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Minutes of the Charlestown Association . . . . Oct. 19th,  
1778.

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# M I N U T E S

O F T H E

## C H A R L E S T O W N A S S O C I A T I O N .

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HIGH HILLS of SANTEE, Oct. 19th, 1778.

AT Eleven o'Clock, A. M. Rev. *Elbanan Winchester*, according to Appointment, opened the Association with a suitable Discourse from Rev. iv. 3. *And he that sat, was to look upon like a Jasper, and a Sardine Stone; and there was a Rainbow round about the Throne, in Sight like unto an Emerald.*

2. Letters from Six Churches were read. Rev. *Oliver Hart* was chosen Moderator, and Rev. *Elbanan Winchester* Clerk.

3. A Church at the *High Hills of Santee* made Application, by Letter and Six Messengers, for Admission into this Association, and was received. This Church was a Branch of that at the *Congarees*, and was constituted, by the Assistance of Rev. *Joseph Rees*, Jan. 3, 1772, consisting at that Time of 82 Members; most of them young Converts.

4. A Church on *Lynch's Creek* made Application, by Letter and Three Messengers, for Admission into this Association, and was received. This Church originated from that of the *High Hills*; was constituted May 4, 1777, by Rev. *Richard Furman*, and consisted of 29 Members; most of whom had been lately converted and baptized.

5. The present State of the Churches. Note, Ministers with this † Mark did not attend. Churches with this \* Mark we had no Account from, but their Numbers stand as last Year. A Dash denotes no Minister.

Churches.

Churches.	Messengers.	Baptized	Returned to L.	Dismissed.	Excom.	Dead.	Numb.
Charlestown,	{ Rev. Oliver Hart, Rev. John Newton, Mr. John Hamilton,		1				74
Ewbaw,	{ Rev. Joseph Cook, †						67
Ashley-River,	.....						44
Welch Neck,	{ Rev. Elhanan Winchester, Mr. Moses Pearson, Mr. William Ferral.	4	1	2		3	86
Cashaway Neck,	{ Rev. Evan Pugh, †						58
Catfish,	{ Rev. Jeremiah Rneam, †	3	4	5	4	2	35
Coosawhatchee,	{ Rev. James Smart, † Mr. James Foster, Mr. James Smart,	2		2	1	1	58
Savannah River, Georgia,	{ Rev. Edmund Botsford, † Mr. Charles Bussey, Mr. Elijah Eastwood.	9	3		1	2	146
Savannah River, Carolina,	{ Rev. Joshua Lewis, †						68
Jeffer's Creek,	{ Rev. Timothy Dargan, Mr. John Courtney, Mr. John Spivie, Mr. Shadrach Atkinson, Rev. Richard Furman, Mr. Thomas Neal, Mr. Isaac Jackson, Mr. Peter Millet, Mr. John Barden, Mr. Moses Knighten.	4	1				30
High Hills of Santee,	{ Rev. John Cowen, Mr. Joshua Howel, Mr. Joshua-Joseph Howel.						78

Increase this Year 191.

22 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 845

6. Rev.

6. Rev. Messieurs *Joseph Rees, Ralph Jones, and Benjamin Moseley* being present, their Company and Assistance were desired.

7. The Church of *Charlestown*, by their Letter, queried,  
 "Would it not be of Advantage to the Churches, in general,  
 "to obtain a legal Incorporation, seeing they are entitled  
 "thereto, by the Constitution of this State?" Answered in the  
 Affirmative, unanimously.

8. A Letter from the *Virginia Association*, together with their Minutes were received and read.

9. Appointed Rev. *Richard Furman* to prepare an Answer to the above Letter, and Rev. *Elhanan Winchester* to draw up the Circular Letter to our Churches.

10. Concluded to hold the next Association in *Charlestown*, on Monday after the first Sabbath in *November 1779*; that Rev. *Richard Furman* preach the Sermon, and in Case of Failure, Rev. *Joshua Lewis*.

## 11. THE CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Association of Ministers and Brethren,  
 Delegates of several baptized Churches, held  
 at the High Hills of Santee, October the 19th  
 and 20th, 1778.*

*To the several Churches we are in Connexion with,*

SEND OUR CHRISTIAN SALUTATION.

*Dearly beloved, in Christ Jesus our Lord;*

**T**HIS will inform you, that through the Mercy of our God, we met and continued together in Love. We trust the Lord hath been kind to us, and our Hearts have been com-  
 forted

forted with his Presence. What we have done our Minutes will shew. We cannot but rejoice at the happy Prospect of a greater Union among the Churches in this State than ever there has been. We believe the Time is coming, when brotherly Love shall abound among all the Saints, and People of God; when Divisions shall cease and be no more; and the Gospel shall have free Course, run and be glorified. Nevertheless we cannot but lament the low State of Religion at present. O, let us pray for a Revival.

We esteem it as a singular Blessing of Providence, that our civil and religious Privileges are established on the broadest Bottom, and most permanent Foundation; and we earnestly recommend that our Churches, in general, apply for Incorporation, according to the Constitution of this State.

The Cause in which we are engaged in is a good Cause, and we trust that he who hath begun the good Work in us, will perform it to the Day of Christ, and that we shall come off more than Conquerors, through him that hath loved us. Let us then, dear Brethren, be of good Courage: All the Saints on Earth, all the Saints in Heaven; the Angels of the Lord, yea and even the Lord of Angels, are all on our Side. What then have we to fear?

We recommend to you all to pray fervently; believe firmly; wait patiently; work abundantly; live holily; die daily; watch your Hearts; guide your Senses; redeem your Time; love Christ, and long for Glory.

And now, Brethren, we commend you to God and to the Word of his Grace, which is able to build you up. and to give you an Inheritance among them that are sanctified. Craving your Prayers, we rest,

*Yours, in the best of Bonds,*

OLIVER HART, *Moderator.*  
ELHANAN WINCHESTER, *Clerk.*