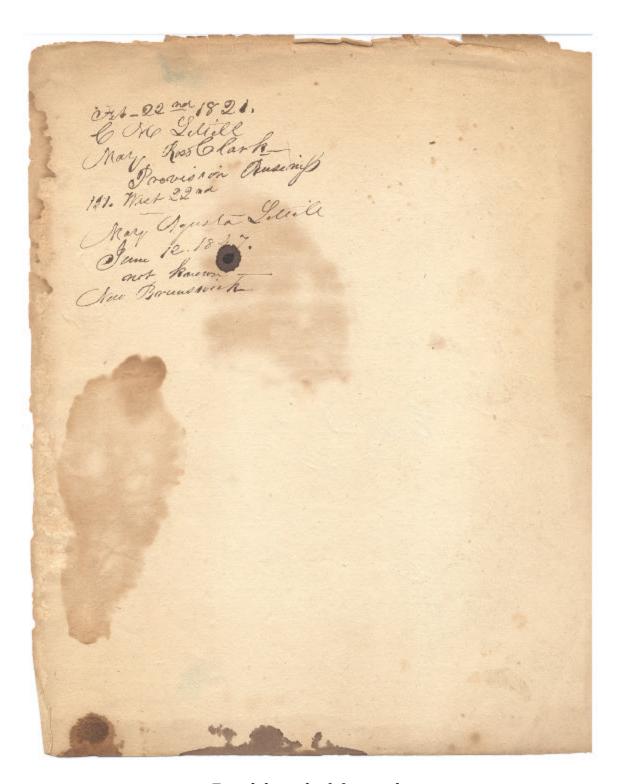
Second loose leaf, reverse side



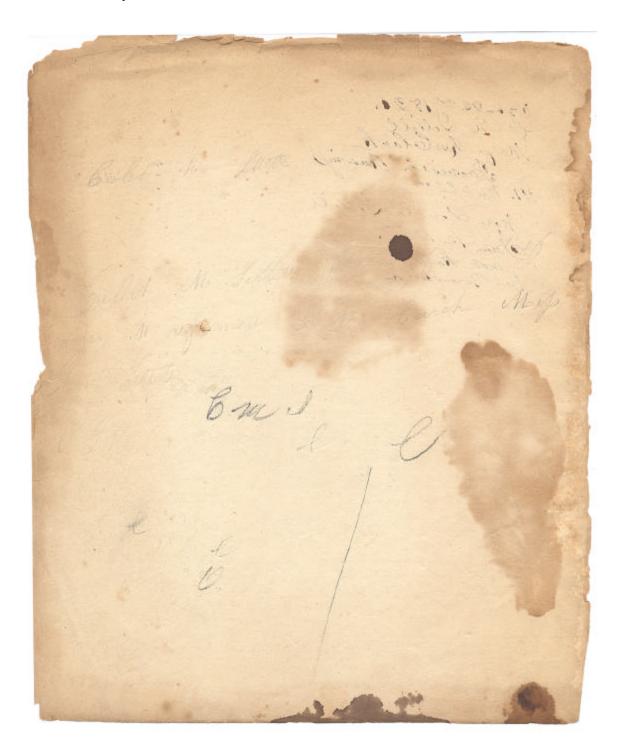
Third loose leaf, front side



Third loose leaf, reverse side



Fourth loose leaf, front side



Fourth loose leaf, reverse side