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MINUTES

OF THE

BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT THE

BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE

IN

BUCKFIELD,

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 and 25,

1806.



PORTLAND:

FROM THE NEW PRINTING OFFICE

Nov. 20—1806.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24, 1806.

AT ten o'clock, A. M. brother Isaac Case preached the introductory sermon, from Acts vi. 4... "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

After sermon proceeded to business.

1. Chose brother Sylvanus Boardman, moderator, and brother John Tripp, clerk.

2. After prayer by the moderator, proceeded to read the letters from the churches, and took the following account of the numbers added, dismissed, and who have died the past year; and the present numbers 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; churches marked thus † we had no account from this session; vacant churches noted by —

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Added.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.
Harpswell,	SAMUEL MARINER, SAMUEL WOODWARD, William Gatchell.	9				59
1st Bowdoin,	*JAMES POTTER, DAVID BUKER, John Small, James Sampson, William Thompson.	25	18	5	2	114
1st Sidney,	ASA WILBER, William Lewis.	1	20	1		36
1st Litchfield,	WILLIAM STINSON, Stephen Lancaster.	10	4			102
Hebron,	JOHN TRIPP, William Barrows, Edmond Bowker.	1	2			47
1st Buckfield,	NATHANIEL CHASE, William Berry, Job Packard.			2		36
Paris,	JAMES HOOPER, <i>John Willis</i> , Benjamin Hammond.	1	7			52
Lewistown,	BENJAMIN COLE,	6	4	1		55
Readfield,	ISAAC CASE, William Briggs, Thomas Allen.	5	7	1		110
Fayette,	OLIVER BILLINGS, Joshua Walton, Zephaniah Sumpus, William Talbot, Jesse Tuck.	5		4		144

Churches. Ministers and Messengers.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismissed.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Livermore,	SYLVANUS BOARDMAN, THOMAS WYMAN, Ebenezer Pitts.	8	1	5		130
Green,	Lemuel Comins, John Larrabee, Benjamin Merrill, John Mower.	16		1	1	71
Waine,	WILLIAM GODING, Joseph Fairbanks, Ichabod Billington, Samuel Wing.	1				37
Lisbon,	ICHABOD TEMPLE, Joseph Killgore, Samuel Tibbetts.	6	4	2	1	48
New-Gloucester,	ROBERT LOW, Abner Harris, Stephen Washburn, John Woodman.	9			1	49
Clinton,	MEPHIBOSHETH CAIN, Joseph Spearin.					34
North-Yarmouth,	THOMAS GREEN, James Fields.	18	1	2	3	37
New-Vineyard,	Levi Young.					17
Farmington, 2d Hutchfield,	HENRY KENDAL, Daniel Cuningham, Lemuel Walker.	12	2	1		89
Wales,	Philip Jenkins, James Libbee, John Witherell.	9	1	1		44
Jay,	JOSEPH ADAMS, Thomas Macomber, Thomas Fuller, Thomas Davis.	1		2		88
Mount-Vernon,	JACOB JEWEL.	2	1			61
Brunswick,	BENJAMIN TITCOMB, Elisha Snow.	3	3		1	54
Loeds,	THOMAS FRANCIS, Giddins Lane, James Lamb.	6	1			46
Portland,	Thomas Beck, Mark Harris.	8	2			42
2d Buckfield,	GEORGE RICKER, John Drake, Nathaniel Harlow.	1			1	32
New-Sharon,	Ambrose Arnold, Benjamin Arnold.	9	2	1		36
Canaan,	David Lancaster.					19

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismissed.</i>
Samner,	THOMAS MACCOMBER, John Briggs, Sylvanus Stephens, Meshack Kain, Samuel Legro.	2	
Bethel,	Stephen Eastes, Samuel Kilgore.	2	
Jefferson & Lancaster, 2d Sidney,	Nathan Reynolds, Edmond Howard, Jeremiah Thayer.		
2d Bowdoin,	Samuel Smith, Moses Dennett, Nathaniel Smith.		
Belgrade,	Elias Thayer.		
Norway,	JOHN WAGG, William Persons.		
	Total,	186	80

N. B. The four last churches were received the previous year.

4. Whereas the church in Cornville requested to be received into this Association... *Voted* to wave their reception for the present; and appointed a committee to visit said church and inquire into their faith and order, and report at our next annual meeting... *Voted* the following brethren: Boardman, W. Goding, J. Tripp, B. Cole, and A. for the committee. The committee propose to visit the church the third Wednesday in January, 1807.

5. Received letters and minutes from the Warren Association by their messengers, elder ELISHA WILLIAMS, and brother Josiah Conyers—From the Lincoln Association letters and minutes by their messengers, elders DANIEL MERRILL, PHINEAS PILSBURY, and SAMUEL STANSON.

6. Appointed brethren Joseph Kilgore, William and Samuel Tibbetts, a committee to settle with the church.

7. Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 8 o'clock.

8. Attended to religious worship in the afternoon. Sermons by brother E. WILLIAMS, from Acts v. 27, and brother D. MERRILL, from Dan. ii. 44.

Preaching in several parts of the town in the evening.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 25.

According to adjournment, and brother TITCOMB opened the meeting by prayer.

9. Chose brethren WILLIAMS, MERRILL, and TITCOMB, a committee to inspect the circular letter to the churches, prepared by brother TRIPP, and corresponding letter to the associations with which we correspond, prepared by brother Low. After which, they were read and adopted.

10. Appointed brother S. BOARDMAN to write the circular letter for next year, and brother Low the corresponding letter.

12. Voted to allow brother S. WOODWARD four dollars, for his attending the Lincoln Association the last year; and the same sum to those messengers who shall be appointed to attend in future.

13. Appointed brethren S. BOARDMAN and R. Low, messengers to the Warren Association; to the New-Hampshire Association, brethren B. TITCOMB and O. Billings; to the Lincoln, brethren T. FRANCIS and T. CASE.

14. Chose brother Abner Harris, treasurer.

15. Chose brother T. GREEN and T. Beck to superintend printing the minutes.

16. Voted to print fifteen hundred copies of the minutes.

17. Voted to hold our next Association at Brunswick, the fourth Wednesday of September next, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

18. Appointed brother T. FRANCIS to preach the introductory sermon.

19. Chose elder Low, brethren Abner Harris, and Ransom

20. Apportion the money upon the churches for printing the minutes.

21. Voted, in concurrence with the Lincoln Association, to

22. Resolved that the first day of January next be observed as

23. A day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, through the churches

of the Association, to ask of God, their only help and head,

24. That he would graciously grant favorable answers to the following petitions:

1. That the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers into his harvest.

2. That the Lord Jesus will pass by the manifold provocations of his baptised churches, and send down the Comforter to

revive the spirits of his little though increasing flock, and a

3. That he will send down the Spirit of the world, which now lieth in wickedness.

III. *That God would send down a liberal spirit upon all the members of the baptised churches, who have considerable property put into their hands, to be holden in readiness for the use of Zion's use; that the laborers may be supplied; that no want may be known in the house of God.*

After a short intermission, a discourse, introductory to missionary business, was preached by brother P. Palmer from Rom. x. 15. "And how shall they preach except they be sent."

By contribution and subscription, a considerable sum was collected for the use of the mission.

The following brethren were then appointed trustees, viz. Sylvanus Boardman, chairman; John Tripp, secretary; John Billings, treasurer; Thomas Francis, Robert Low, Nathaniel Chase, Isaac Case, and Ranson Norton.

The trustees will meet at Livermore the third Wednesday in November next.

SUPPLIES FOR DESTITUTE CHURCHES.

FOR PORTLAND, Elder Chace, 3d Lord's day in Oct. and 3d in Nov.
 Macomber, 3d in Nov.
 Stinson, 3d in December.
 Titcomb, 3d in January.
 Tripp, 3d in February.
 Kendall, 3d in March,
 Goding, 3d in May.
 Mariner, 3d in June.
 Woodward, 3d in July.
 Boardman, 3d in August.

FOR WALES, Elder Samuel Woodward, 4th in November.
 Kendall, 4th in January and 4th in March.
 Temple, 4th in May.
 Stinson, 4th in July.
 Chace, 4th in September.

FOR GREENE, Elder Temple, 2d in November.
 Mariner, 2d in February.
 Titcomb, 2d in June.
 Kendall, 2d in August.

FOR BELGRADE, Elder Palmer, 4th in October and May.
 Adams, 4th in Dec. and March.
 Wilber, 4th in February and August.

ARON, Elder Newel, last in January and June.
 Kendall, last in October and July.
 Palmer, last in September and August.
 Chace, last in November.
 Boardman, last in February.
 Case, last in March.
 Wyman, 2d in November.

DWELL, Elder Mariner, 1st in February.
 Chace, 3d in January.
 Temple, 1st in December and June.
 Lewis, 2d in Dec. and Feb.; and 1st in March.
 Woodward, 3d and 4th in December.
 Stinson, 3d in February.
 Wyman, 4th in February.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The BRWDONHAM ASSOCIATION to the several CHURCHES they represent, wishing grace, mercy, and peace, to be multiplied.

DEARLY BELOVED IN THE LORD,

WE are happy in the consideration of your establishment in the great and foundation truths of the gospel, and your regard to the institutions of our Lord, by which you are distinguished as a denomination; and it is our desire that you may yet increase in all spiritual understanding; that you may enjoy the pleasure of communing with God, and manifest the same in a holy life and conversation. You are aware, brethren, that mere knowledge, even in religious things, only puffeth up; but a real belief and love of the truth, have a very different effect. Mere theorists in religion are praters on what they neither love nor understand; they are conceited, high-minded, and often rash disputers; but genuine love humbles the soul, and makes it sensible of its own deficiency; and while it prompts to an earnest contending for the faith, yet it softens the manner, and is pure and gentle, and promotes a desire to instruct and enlighten the opposer, rather than to silence and confound him. We are then to enter into the genuine spirit of the gospel, which is the true enjoyment of religion. Indeed, it is in those truths that we commune with God, and enjoy his presence.

Divine truth thus received and enjoyed, will never fail to produce holiness of behavior; and holiness of behavior, which is the fruit of love, facilitates this enjoyment, and is instrumental of comfort to our souls. Christians are to distinguish themselves from the rest of the world, by their sobriety, regard to religion, and shunning even the appearance of evil. How very disgusting it is to see a person, professing regeneration, and a belief of the distinguishing doctrines of the cross, mingling with the world in their merry meetings, vain conversations, and lightness of behavior. It is particularly binding on a christian who is the head of a family, to walk uprightly in his house. This is enjoined by the word of God, and what we expressly promise in our solemn covenant.

The importance of family government calls for particular attention. The wise man says, *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not de-*

part from it; and the apostle exhorteth fathers, to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. In doing this it is necessary to instruct them, not only into the things of a religious nature, but also into those which concern their general conduct in life. Several things respecting our children ought to be especially attended to in this degenerate age. 1. To guard their minds against excessive drinking; a habit which prevails to the utter ruin of many, and the injury of millions. 2. Against profane cursing and swearing.... *The Lord will not count him guiltless, who takes his name in vain.* 3. They should be taught ever to be careful in their choice of company; never to associate with the vile.... *My son, says Solomon, if sinners entice thee consent thou not; walk thou not in the way with them, refrain thy feet from their path.* 4. To avoid an indecent familiarity between the sexes, which is often productive of the greatest evils. 5. To be guarded against Sabbath-breaking and contempt of religion. Many are guilty of this by neglecting religious meetings, and especially in meeting together after public worship, for wordly and vain conversation, and merriment. 6. Children are also to be taught industry, decency, and economy; for idleness is an inlet to every vice.... *The drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty, and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.*

But, brethren, let it ever be remembered, that our instructions will go but little way in the education of our children, without we enforce the same by example; therefore it is necessary that we do before them the things which we inculcate by words. In learning children the business of life, we not only tell them what to do, but show them how to do it. Shall we then teach them to be sober and temperate, and not be so ourselves? And what will it avail to tell our families, that they must regard the Lord's day, while they are witnesses, that we ourselves can frequently idle away a Sabbath at home, converse freely on the world, and do wordly business, make visits, and go journeys on that day? In vain we complain of the sinfulness of the times, and of the licentiousness of the youth, if our own examples are leading that way.

Again, let it be considered, that merely to caution and advise is not always sufficient; restraint is often necessary. Good old Eli reprov'd his sons, but he did not restrain them; and what sore judgments came upon his family as a consequence! Firmness and resolution in governing are exceedingly necessary in a parent, and when blended with gravity and moderation, and supported by example, seldom fail of maintaining order and decorum in the family. While we endeavor suitably to regulate and discipline our families, we are carefully to avoid tyrannical severity, which tends to sour their minds against ourselves and our government; but a familiarity with our children, as far as is consistent with parental dignity, will be likely to have a happy influence in reconciling them to order, and rendering our presence and their home agreeable. Happy are they who can avoid those extremes, and have the talent of ruling their houses well!

This part of christian duty may be of greater consequence, than many are aware of. The benefit of the child, and the comfort of the parent, greatly depend upon it. It is deplorable to think of the consequences of a bad bringing up. Many fall into disgrace and wretchedness, for want of timely instruction and restraint; and probably for the same reason, not a few make their exit on a gallows. There is reason to hope, that many, by serious reproofs and exhortations, through the grace of God, are instrumentally made happy in time and eternity; but how many are speeded on in the way to endless destruction by too much indulgence, is not for us to say. As therefore you regard the happiness of your children in the present or future world—as you wish to enjoy satisfaction and comfort with them while you live—and as you regard the authority of God's word, and would avert his judgments—we entreat, that “denying ungodliness and wordly lusts, you would live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world;” and so conduct in your families, as to do honor to your profession, and be a mean, in the hand of God, of good to the precious souls under your care. To our instructions and examples, must be added our earnest, humble, and constant prayers, to our gracious and heavenly Father; for without God we can do nothing. “Paul may plant and Apollos water, but God giveth the increase.” Prayer in our families, as well as in secret, and a religious conversation, are very essential to a truly religious life; and with respect to the conversion of our friends,

*Effectual fervent prayer prevails,
When every other method fails.*

By our minutes you will learn what additions have been made the year past to our churches. We have only to add, that good information from corresponding associations assure us of this animating and soul-reviving news. Fear not, dear brethren, though an ungodly world may fling their unhallowed scandals upon the churches and the plain ordinances of the gospel, Jesus our great high priest liveth, and his people shall live in him. Let us pray for the conversion of sinners, that the chosen sons and daughters of Zion may be gathered in, and the New Testament footsteps of the flock be universally known, obeyed and enjoyed. The Lord's arm is not shortened that it cannot save, nor his ear dull that he cannot hear. The set time to favor Zion will come, only let your conversation be as becometh the gospel of Christ, and the God of all grace and glory will soon clothe you with immortality, and give a crown of life.....AMEN.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION, convened at Buckfield, Sept. 24 and 25, 1806, to Corresponding Associations, sendeth greeting.

DEARLY BELOVED IN THE LORD,

BEING sensible of the utility of continuing christian correspondence with you, induces us to send you this short epistle.

Your letters and messengers have been to us like cold water to a thirsty soul; they have strengthened our hands, increased our fellowship and union, and encouraged our hearts. Although God's children are separated from each other by rivers, oceans and mountains, they all drink into one Spirit, which begets in them that union called by the apostle, "the unity of the Spirit."

The intelligence we have received from your parts of Zion's prosperity is truly refreshing to us. This part of the continent, a few years past, was a howling wilderness, which now has upwards of sixty churches in it of our faith and order. *This is the Lord's doings and marvellous in our eyes.* Surely we may adopt the language of David.... *O magnify the Lord with us, and let us exalt his name together.*

We have had pleasing intelligence from a number of our churches. Numbers have been brought to enlist under the peaceful banner of the adorable Jesus; and God is still adding to our churches such as we trust will be saved.

Our present session has been very agreeable, and we have been once more comforted by your letters and messengers.

We earnestly solicit a continuance of your correspondence with us. Asking an interest in your prayers, we subscribe ourselves your brethren in the kingdom and patience of the saints.....FAREWELL.

In behalf of the Association,

SYLVANUS BOARDMAN, *Moderator.*
JOHN TRIPP, *Clerk.*