

To the Wayne County Public Library

### The "Flory" Bibles

In the early 1970's I bought these two Bibles at an auction in Mount Eaton. The auction took place close to town, as I recall, at a house that was along Chestnut St.. or maybe its continuation, Rochester Rd.

Along with the Bibles, there was a psalter in very poor condition, no binding, torn pages. It was a psalter like those used in the seventeenth century in Reformed Churches in France and western Switzerland, and itself seemed to be from as far back as the seventeenth century. Unhappily, I have lost the psalter.

The larger Bible has three title pages, and must have had four originally, as the one for the historical books of the Old Testament is missing. The title pages for the Prophets, the Apocrypha and the New Testament show that the Bible was published in Bern at the press of Jean Bondeli, and of those, the ones for the Prophets and the New Testament give 1731 as the publishing date. On the New Testament title page we read, in French,

*Le Nouveau Testament de Notre Seigneur Jésus-Christ, Selon la Version la plus communément reçûë dans les Eglises Réformées, Avec les Préfaces de chaque Livre, tirées de la Bible de Mr. Martin & quelques Prières à la fin  
Imprimé à Berne, par Ordonnances Souveraines par Jean Bondeli, MDCCXXXI*

Translation: *The New Testament of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the most commonly accepted version in Reformed Churches, with prefaces for each Book, taken from the Mr. Martin's Bible, and a few prayers at the end.  
Printed in Bern by supreme edict, by Jean Bondeli, 1731*

On the back of the title page for the Apocrypha is an hand written inscription:

#### Papers and inscriptions in the 1731 Bible

Inside the front cover, a note bearing the name Mrs. Caroline Boillat.

"M. Mary Boorier [?], i take my pen in hand  
to write you a few lines i guess you don't now  
me but your mother nows me the last time  
she was here she seen me i lived with my  
ant emely flory i hant[?] there now more  
i went home this winter but i my mother  
was not very well and wee ar all well and cousin  
susana she is well and her mother and father are well  
and now you must rite as soon as  
you can and i would like to know if that  
grape vine growed that my father gav your  
mother the last time she was here and i  
guess i hant time to rite you any more this  
rime[?] and you must [w]rite as soon as you can  
and tell me if you are all well and you  
must come to see me as soon as you can  
and \_\_\_ now good by [?] Miss [?] Bourier[?]"

[On back of sheet

remember  
me when  
this you  
see though  
[?????]

Caroline Boillat  
My ink is pale  
My pen is poor

The grass Is green  
the rose is red  
remember me  
when I am  
dead  
my ant is all well  
and they are all well  
and they send your  
—— ——— good by all

On the page facing the inside front cover, “Susan Susanne Sauvain” and written lightly underneath the name; “Je prie le bon dieu” [“I pray to God”]

Between pages 952 and 953 of the Psalms is a note in German written on 11 August 1872

On the back of the title page for the Apocrypha: “Guillaume Sauvain” e[s]t né le 25 Janvier 1834” [“Guillaume Sauvain was born 25 January 1834”]

Between pages 234 and 235 of the Acts of the Apostles, a card bearing the name William Flory

#### The Title page of the 1816 New Testament

*Le Nouveau Testament , c'est-à-dire, La Nouvelle Alliance de Notre Seigneur Jésus-Christ, revu et conféré sur les Texte Grecs, par les Pasteurs et Professeurs de l'Église et de l'Académie de Genève, à Lausanne, Chez Henri Vincent, Impr[imeur]. Libr[aire], M.DCCCXVI”*

[Translation] *The New Testament, that is, the New Covenant of Our Lord Jesus Christ, reviewed and made consistent with the Greek texts by the pastors and professeurs of the Church and the Academy of Geneva. [Printed in] Lausanne by Henri Vincent, Printer and Bookseller, 1816*

#### Inscription in the 1816 New Testament

“Frederic Louis Flory  
le 28 avril 1834”

#### The interest of these Bibles

Hundreds of French-speaking Swiss settled in the Mount Eaton area between 1825 and 1865. Almost all of them were ~~at~~, at least by family tradition, associated with the Reformed Church, which is rooted in Calvin's theology, liturgy and church polity. The Mount Eaton church had a French-speaking congregation and a separate German-speaking congregation

until about 1880. People from the Sauvain and Flory families were members of the French-speaking congregation. The Sauvain immigrants, who came from the Moutier district of canton Bern, may have been among the best educated people at Mount Eaton. Eugene Sauvain, who married Julia Amiet, was from 1868 to 1872 the pastor of the Mount Eaton Reformed Church. Unlike the Sauvain name, Flory is still a well-known name in Wayne County, but so far I've been unable to learn much about the Flory family's origins in Switzerland.

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P.S. I am retired from the College of Wooster, having taught French there for thirty-five years.