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Minutes . . . Held at the Meeting-House of the Third
Baptist Church in Boston, September 20 & 21, 1815.
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MINUTES

OF THE

Boston Baptist Association,

HELD AT THE

Meeting-House of the Third Baptist Church

IN

BOSTON,

SEPTEMBER, 20 & 21,

1815.

MINUTES, &c.

Wednesday, September 20, 1815.

1. At 10 o'clock, Brother **JOSEPH GRAFTON**, according to appointment, delivered the introductory discourse from 1 Cor. ii. 1, 2. After which there was a collection for the widows and children of deceased ministers.

2. Chose Brother **THOMAS BALDWIN**, Moderator, and Brother **ELISHA WILLIAMS**, Clerk.

3. Appointed Brethren, **BALDWIN**, **WILLIAMS**, and **GRAFTON**, a Committee, to count and make distribution of the money collected for the widows and children of deceased ministers.

The Messengers from sister Corresponding Associations were invited to take a seat with us.—After reading a few of the letters from the churches, adjourned until half past 2 o'clock.—Prayer by the Moderator.

4. Met pursuant to adjournment; after prayer, by Brother **GAMMELL**, proceeded to read the letters from the Churches, and took the following account of the members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the past year, and the present number in each church.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS; licensed preachers in *italic*. Those ministers with this mark (*) were not present. Churches marked thus (†) we had no information from this session. Vacant churches are distinguished by a dash _____

Churches.	Elders and Messengers.	Added		Dis.	Exclu.	Died.	Total.
		By Bap.	By Let.				
2d Boston 1743	THOMAS BALDWIN ELISHA WILLIAMS Josiah C. Ransford Jacob Hiler	13	2	5	3	6	399
Haverhill 1763	WM. BATCHELDER John Chase William Chase Isaac Pilsbury	7	1	8		2	302
Harvard 1776	ABISHA SAMSON Ephraim Emerson Benjamin Willard Jeremiah Dyer	2	3	5		1	99
Newton 1780	JOSEPH GRAFTON Jeremiah Richardson Elijah Corey	4			1	3	209
Woburn 1781	_____ Jacob Richardson Samuel Tidd	3			2		99

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added By Rep.</i>	<i>By Let.</i>	<i>Dis</i>	<i>Exclu.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Templeton 1782	————— Joshua Tucker Sullivan Jackson			5	1	1	112
Rowley 1785	JOSIAH CONVERS	1					42
Weston and Framingham } 1789	CHARLES TRAIN Samuel Train Silas Upham Enoch Belknap	53	1			1	98
Danvers 1793	JEREMIAH CHAPLIN					1	72
Charlestown 1801	WILLIAM COLLIER David Goodwin James Fosdick	1				1	65
Beverly 1801	————— <i>Nathaniel W. Williams</i> Eleazer Wallis Nehemiah Roundy Samuel Ober		1	1	2	1	122
Salem 1804	LUCIUS BOLLES Pyam Dodge Michael Shepherd Robert Upton	9	2	6	2	5	305
Reading 1804	————— EBENEZER NELSON Jacob Eaton David Smith	4				2	97
Malden	————— Samuel Wait Ebenezer Harnden					1	106
Weare, N. H. 1783	EZRA WILLMARTH Abraham Morrill David Cross	4			1		90
Nottingham West 1805	DANIEL MERRILL Justus Dakin David Burns	6				1	109
New Boston, N. H.	ISAIAH STONE*					1	60

Churches.	Elders and Messengers.	Added		Dism.	Exclu.	Died.	Total.
		By Bap.	By Let.				
African Church in Boston, 1805	THOMAS PAUL* Robert Roberts John Hay James Easton				2	1	74
Ipswich	_____ Aaron Treadwell	2				1	69
Newbury and Newburyport	JOHN PEAK Ezekiel Bartlett Benjamin Lane	4	1	1		1	76
3d Boston 1807	DANIEL SHARP Ward Jackson Thomas Kendall <i>E. Lincoln</i>	15	5	1		2	142
† Gloucester	_____						32
Marblehead	FERDINAND ELLIS* John Fielding			3		4	36
Chelmsford	JOHN PECKENS Eliakim Hutchins John D. Dyer	4				1	48
Londonderry	_____ Humphrey Chase Roger Vose Henry George	2	3	1		2	61
Dunstable	_____ Thaddeus Davis Josiah Kendall						38
† Goffstown	ABRAHAM GATES*						24
Methuen	_____ <i>Charles O. Kimball</i> Phineas Richardson Joseph Davis						35
Westborough	THOMAS CONANT Seth Grout Asahel Bellers						52

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The two last mentioned Churches were received the present session.

5. Read the Circular Letter prepared by Brother MERRILL. Appointed Brethren, BOLLES and BATCHELDER, a Committee to review the same and report.

Also read the Corresponding Letter prepared by Brother SAMSON, which was referred to the same Committee.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 8 o'clock. Brother PUTNAM concluded by prayer. Sermon in the evening, at the 3d Church, by Brother MESSER. Also, at 1st Church, by Brother GAMMELL.

Thursday, September 21.

Met according to adjournment. Opened with prayer by Brother BOLLES.

6. Received communications from the following Associations.

<i>Associations.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>
Warren	MESSER, BENEDICT, GAMMELL, } LOVELL, SMITH, }	Minutes.
Cumberland	SILAS STEARNS,	do.
N. Hampshire	ANDREW SHERBURNE,	
Dublin	JOHN PARKHURST,	do.
Westfield	THOMAS RAND,	do.
Sturbridge		do.
Hartford	GEORGE PHIPPEN,	do.
Philadelphia	—— STRAWBRIDGE,	do.
Woodstock	JONATHAN GOING,	do.
Charlestown		Letter and do.
Stonington	DANIEL PUTNAM,	do.
Savannah River		do.

7. Appointed the following Messengers to Corresponding Associations. To the

Warren,	Brethren CRAFTON, E. NELSON, E. WILLIAMS and BATCHELDER.
N. Hampshire,	Brethren WILLMARTH and BATCHELDER.
Dublin,	Brethren MERRILL, WILLMARTH and EVANS.
Woodstock,	Brother PECKENS.
Stonington,	Brethren CONANT and TRAIN.
Cumberland,	Brother COLLIER.
Westfield,	Brethren SAMSON and CONANT.

8. The Circular and Corresponding Letters, as reported by the Committee, were read and accepted.

9. Appointed Brother WILLMARTH to write the Circular Letter for next year.

10. Appointed Brother CHAPLIN to write the Corresponding Letter.

11. The interesting concerns of Missions were introduced, and a zealous interest manifested on the subject. A Letter from the Female Benevolent Society of Newton, &c. was presented by Brother Grafton, covering \$50,70 for the Massachusetts Baptist Missionary Society. Also, a letter from the Female Cent Society in Salem, by Brother Bolles, enclosing 57 dollars for the same object.

12. *Voted*, That the thanks of the Association be presented to those Societies and individuals, who have contributed to support the cause of Missions.

The subject of the Baptist Education Society, formed at our last Association, was introduced, and we learnt with great satisfaction, that the churches had cheerfully taken an interest in this important object, and forwarded the following liberal sums :

2d Baptist Church in Boston,	147,30	Beverly,	- - - -	33,00
3d do. do. do.	110,00	Nottingham West,	- - - -	9,53
Salem,	- - - -	Marblehead,	- - - -	6,25
Haverhill,	- - - -	African Church,	- - - -	5,00
Woburn,	- - - -	Newburyport,	- - - -	5,72
Weston and Framingham,	- 17,42	Dunstable,	- - - -	5,00
Salem Female Society,	- 63,00	Methuen,	- - - -	5,50
Danvers,	- - - -	Two Friends at Templeton,	- - - -	3,00
Charlestown,	- - - -	Rev. Mr. Kittridge,	- - - -	1,00
Weare,	- - - -	Rev. A. Samson, Harvard,	- - - -	1,00
South Reading,	- - - -	Church at Rowley,	- - - -	14,20

\$ 592,07

Boston Baptist Female Education Society have collected 100,00

Appropriations from which have already }
been made, making the whole amount } \$ 692,07

The churches are requested to appoint Trustees annually, agreeably to the 4th article in the Constitution of the Baptist Education Society,

13. *Voted*, To recommend that in the month of August, annually, collections be made in the Churches of this Association, for the benefit of the Education Society.

14. *Voted*, To alter the time of meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Education Society, from Wednesday, to 8 o' clock on Thursday morning of the meeting of the Association.

15. *Voted*, That with the view of commencing a library to be attached to the Baptist Education Society, we recommend to the friends of the Institution to make donations of books, and lodge them with the Executive Committee.

Elder THOMAS RAND pathetically stated the urgent demand for literary and religious books for the use of the Academy at West-Springfield, over which he presided, and at which many young men called to the ministry were acquiring an education. It was therefore *Voted*, That such books, as may be received the present year on the above recommendation, shall be presented to his Academy.

16. *Voted*, That a Committee be appointed to consider the Queries proposed in the Letter from the Church in Nottingham West, and report at the next session.

Appointed Brethren, *Chaplin, Bolles* and *Sharp*, a Committee for said purpose.

The proposition in the Letter of the 3d Baptist Church in Boston, respecting the propriety of celebrating the Lord's Supper at the close of our Association, was introduced, and it was *Voted*, To defer a decision on the subject to a future session.

17. A Report was made by the Moderator, respecting the funds for widows and children of deceased ministers, which was accepted, and the cordial thanks of the Association voted to the Committee for their persevering and successful attention to the business.

18. *Voted*, That as we have now a standing Treasurer to the Association, the widows' funds be transferred to his care.

A Catechism for Children, prepared by Brother BALDWIN, was by him presented and read. The Association expressed general satisfaction in the performance, and great pleasure that the subject was introduced. A deep solicitude was manifested, that it might be published, and adopted by our churches. On motion, it was *Voted*, That a Committee, consisting of Brethren, Bolles, Chaplin, Sharp and Winchell, be appointed, with the Author, to revise the work, and take suitable measures for its publication.

19. *Voted*, That our Association be holden at Nottingham West, at the Baptist Meeting-house, on the 3d Wednesday of September next, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Appointed Brother BOLLES to preach the introductory sermon, and in case of failure Brother SHARP.

At 1 o'clock, the business of the Association being agreeably finished, the Moderator addressed the Assembly in an affectionate and solemn manner; and brother SHARBURNE concluded, by imploring the divine benediction on the Association, the Churches, and Zion at large.



This Association wish to express their condolence with the Baptist denomination in particular, and with the christian world in general, on the decease of that eminent minister of Christ, our Brother Andrew Fuller, who died at Kettering, (England,) May 7, 1815. His valuable services as a christian minister, as an eminent writer, and as a steady and active supporter of Missions to the heathen, will long be indelibly impressed on the hearts of those who knew him.—Let the ministers of Christ be admonished to be *followers of them, who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Elders and Messengers of the BOSTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION to the Churches, which they represent, wish grace, mercy and peace to be multiplied, through the knowledge of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

DEARLY BELOVED IN THE LORD,

THE first wish of our heart, in this, our annual Address, is to honour Jesus Christ, and to instruct, comfort and strengthen you.

You are of God; but the world lieth in wickedness. Perhaps three-fourths of the world have never heard the gospel of the grace of God. And probably a very large proportion of those, who have heard it, have had it set before them in a very mixed and adulterated form. To view the world in its present, ignorant, deluded, contentious, and forlorn state, is enough to depress the hearts of the faithful.

Your situation in the world, like that of the primitive disciples, is as sheep in the midst of wolves. You are not of the world, but chosen out of the world. You are but a little flock; yet it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. How long you shall have to wait for it, may, to you, be uncertain. But the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom, under the whole heavens, shall surely be given to the saints of the Most High. This may sustain your spirits under every conflict and suffering. You have kept the ordinances, as Christ delivered them to the saints; and, for this reason, the offence of the cross still continues a reproach upon you. You are, every where, spoken against, and reproached by the world, and still more by those, who have reduced christianity to the level of the world's approbation. You are a society called out, and distinct from all the world, and such as the world never saw, till Jesus came and set up the kingdom of the God of heaven. You are, by profession, all taught of God, all righteous: All the children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. You have died unto sin, and are alive unto God; and, upon this profession, have been baptized into Jesus Christ. Thus have you put on the christian badge, and the livery of the kingdom of God; and thus hath God distinguished you, and you have distinguished yourselves, from all others. You being thus called out, and distinct from all, the duties expected of you are peculiar to believers. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth. The truth is to shine in you, and through you. You are to unfurl the Christian banner: to abide by it, and not to be ashamed of it. You are, each one, according to the ability which God hath given, to vindicate the doctrine of regeneration, of repentance towards God, of faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ, and of forgiveness of sins through him—the certain salvation of all, who have that precious faith which worketh by love, who believe and are baptized; and the inevitable destruction of the enemies of the Saviour.

All you can hope to do in the world, is to know the truth extensively, love it abundantly, and practise it faithfully. All

you can know of religion, is the truth as it relates to doctrine, ordinances, and practice. All that you can do, is cordially to practise what you know. You should, therefore, give all diligence to know the truth, the things which are freely given to you of God.

The way by which you may accomplish the greatest possible good, is to abide in the truth. However the popular voice may set against the truth; yet the way to usefulness is not to put your candle under a bushel, but to let it shine. Truth is strong, and will prevail. God is truth, and truth he will bless and prosper. If you cannot profit men, by believing, speaking and doing the truth, you will not, by mixing it with error. God will not honour falsehood for the obtaining of a good which truth could not effect.

Seek to know the whole circle of christian truth, and love and practise all you know.

The ruin of the world is the belief and practice of a lie. The only way of its recovery, is the belief and practice of the truth. To exhibit the truth in theory and practice, is all that mortals can do. Angels can do no more. This should be your constant endeavour. This you should not cease to do, till you shall be dismissed from the service, or the gospel of the grace of God shall be fully preached to every language, tribe and nation. The state of the many millions of heathens, Mahometans and Jews, calls loudly, that you stand fast in the faith, the truth of the gospel. Just so far as you accommodate, or temporize, you obscure the light of the gospel, and diminish its influence on the minds of men. Nothing but truth can appear honourable in the sight of God, or can be blessed of him.

Esteem yourselves just accordingly as you believe, love and walk in the truth. Judge of the worth of your brethren and elders by the same standard. This is the king's high-way, by which to please God and profit men. What you cannot do in this way, you can do in none.

He that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; but he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully: for what is the chaff to the wheat, saith the Lord.

The way to the brightest attainable crown at death, at judgment, and forever, is to abide stedfastly in the faith, order and fellowship of the gospel: which is to abide in the truth. We would gladly dilate upon many particular truths, which relate to the faith and order of the kingdom of God. But for the attainment to what you need, we commend you to God, and to the word of his grace. But, that you may be crowned with a *triumphant death*, we beseech you, Brethren, *never shun*, in either word, or deed, to vindicate the doctrine of grace, the distinguishing ordinance of Baptism, and that charity which seeketh not her own. Christ hath left you an example, that you should follow his steps.

It was Paul's glory and joy, that he had not shunned to declare the whole counsel of God. It will be your glory and joy, that you

have willingly heard, and readily performed, and thus practically vindicated, every truth which related to you as Christians.

Now, Brethren, beloved of God, and beloved by us, we beseech you, at the close of our anniversary Address, to suffer a word of exhortation.

Before another opportunity, similar to the present shall occur, some of us shall, no doubt, more perfectly understand what consequences are attached to loving and practising the truth, and what, to the loving of error, and living in it.

We beseech you, try your own selves. Be willing *now* to know what you must soon know, never to forget. Should you fear to examine closely, be assured all is not right. However the past may be, henceforth have your conversation in heaven, and all your words and ways conformable with the truths of the everlasting gospel.

We pray you, every one, speak the truth to his neighbour. We ask not, that you should all preach the gospel publicly, but *that you should*, in your *domestic* and *social* circles. Your ungodly friends and neighbours must be brought to the knowledge and love of the truth, or be damned in the belief of a lie. If you break in a little upon their vain amusements, better so, than to have God break in upon their souls with everlasting indignation.

We enlarge our request—look, ye saved of the Lord, a little farther than your domestic circles. Behold many, in the frontiers, and other dark, or destitute parts of our large and fruitful land, who are perishing for lack of vision: hear the Macedonian cry. Go, some of you, who are naturally eloquent and apt to teach, and speak the truths of Christ's gospel to them; and the Lord be with you. Let others stay by the staff, and provide for such as proclaim a living Saviour to dead sinners. Let the prayers of all attend such as go up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the strong holds, where Satan's seat is; whether on the frontiers, or sea-board. Be not offended, Brethren, and we will speak yet once more. Think, feel, pray and do something for the heathens, Mahometans and Jews. It is a time of feeling, of praying and of action. God hath stired up many; may you not be the last. Much is already done. Much more must be done. Men are called for—Good men—Fervent men—Self-denying men. Men, who will hazard their lives for the Lord Jesus. Money is called for: The Lord's money. Keep your own, but deliver the Lord his, as he may call:—Money to pay the passage of gospel heralds to the heathens of India, and to print the word of life in all the languages of the spiritually dead, and to support the gospel rangers, who are now going many ways, and must soon go every where.

Millions and millions are perishing, and what do we? What you do, Brethren, you must do quickly. Help must come from some quarter; if not from you, from others; and you will miss the opportunity, and lose the crown.

It is a day of great events. A period of great and good things. Endeavour great things, and you will have a great reward.

THOMAS BALDWIN, *Moderator.*
ELISHA WILLIAMS, *Clerk,*

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN,

It is with pleasure we address you by letter on this anniversary of our Association. Your letters which we have received have been refreshing to our souls. We always rejoice to hear of the peace and prosperity of the churches of Christ.

We anticipate with much pleasure the glorious day, when the Zion of our God shall have a name, and be a praise in every nation on the earth; when her doctrine, discipline, and worship shall be pure, when her watchmen shall lift up their voices together, all speaking the same things; and when righteousness, truth, and peace, shall every where prevail among men. Do not the signs of the times portend these things to be drawing nigh? And ought not this to awaken in us a holy zeal in the cause of God and truth, and excite us to greater activity in the work of the Lord? Especially when we consider, that the great and precious promises of God, respecting the future prosperity of his spiritual kingdom, will evidently be accomplished by the use of means. These means are in use. The scriptures are translating and publishing in most of the languages of the nations. Missionaries are travelling and publishing the riches of Christ to the destitute of our own country, and of the heathen.

We ought also to acknowledge with gratitude the goodness of the Lord to our American churches. He has favoured us with many refreshing seasons from his gracious presence in different parts of our land. His children have been edified in love; new churches have been planted, and new Associations formed; divine and sovereign grace has been victorious; and many who were by nature children of disobedience and wrath, have been renewed, justified, and sanctified, and made to rejoice in redeeming love.

Nor should we forget his mercy in restoring to our beloved and highly favoured country the blessings of peace and prosperity. May we evince that we duly appreciate these favours, by walking worthy of the high and holy vocation wherewith we are called. Let us put on the whole armour of God, and pray always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit. And may the Lord pour out his Spirit on the churches composing this, and our sister Associations, and on every branch of Zion.

Our present meeting has been agreeable; we are at peace among ourselves; and we trust that the Lord has been graciously present with us. We request an interest in your prayers, and a continuance of your correspondence. Feeling interested in your welfare, we subscribe ourselves your affectionate brethren in the Lord.

By order of the Association,

THOMAS BALDWIN, *Moderator.*
ELISHA WILLIAMS, *Clerk.*