

## VERMILYA – ANDERSON BIBLE

*By Sandra Vermilyea Todd*

In August 2008 I received a e-mail from Peggie Herteau who is associated with the White County Heritage Museum in Sparta, Tennessee. She had received a bible that had recorded information from the Vermilya - Anderson family. A gentleman had brought the bible to her asking about locating the family and returning it to the descendants. She located me by searching on the Internet and finding the Vermilyea Family Reunion Web Site. After searching the files for the Anderson family I contacted her with some possibilities. She then sent me a listing of some of the entries in the bible and it was determined the bible probably belonged to Elvira Vermilya Anderson #946, 7<sup>th</sup> Generation. I told her I would love to have the bible for the family information, so after determining the shipping fees, money to cover costs was sent and I received the bible. Published in 1827 at Cooperstown, New York, the condition is poor, but then for a bible 181 years old it is pretty amazing...

In an accompanying letter Mr. Woody says he found the bible forty years ago while tearing down a house at Dayton, Ohio. He would like to see it back in the hands of the family.

The Vermilyea Family Association has made a donation to the White County Heritage Museum and a small “reward” to Mr. Woody. It is hoped that the bible can be returned to a interested descendant of Elvira Vermilya Anderson or William and Hannah (Hill) Vermilya.

I spent the next several days photographing and scanning, when I could, the Family Records as well as a letter and other items found inside. The next pages show the pictures that I have taken of the book and contents.....





H. & E. PHINNEY'S STEREOTYPE EDITION.

THE

# HOLY BIBLE,

CONTAINING THE

*OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS :*

TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORIGINAL TONGUES,

AND WITH

*THE FORMER TRANSLATIONS DILIGENTLY COMPARED AND REVISED*

WITH

*Camme's Marginal Notes and References.*

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

**AN INDEX;**

*AN ALPHABETICAL TABLE*

OF ALL THE NAMES IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS, WITH THEIR SIGNIFICATIONS ;

TABLES OF SCRIPTURE WEIGHTS, MEASURES, AND COINS, &c.

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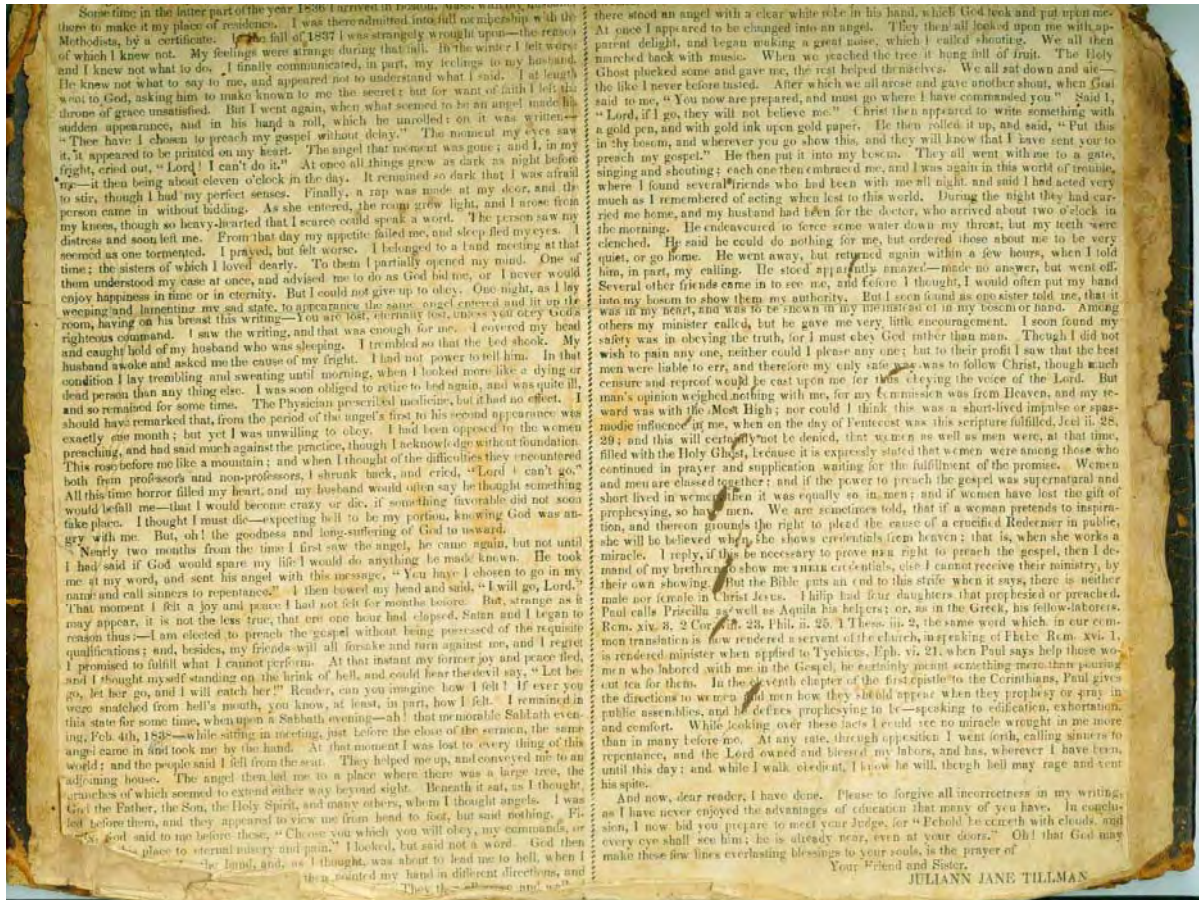
COOPERSTOWN, (N. Y.)

STEREOTYPED, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY H. & E. PHINNEY,  
AND SOLD BY THEM AT THEIR BOOK-STORE, AND BY THE BOOKSELLERS GENERALLY  
IN THE UNITED STATES.

.....  
1827.

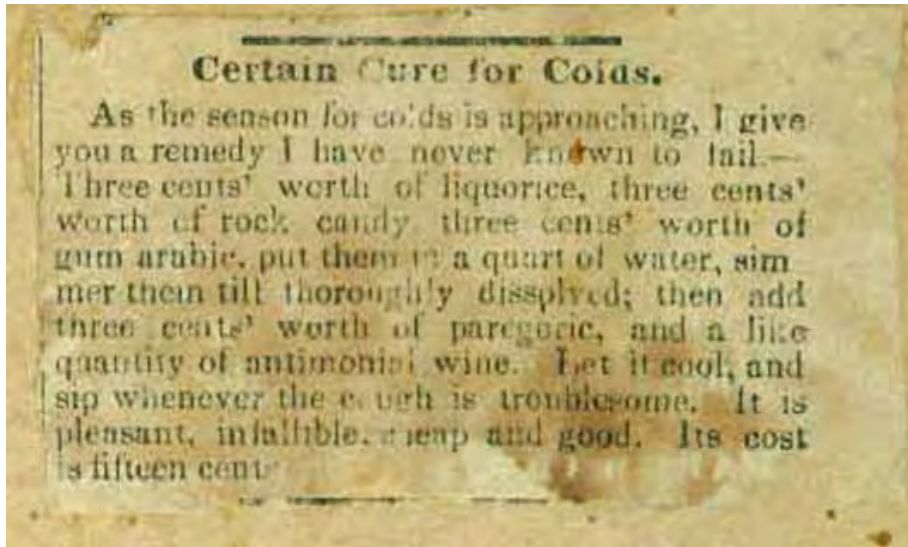
COVER PAGE

## Inside front cover



Glued to the inside cover is an article written by Juliann Jane Tillman. Mrs. Juliann Jane Tilman, ignoring the restrictions placed on women by the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, began to preach in 1844. While her sermons are not preserved in any literary format, Mrs. Tillman overcame the objection of both her husband and brother to take a feminist stance in the masculine domain of the clergy. Excerpt from “Writing African American Women”, by Elizabeth Ann Beaulieu. Little is known about Mrs. Tillman other than she was a African American preacher in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Inside the back cover



Inside cover is clear except for this advertisement pasted in.

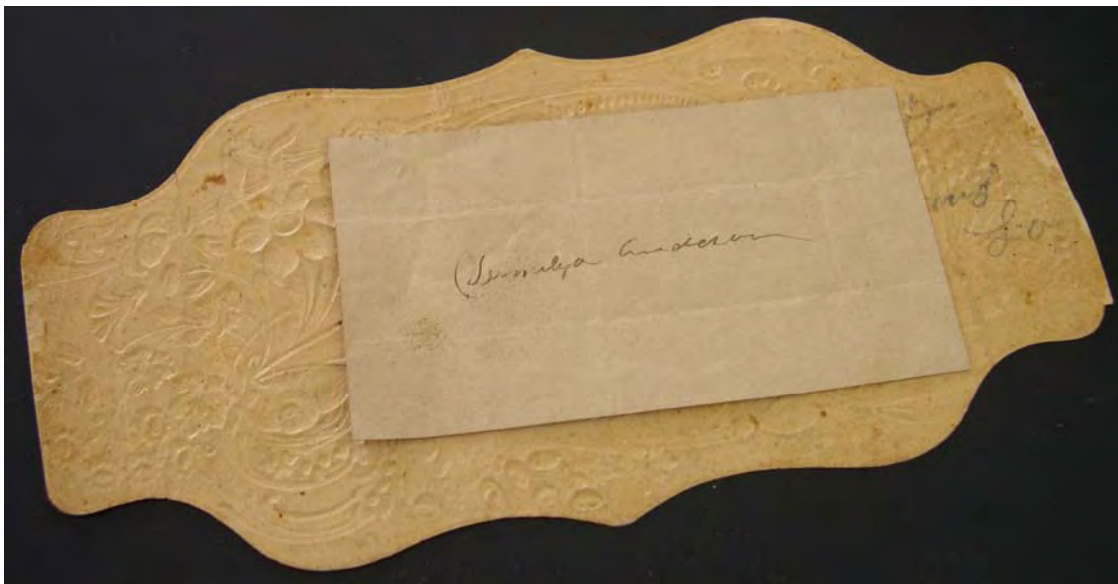
From the bible...



A tag from inside the Bible, note the red label that was pasted on the back.

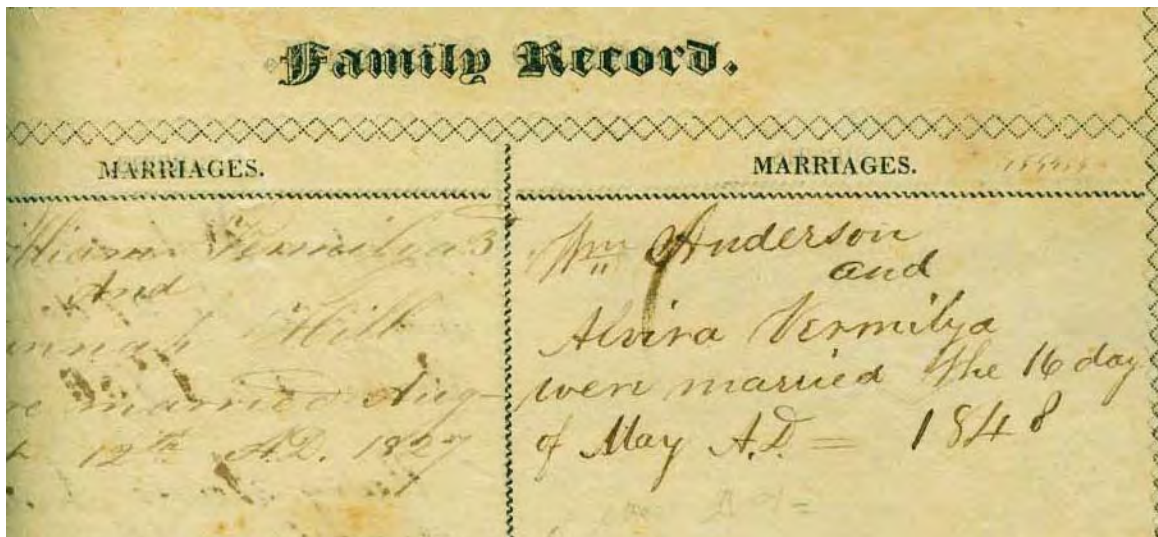


Interestingly it is a label from a package of sewing needles.....



Written on the back of the sewing needles label is VERMILYA ANDERSON

The Family Record pages.....



First Page of Family Record Section ----- Enhanced.

Elvira Vermilya was born April 30, 1832 in New York State, she moved with her parents William and Hannah (Hill) Vermilyea to Ohio sometime prior to 1848. She married William Ruse Anderson on May 16, 1848 in Ohio. They were the parents of six children, William E., Mary Jane, Elnora Bell, James Daune, Emma and Charles. William E. and James Duane lived to be adults. J. D. Anderson (James Duane) of Dayton, Ohio was Vice-President for the Vermilya Family Reunion held at Columbus, Pennsylvania in 1905. Mary Jane and Emma died as infants, Elnora Bell died at age 20, probably unmarried. Charles was living with his family in 1880 age 18, he can not be located after and it is assumed he died before 1900 as Elvira lists she is the mother of 5 children, 2 living on the 1900 Federal Census. Some records indicate she was actually the mother of 6 children. Elvira died August 21, 1911 at Jefferson, Montgomery County, Ohio.

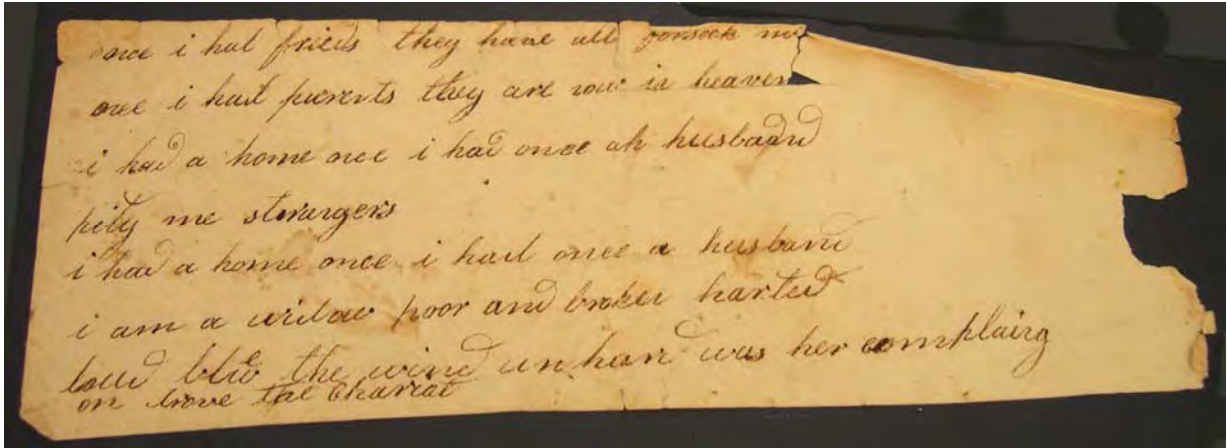
Second and last page of Family Record Section – Enhanced

Family Record.	
DEATHS.	DEATHS.
Cordelia Vermilya Departed this life May 11 <sup>th</sup> A.D. 1850	Mary Jane Anderson Departed this life October 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1858
Ranah Vermilya Departed this life Oct 25 A.D. 1858	Emma Anderson Departed this life Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup> A.D. 1860
William Vermilya departed this life August 30 <sup>th</sup> A.D. 1892.	Elvira, Bell, Anderson Departed this life February 11 <sup>th</sup> 1875
William-Rose Anderson departed this life August-15 <sup>th</sup> A.D. 1900 age 73 years.	Harry Hinner Anderson Departed this life March the 19 A.D. 1887

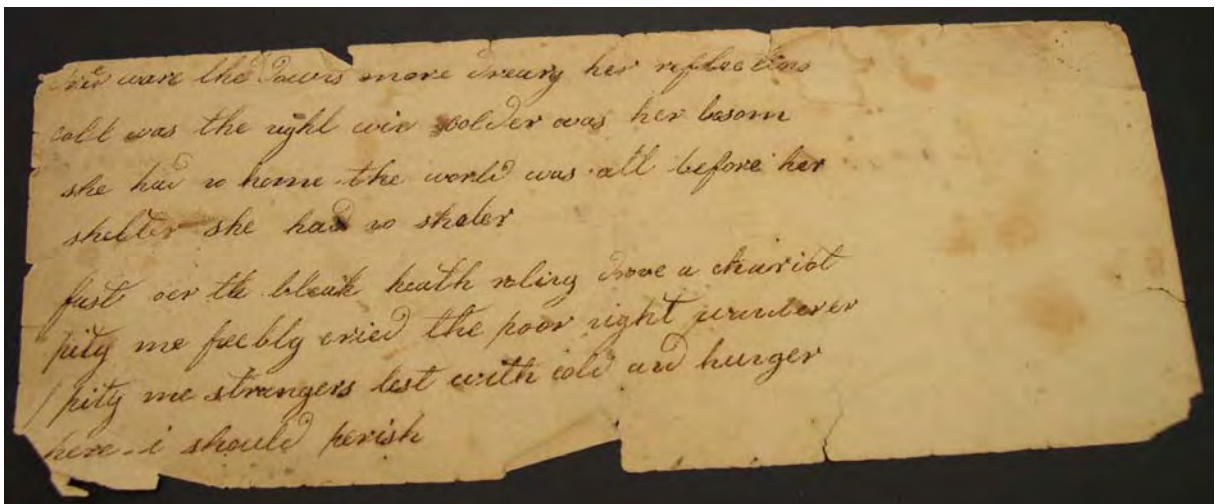
The significance of this ??? --- a paper cut out found in the bible, photographed on black background.



These bits of verse were in an envelope in the bible. Transcriptions are below each picture

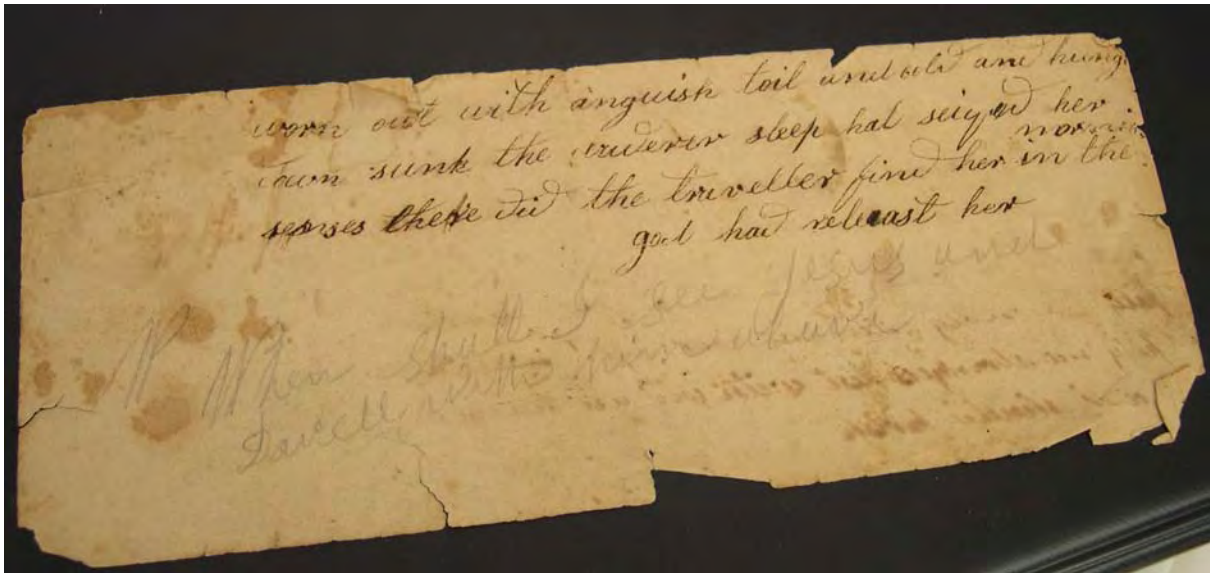


once i had friends they have all passed on  
once i had parents they are now in heaven  
i had a home once i had once ah husband  
pity me strangers  
i had a home once i had once a husband  
i am a widow poor and broken harted  
loud blew the wind unheard was her complaing  
on drove the chariot



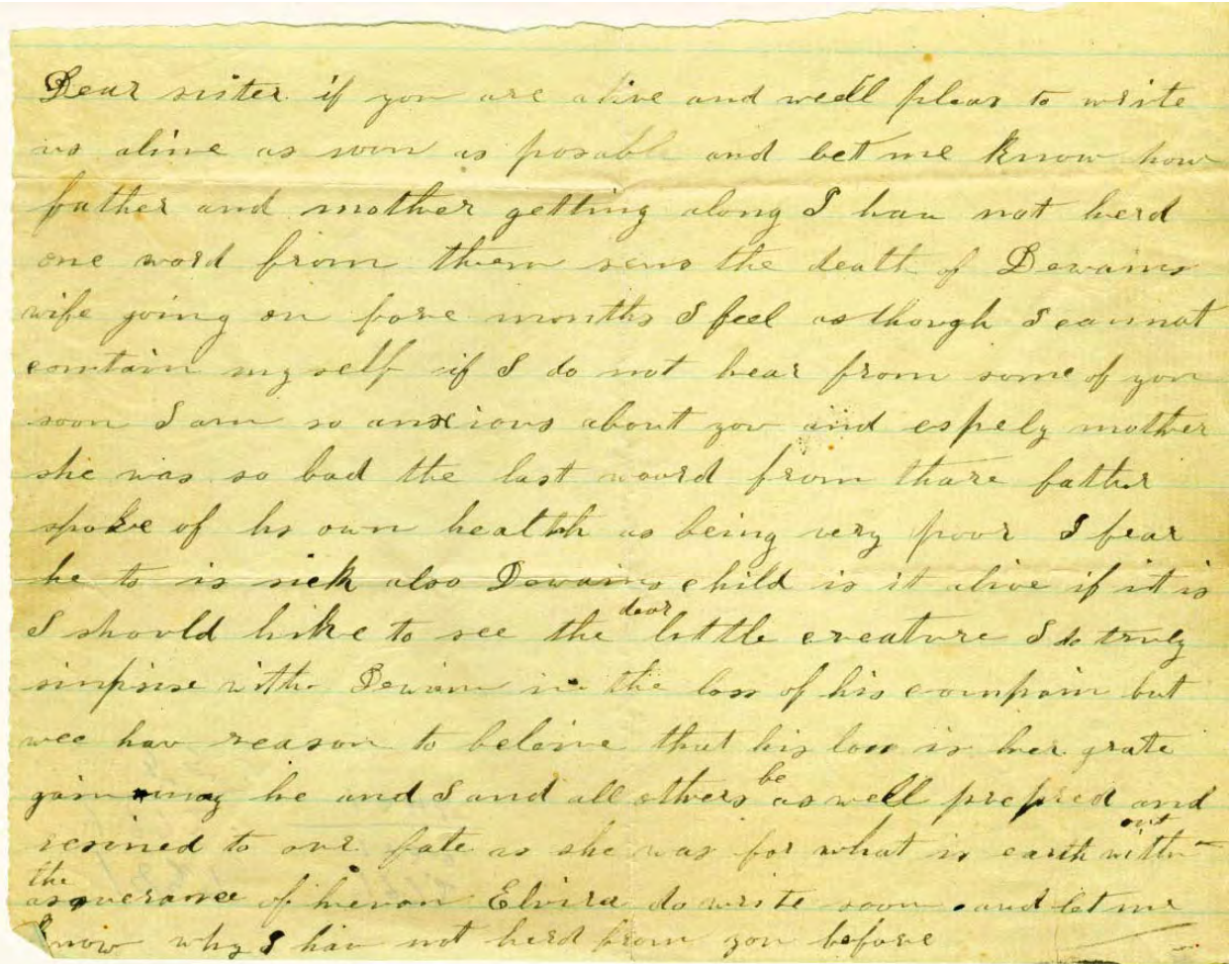
\_\_\_\_\_ were the \_\_\_\_\_ more \_\_\_\_\_ her reflections  
cold was the night \_\_\_\_\_ colder was her bosom

she has no home the world was all before her  
shelter she had no shelter  
first oer the bleak hearth roling drove a chariot  
pity me freebly cried the poor night \_\_\_\_\_.  
pity me strangers lest with cold and hunger  
here I should perish



worn out with anguish toil and cold and hunger  
down sunk the widow sleep had seized her  
\_\_\_\_\_ there did the traveller find her in the morning  
god had releast her  
(written in pencil very light appears to be):  
Where she will see Jesus until  
\_\_\_\_\_ with him \_\_\_\_\_

Letter found in bible written to Dear sister and later mentioned Elvira.



Dear sister if you are alive and well please to write  
us a line as soon as possible and let me know how  
father and mother getting along I have not herd  
one word from them since the death of Dewains  
wife going on fore months I feel as though I cannot  
contain myself if I do not her from some of you  
soon I am so anxious about you and espely mother  
she was so bad the last word from them father  
spoke of his own health as being very poor I fear  
he to is sick also Dwains child is it alive if it is  
I should like to see the <sup>dear</sup> little creature I do truly  
sinsise with Dewain in the loss of his companie but  
wee hav reason to believe that his loss is her grate  
gain ~~may~~ he and I and all others <sup>be</sup> as well propred and  
resored to one fate as she was for what is earth with  
the <sup>as</sup> asquerance of hevon Elvira do write soon and let me  
know why I have not herd from you before

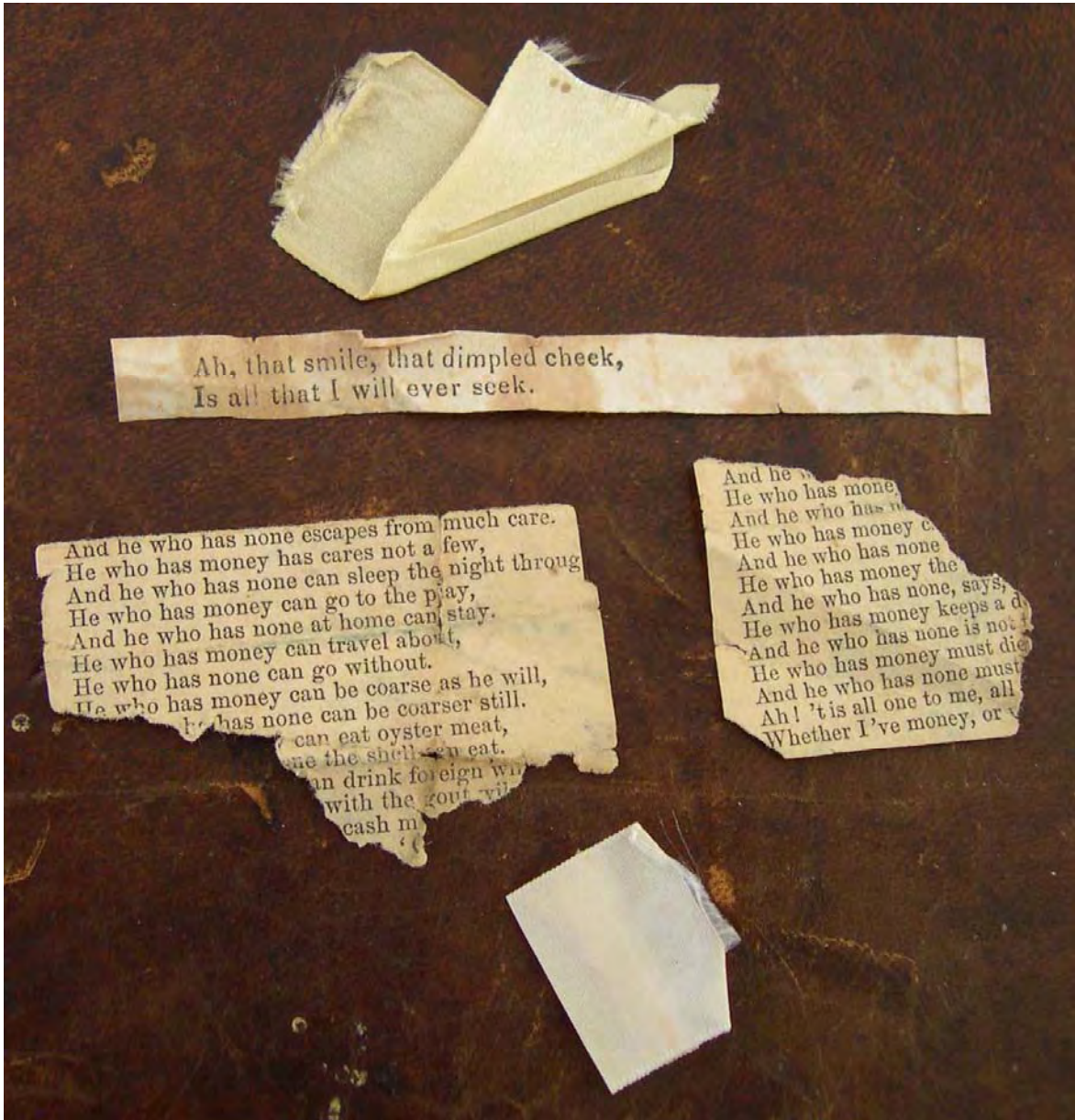
Letter is very faded and hard to read here is the transcription....

Dear sister if you are alive and well please to write  
us a line as soon as possible and let me know how  
father and mother getting along I have not herd  
one word from them since the death of Dewains  
wife going on fore months I feel as though I cannot  
contain my self if I do not her from some of you  
soon I am so anxious about you and espely mother  
she was so bad the last word from them father  
spoke of his own health as being very poor I fear  
he to is sick also Dwains child is it alive if it is

I should like to see the dear little creature I do truly sympathize with Dewian in the loss of his companion but we have reason to believe that his loss is her great gain may he and I and all others be as well prepared and reminded to our fate as she was for what is earth without the acquaintance of his son Elvira do write soon and let me know why I have not heard from you before

**Note:** there is no signature or date on this letter. Elvira had three sisters, all older; Adrienne, born October 7, 1828, died in 1866 at Ashland, Dodge, Minnesota; Cordelia, born March \_\_, 1830, died May 11, 1830 and Lycetta, born April 3, 1831, her date of death is unknown, but it is known that she married in 1851 Samuel McCampbell. In 1860 he is living with two children from a previous marriage, she can not be located. She is buried in the Old Greencastle Cemetery, Harrison, Montgomery County, Ohio, however no dates are available. Her name is listed as McCampbell, Lycetta, Vermilya in the cemetery index. It could be expected she died sometime between 1851 and 1860. The letter indicates that their parents William and Hannah Hill Vermilya were still living. Hannah died in 1888, he died in 1892. Since Cordelia died in 1831 at age 2 months one could conclude she did not write the letter. This information indicates the letter would have been written either by Adrienne prior to her death in 1866 or Lycetta prior to 1860. It appears the letter would have been written by Adrienne (Vermilya) Griswold prior to 1866 as she lived in Minnesota, Lycetta and Elvira apparently lived close to each other and their parents as they are all known to be living in the Montgomery County, Ohio area and Lycetta and Elvira are buried in the same cemetery.

Loose items found in the Bible.



Side one

The pieces at the top and bottom are scraps of fabric, appears to be satin or similar fabric, perhaps from wedding gowns.



Side two

This concludes the pictures from the Bible. The Bible and items inside are still in my possession as of February 2009, the decision on its final destination has not yet been made.