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Baptists. Maine Bowdoinham Association, 1803.

Minutes ... in Vassalborough, September ... 1803.

Portland, Wait. 11 pp.

MWA copy.

MINUTES

OF THE

BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT THE

BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE

IN

VASSALBOROUGH,

September 28th and 29th, 1803.



PORTLAND :— PRINTED BY T. B. WAIT.



MINUTES.

WEDNESDAY, *September 28.*

AT ten o'clock brother Joshua Bradley delivered a discourse from Acts xiv. 23—"Go out into the high ways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."

1. At two o'clock, P. M. brother Benjamin Titcomb preached the Introductory Sermon, from Rom. v. 21.

2. Chose brother Sylvanus Boardman, Moderator, and brother Benjamin Titcomb, Clerk.

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

N. B. The names of ordained ministers 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 distinguished with a dash—.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers & Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
<i>Bowdoinham.</i>	JOE MACOMBER, <i>James Baker,</i>					23
<i>Harpwell.</i>	SAM. MARINER, SAM. WOODWARD, <i>David Farrin,</i>	3		2		47
<i>Thomaston,</i> <i>Bowdoin.</i>	ELISHA SNOW, *JAMES POTTER, <i>Nathaniel Smith,</i> James Sampson,	3	1		2	83
		3		1		106

Churches.	Ministers & Messengers.	Added.	D./Wid.	Exclud.	Died.	Total.
Vassalborough.	Coker Marble, Timothy Hamlin, J. de Martin, John Brackett,	11		4		58
Ballston.	JOSEPH BAILEY, John Bailey, John Woodman, John King,	28				74
† Sydney. Litchfield.	* ASA WILBER, WM. STINSON, Samuel Stinson, Robert Stinson, jun.	4	1		2	52
Hebron.	JOHN TRIPP, James Dunham, Benjamin Barrows,	2	1	1	1	100
Buckfield.	NATH'L. CHASE, John Briggs, William Berry,	15	3	1		53
Paris.	* JAMES HOOPER, Josiah Smith, Nathan Pierce,	14	1	1		53
Lewiston.	BENJAMIN COLE, Josiah Mitchell, Abner Harris,	6	1	2	2	42
Readfield.	ISAAC CASE, William Briggs, Joseph Rice, Lemuel Capen,	4	2	1		58
Fayette.	OLIVER BILLINGS, ELIPHALET SMITH Joshua Walton, David Walton, John Palmer,	1	2	2		63
Miscongun } Island. }	Samuel Trask, Thomas Yates,	10	4			32

Churches	Ministers & Messengers.	Added.	Dismiss.	Exclud.	Di'd.	Total.
St. George.	EPHRAIM HALL, Isaac Hall,	11		8		77
Nobleborough.	_____					16
	Samuel A. Flagg, Nathaniel Chapman,					
Livermore.	SYLV. BOARDMAN, Gilbert Hathaway, William Bray, Thomas Wyman, Perez Ellis,	11	4		1	91
Green.	_____			235	1	51
	Jesse Coburn, Amaziah Reed, Bartholomew Coburn					
Wayne	_____	9	5		7	31
	WM. GODDING, Isaac Dexter,					
Lisbon.	ACHABOD TEMPLE, Seth Hinkley, Samuel Tebbets, John Tebbets,			2		46
Barretstown.	*ANDREW FULLER,		2	2	1	18
New Gloucester	ROBERT LOW, Loved Lincoln,	2				32
Clinton.	MEPHIROS. CAIN, David Lancaster, John Noble,		1	2		58
†N Yarmouth.	*THOMAS GREEN,					23
Harlem.	JOB CHADWICK, Sylvanus Hatch, Josiah Ward,	2				28
New Vineyard.	_____					16
	_____ Spencer,					
†Farmington and Litchfield.	_____	8		6		19
	James Pierce, Levi Harriman, Daniel Cunningham,					84

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers & Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud. F.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
<i>Wales.</i>	James Larrabee, James Cannon,					
<i>Fay.</i>	Tho's Macomber, jun. Oliver Peabody,	10	2	2		40
<i>Mount Vernon.</i>	John Hovey, William Whittier, Samuel Thing, Joseph Carrier,	3	4			51
<i>Brunswick.</i>	Abner Melcher,	2	2			34
<i>Leeds.</i>	THOMAS FRANCIS, Giddens Lane, Daniel Lathrop, Thomas Millet,	7				25
<i>Woolwich.</i>	Samuel Stinson,			2		13
<i>Madumcook.</i>		1		1	2	30
<i>Warren.</i>	ANDREW FULLER, Oliver Pratt,	3		2		43
<i>Portland.</i>	BENJ. TITCOMB, David Bassett,	13	1	1		30
<i>Freetown.</i>	JABEZ LEWIS, Stephen Dexter,	1		1		17
<i>2d Buckfield.</i>	George Ricker, John Clay, John Simmons,	14				32
<i>Mt. Ephraim.</i>	John Haines,					11
<i>New Sharon.</i>	Levi Jewell, Ambrose Arnold, William Decker, Ezekiel Gilmore, John Lake,					22
	<i>Total.</i>	205	37	81	16	1873

N. B. The church called St. George, was called Cushing in our last minutes.

Received Letter and Minutes from the Warren Association, by their Messenger, Elder Joshua Bradley. From New Hampshire, Letter and Minutes by their Messenger, Elder Zebedee Delano.

4. Read and adopted the Circular Letter prepared by Elder Job Chadwick.

5. Voted that Elder Titcomb write the Corresponding Letters next year—Elder Boardman the Circular Letter.

6. Chose Elder Case to attend the Warren Association next year. Elder Boardman and Elder Titcomb the New Hampshire.

THURSDAY, September 29.

Met according to adjournment. Brother Boardman opened the meeting by prayer.

7. Read a Letter from the Church in New Sharon, requesting a union with this body. Voted to receive them to fellowship.

8. Chose brother Abner Harris Treasurer.

9. Appointed brother Benjamin Titcomb to superintend the printing of the Minutes.

10. Read a Letter from the 2d Church in Green. Voted to defer the Letter till next year. Appointed brethren Boardman, Goding, Chadwick, Snow and Billings, a committee to examine into the state of this and the first Church in Green—to meet the Monday before the fourth Wednesday in September next, and to report to the Association at their next session.

11. Chose brethren Green, Tripp and Low, a committee to superintend the Missionary business.

12. Read and adopted the Corresponding Letters prepared by brother Flagg.

13. Upon a request of several churches, Voted, That it is expedient to divide this Association.

14. Voted to hold our next Association at the Baptist meeting house in Reedfield, on the fourth Wednesday of September next, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

A contribution was made in the assembly for the support of Missionaries; and forty eight dollars were collected.

The contribution from some of the churches was received, amounting to thirty-three dollars.

SUPPLIES for *New Sharon* church. Elder Billings, last in October and March. Elder Macomber, last in December. Elder Chase, last in February. Elder Case, last in January.

Miscoungus Island. Elder Macomber, 2d in November, and 3d in June. Elder Snow, 2d in December. Elder Fuller, 2d in January, and 2d in September. Elder Chadwick, 2d in July. Elder Hall, 2d in August.

New Vineyard. Elder Cain, 2d in November.— Elder Chadwick, 2d in February. Elder Billings, 2d in June. Elder Palmer, 2d in September.

2d in Litchfield. Elder Case, 4th in December and 2d in September. Elder Cole, 4th in March. Elder Low, 4th in June.

Wales. Elder Stinson, 4th in January, and 4th in July. Elder Temple, 4th in March, and 4th in September. Elder Cole, 4th in November, and 4th in May.

Woolwich. Elder Bailey, 3d in October, 3d in January, 3d in May and 3d in August.

Mount Vernon. Elder Francis, 2d in November. Elder Billings, 2d in January. Elder Godding, 2d in March. Elder Billings, 2d in May. Elder Palmer, 2d in July. Elder Macomber, 2d in September.

Circular Letter.

The Ministers and Messengers of the several Baptist Churches composing the Bowdoinham Association, convened at Vassalborough, on the fourth Wednesday of September, 1803, to the respective Churches they represent—grace, mercy and peace, from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

INDULGED with another anniversary season of meeting together, may the saving knowledge of divine truth inspire us with gratitude to our Almighty Benefactor, for his continual blessings bestowed upon us, and excite in us that sorrow of heart for our iniquities, that we shall be enabled to adopt the language of the prophet Habakkuk, "I will stand upon my watch tower, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved." We are not our own—we are bought with a price, too great to be slighted, too valuable to be trifled with or neglected. What command more reasonable, or can be more interesting, than to "glorify God in our bodies and spirits which are his." The voice of unbelief is too manifestly prevailing among professors. Like the fathers of old they say "What profit is there in serving the Lord, or for walking mournfully before him, and keeping his ordinances." But beloved, we are persuaded better things of you. Shun therefore, such examples, lest ye fall into reproach and a dreadful snare. "Gird up, therefore, the lines of your mind, watch and be sober, and hope to the end." The

glorious spread of the gospel in this our day, should inspire us with fervency and gratitude to the Father of mercies.—Look around! The fields are white! The hand of oppression is withering; and prosperity attends the palaces of the New Jerusalem on earth.

When we view the state of religion, the amazing increase of Zion, the missionary spirit that prevails among all ranks of men—when we contemplate the scene that is opening on the shores of Africa, the islands in the South Seas, the distant shores of Ind Stan, all resounding with the name of Jesus and the jubilee of salvation—when we view the growing empire of Immanuel in America, we can adopt the language of David, the royal psalmist—“this is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.”

God is on his way—he reigns triumphant, let the earth rejoice! Let saints lift up their heads for their redemption draws nigh. Persevere, brethren, in well doing—cleave to the Lord, and let your light shine, that others seeing your works may glorify God—Pity, exhort, warn, intreat, and pray for sinners. Pray with and for your families, and instruct them by wholesome precept and example. Do good to all men, especially the household of faith. Remember the poor, whose cries come before the Lord of Sabbath. Be cautious, exemplary and faithful in the discharge of every duty incumbent upon you as members of Christ’s mystical body. Contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered to the saints.—While you attend to more public duties, let those of a private nature have a share, especially secret devotion, which is so excellent a mean to preserve confidence towards God, and keep up communion with him.

The signal marks of divine favor which have been so remarkably and endearingly experienced for sev-

eral years past, within the circle of our acquaintance, evince the truth of God's word, that "there is a reward for the righteous. Verily there is a God that judgeth the earth."

Finally, let us, as the true followers of the Lamb, attend to his commandments and do them, and the God of peace shall be with us. What though like Israel in the wilderness, let us remember that our spiritual Joshua lives, and because he lives we shall live also. Though the vision tarry, wait; he that shall come, will come, and will not tarry. The days of mourning will soon be ended. Jesus will lead you through the cold stream of Jordan, escort you through the gates of the celestial city, where you will join the countless throng in anthems of unceasing praise to him who sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb forever and ever. Amen.

Signed by order, and in behalf of the Association.

SYLVANUS BOARDMAN, *Moderator.*
BENJAMIN TITCOMB, *Clerk.*