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Baptists. Maine. Bowdoinham Association, 1799.

Minutes . . . in Livermore, August 28 and 29, 1799.

Portland, Me., Titcomb, 1799. 12 pp.

AAS copy.

# MINUTES

*G. D. Jacques*  
OF THE *Bowdoin*  
*Association*

## BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION;

HELD AT THE

BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE

### L I V E R M O R E,

AUGUST 28 and 29,

1799.

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P O R T L A N D,

Printed by J. TITCOMB.

1799.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28:

**A** SERMON at 10 o'clock, A.M. by Elder Walter Powars, from Joshua x. 12.

1. At two o'clock, afternoon, Elder John Tripp preached the introductory Sermon from 1 Kings xviii 24. *The God that answereth by fire, let him be God.*

2. Chose brother Williams Moderator, and brother Tripp, Clerk.

3. Read Letters from the several churches, and took the following account of the members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the past year. Also the present number in each church.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in small capitals, licensed preachers in Italics. Those ministers with this mark (\*) were not present. Vacant churches are distinguished by a dash.

Churches.	Ministers & Messengers.	Added.	Dismiss.	Exclud'd.	Died.	Number.
Bowdoinham,	JOB MACOMBER, Samuel Stinson, James Baker.	4	0	0	0	37
Harpwell,	SAMUEL WOODWARD Samuel Dunlap, John Robinson.	15	0	0	0	50
Thomaston,	ELISHA SNOW.	2	0	3	0	82
Bowdoin,	JAMES POTTER, Joseph Denlow, James Sampson, Nathaniel Smith.	39	0	10	2	117
Vassalborough,	NEHEMIAH GOULD, David Webb.	1	0	1	0	26
Ballston,	JOSEPH BAYLEY, - - - - - Trask.	1	0	0	0	38
Sidney,	*ASA WILBUR, Nathaniel Blake.	1	2	0	0	58
Jitchfield,	WILLIAM STINSON, Heman Smith, John Perry, John Brown,	82	2	5	0	125

		Ad.	Dif.	Ex.	Dd.	No.
Hebron,	Thomas Morgridge, John King. JOHN TRIPP William Barrows, Holmes Thomas, Job Cushman, James Dunham.	1		3		31
Buckfield, Paris,	Nathaniel Chase. JAMES HOOPER, John Willis, Josiah Smith.		2		1	34 48
Lewiston,	————— Josiah Mitchel, Abner Harris, Lemuel Dyer,	3	5	8	1	71
Readfield,	————— ISAAC CASE, William Briggs, John Cummings, Levi Morrill, jun. Robert Witherton.	9	19	10		57
Fayette,	————— ELIPHALET SMITH, Oliver Billings Joshua Walton, Abijah Crane.	2				60
Miscoungus Island. Cushing,	————— William Loud. EPHRAIM HALL, Isaac Hall.				1 1	100
Nobleborough, Livermore,	Nathaniel Chapman. ————— ELISHA WILLIAMS, Zebrde Deigo	2	15	2	1	16 46
Green,	LEMUEL JACKSON, Lemuel Comings, John Larrabee, Amaziah Reel, John Daggitt.	4			1	87
Wayne,	THOMAS FRANCIS Isaac Dexter, Ichabod Billington, David Perry.	4	1			32
Thompsonboro'	BENJAMIN COLE, Samuel Tebbeth, Joseph Killgore.	46	48	1	1	62
Barretton,	ANDREW FULLER, Wade Sweetland.	19	4		1	51
N. Gloucester,	————— John Woodman, Stephen Washburn.	1				25
Clifton,	MEPHIBOSHETH CAIN, Humphry Burrill, Miel Burrill,	29			2	65

		Ad.	Dif.	Ex.	De.	No.
N. Yarmouth,	Joseph Mills. * THOMAS GIBSON, John Merrill, Benjamin Titcomb, Stephen Blasdell.	7				23
Harlem,	* Mrs CHADWICK, Nathaniel Stanley Josiah Ward, Thomas Ward, Stephen Dexter.					26
New Vineyard,	----- Cornelius Norton, Simon Sawyer.					12
Farmington,	----- Church board.					7
ad. Litchfield,	----- John Neal, Levi Hartman.	72		1		85
Wales,	----- Philip Jenkins, Reuben Ham, John Ross, Benjamin Tebbets, James Labree.					55
Jay,	----- William Gding, Oliver Peabody.					25
Mount Vernon,	----- John Hovey, Nathan Thompson.					18
Total.		388	100	46	9	1568

The three last mentioned churches were received into union the present session.

The church called Thompsonboro' was called the second in Bowdoin, in our last minutes.

Received Letters and Minutes, but no messenger from the Warren Association.

Received Letters and Minutes from the New-Hampshire Association, by their messengers Elder Walter Powars and Elder Otis Robinson.

4. Read and adopted the circular Letter prepared by Elder Tripp.

5. Voted that brother Williams write the corresponding Letter to the Warren Association, and brother Fuller to the New-Hampshire Association.

Adjourned 'till to-morrow morning, eight o'clock.  
Sermons, in the evening in different parts of the town.

THURSDAY MORNING, AUG. 29.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder Smith.

6. Read and adopted the corresponding Letters to sister Associations.

7. Voted that brother James Dunham be our messenger to the Warren Association.

8. Voted that Elders Eliphalet Smith and Thomas Green, be our messengers to the New-Hampshire Association.

9. Voted that Elder Macomber write the circular Letter for the next year.

10. Voted that brother Abner Harris be Treasurer to the Association.

11. Voted that brother Williams superintend the printing of the Minutes.

12. Read and accepted the Report of the committee who were appointed the last year to enquire into the state of the Church in Buckfield.

13. Voted to recommend to the Churches in the Association to raise money by contribution for the support of a Gospel Mission, and to bring in the same at our next annual meeting. Contributed fifteen dollars at the association for this use.

14. Voted that Elders Green, Williams and Woodward, be a Committee to superintend the business relating to the Gospel Mission.

15. Voted that Elder Woodward be Treasurer for the Missionary business.

16. Voted the following supplies.

Woolwich Branch of { Elder Bailey, second Lord's day in each  
Bowdoinham Church. } month the ensuing year.

Lewiston. { Elder Jackson, first Lord's day, Oct.  
Elder Stinson, 5 Feb.  
Elder Smith, first in June.

- Readfield. { Elder Bailey, third in Oct.  
Elder Stinson, third in Nov.  
Elder Cain, third in Dec.
- Miscoungus { Elder Macomber, second in Oct. second in Feb.  
Island. { Elder Hall, second in March. second in July.  
Elder Fuller, second in Nov.  
Elder Bailey, third in May.  
Elder Woodward, first in Oct.
- Nobleborough. { Elder Hall, third in Jan.  
Elder Case, fourth in May.  
Elder Stinson, second in July.
- Livermore. { Elder Cain, third February.  
Elder Cole, third in April.  
Elder Bailey, third in June.  
Elder Cole, first in October.
- Buckfield. { Elder Hooper, first in December.  
Elder Francis, first in March.  
Elder Tripp, first in June.  
Elder Cain, last in September.  
Elder Macomber, second in November.
- N. Gloucester. { Elder Tripp, fourth in November.  
Elder Cole, first in January.  
Elder Woodward, fourth in February.  
Elder Gould, second in June.
- Farmington. { Elder Smith, second in October.  
Elder Tripp, second in January.  
Elder Gould, second in March.
- New Vineyard. { Elder Tripp, third in January.  
Elder Cain, third in May.
- Jay { Elder Tripp, fourth in September.  
Elder Cain, first in September.  
Elder Jackson, first in November.
- Mount Vernon. { Elder Cole, first in January.  
Elder Smith, first in March.  
Elder Tripp, second in April.

Adjourned until two o'clock in the afternoon.

Met according to adjournment.

Sermon by Elder Stinson, from Acts ix. 15.

The Council which convened by request of the Church in Livermore, attended to the ordination of brother Williams.

17. Attended to the celebration of the Lord's Supper in the Association.

18. Voted to hold our Association the next year at the Baptist Meeting-House in Green, the fourth Wednesday of August, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

*Dearly Beloved in the Lord,*

**A**S God has been pleased to favor us with another annual meeting, so we conceive it a pleasure, as well as duty to address you with another circular Letter. We are happy to inform you that we have had an agreeable interview; for although many churches complain of trial and the want of fervor in religion, yet others give very pleasing accounts of revivals amongst them; which ought to excite our gratitude to our heavenly Father, as well as cheerful diligence in the way of godliness. And it is a matter of no small comfort to us that notwithstanding the prevalence of infidelity and irreligion in the world, yet the churches in general appear to stand fast in the faith of the gospel. For if we have but a moderate view of the licentiousness of the age, we cannot be indifferent with respect to the situation of Christ's kingdom; it is like a fold in the midst of wolves; or like a defenceless flock surrounded with all the prowling multitudes of the forest. Brethren, it appears to us that nothing at present is more worthy of our attention. It is an age wherein iniquity abounds, and the love of many waxeth cold. The christian world is overspread as with a flood, with the propagators of the most fatal delusions; these are intent upon frustrating the purposes of Jehovah, and, if possible, to blind their own consciences against that conviction which suggests to them their guilt and condemnation. These monsters in human shape, are more dangerous in their tendency, than a bear, or all the brutal herd robbed of their whelps.

But what shall a feeble band do against so formidable an enemy? Brethren we must make a stand in the name of the Lord. Clad with the whole armour of God, we must fight under the Captain of our salvation; not with carnal weapons, but with those



which are mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds. Eph. vi. 12, 13—18.

We are sensible that the ransomed of the Lord have not only to encounter the enemies of religion on earth, but they have to withstand the devil himself, and their own corrupt hearts. The adversary not only stirs up his children against the truth, but suggests many things to the believer's mind as objections to the true faith ; and the believer finds his corruptions always inclining to the side of error : hence the conflict is sometimes very severe. But beloved in Christ, let none of these things move you ; they are but a fulfilling of the Scriptures. In all ages we have the world, the flesh and the devil to oppose. And the arising of false prophets, or false and dangerous schemes of religion, was expressly foretold by Christ : therefore we ought to rejoice in the accomplishment of his word, and it should add to the strength of our faith, and increase our hope and zeal.

Surely we have great calls to exert ourselves in the cause of God. We ought to labor in simplicity to maintain the purity of the gospel. The glorious truths of scripture are opposed by many under a profession of christianity ; and various and ensnaring are the devices of men against the counsel of God : yet we are to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. The inspiration of the holy Scriptures ; the divinity of Jesus Christ ; the sovereignty, wisdom, power, justice and goodness of God ; the total and universal depravity of fallen men ; the purpose of God in the salvation of sinners ; regeneration ; the special work of the Holy Ghost in conversion ; the perseverance of the saints, and the eternal misery of the finally impenitent, are truths which shine with meridian brightness in the word of God : and are to be maintained at the hazard of interest, reputation and life. By pleading the sovereignty of God, we

are not to exclude the agency of fallen men ; but are to contend that they are accountable to the Lord for all their doings—that so the condemnation of the sinner may rest upon his own head, and the salvation of the redeemed redound to the glory of him who calls them out of darkness into his marvellous light.

It is not only necessary, brethren, that we labor for the defence of the gospel, but it is indispensable that we maintain good works. The christian must be holy in all manner of conversation. A holy life is of more importance than many professors seem to be aware of. But brethren, we hope better things of you. We trust that you know the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

We are to be careful to have no concern with the unfruitful works of darkness ; but are to shun even the appearance of evil. Many things will pass well with a man of this world, which are exceedingly unbecoming in the saint. The followers of Christ must live soberly, righteously and godly in the world : which imports that we must live religiously as well as civilly. A religious life implies not only a profession of religion, but also a faithful discharge of the duties thereof ; such as meeting for worship and discipline, attendance on the Lord's supper, family and secret prayer, and conversation on religious and spiritual things. In a word, we must have respect to all God's commandments.

In order to hold fast our profession and maintain good works, it is necessary to have the inward exercises of religion.—Therefore, to walk in the love of God, and a proper affection towards our fellow creatures according to their several conditions, and to walk in faith, hope and spiritual joy, is essential to a christian life. To defend the faith of the gospel with the coldness of a philosopher, and to perform the duties of religion with the indifference of a formalist, is

exceedingly inconsistent with a living union to Christ. Believers are lively stones, and their bodies a living sacrifice.

O brethren ! the importance of these things is such that the most weighty motives may be urged to animate you in your christian course. The glory of the cause in itself is sufficient. It involves every thing great and excellent. The glory of God, the good of his people, the salvation of sinners, as far as means are of use, and our own present and future happiness, are all closely connected with a becoming walk with God.

The second coming of Christ, it seems, shall be preceded by wars and rumours of wars, nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom ; iniquity shall abound, and the love of many shall wax cold, and many false prophets shall arise, and deceive many, and if possible the very elect. Now is it possible that language in so few words should more clearly describe the present state of the world ; all which strikingly indicates the near approach of the Saviour.

Therefore we entreat that you will not only read this letter, and decide in your opinion concerning its worth, but be careful to realize by experience and practice, the things it suggests.

Brethren, the time is at hand, look up, therefore and rejoice that your redemption draweth nigh. Your warfare is nearly accomplished. Yet a little while and he that shall come, will come, and will not tarry. As you are as you profess, soon shall you enter into the joy of your Lord. Then shall you be freed from your body of sin, and shall be perfect in holiness. Then shall you enjoy in full the presence of the triune God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Then shall you join an innumerable company of angels, the general assembly and church of the first born, and the spirits of just men made perfect. O ! therefore let us have respect unto the recompense of reward—antici-

participating the glory that shall be revealed in us hereafter — waiting with joyful expectation, for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; when all the faithful shall receive a starry crown, and shall shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

By order of the Association,  
ELISHA WILLIAMS, Moderator.  
JOHN TRIPP, Clerk.