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Minutes ... at Colebrook ... October 4th, and 5th,
1809.

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MINUTES

OF THE

Danbury Baptist Association,

HELD AT COLEBROOK, (Conn.)

OCTOBER 4th. and 5th, 1899.

WEDNESDAY, October 4th.

1. **T**HE Brethren who were appointed to deliver the introductory Sermon being absent; at half past ten o'clock, Brother Joshua Bradley preached from 1 Thess. v. 6. *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others.*

2. Chose Brother Daniel Wildman, Moderator, and Brother Henry Grew, Clerk.

3. After prayer by Brother Morse, the Brethren from Corresponding Associations, and others, were requested to take a seat with us.

4. The Letters from the Churches were read, and the following account taken.

V. B. Minister's names are in *small capitals*; those to which an (*) is affixed, were not present. Dashes (—) denote no settled ministers. From Churches marked thus (†) we received no information. (‡) Churches received into the Association this year.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Re-clud.</i>	<i>Dist.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
†Suffield	*JACOB WINCHEL					163
Meriden	*SAMUEL MILLER Asa Butler	4				61
1st Danbury	NATHAN DULKLEY Deacon Joseph Boughton	5		1		42
†Wallingford	—					21
2d Danbury	BENNETT PEPPER	8		1	1	41
†Southington & Farmington	—					53
Litchfield	—	4				38
	Levi Moss					
	Ephraim Smedley					
	John Todd					
Stratfield	ASAHEL MORSE	9		1	3	145
Roxbury	*ISAAC FULLER Asahel Baldwin Elijah Canfield	4		8		96
Wolcott & Bristol	DANIEL WILDMAN Joseph Wright William Tuttle Oliver Tuttle	4	5	2	2	96

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismissed.</i>	<i>Resign'd.</i>	<i>Dead.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Warren	_____				2	40
	John Barlow					
Colebrook	RUFUS BARCOCK	10	5	1	2	133
	Deacon Elezer Bidwell					
	Deacon Oliver Wilcox					
	Richard Garnsey					
	Samuel Griswold					
2d Sandisfield	BENJAMIN BALDWIN	3	1	3	1	168
	Deacon Oliver Judd					
	Deacon Jonathan Smith					
	Amos Spring					
	Moses Morse					
3d Dover	_____				2	35
†East-Hartford	_____					52
Canton	JARED MILES		2			14
	Deacon Elisha Case					
	Ezra Cleaveland					
†Newtown	*JOHN SHERMAN					35
1st Dover	ANANIAS DERTHICK		1		1	33
1st Middletown	*ENOCH GREEN	5			2	95
	JOSHUA BRADLEY					
	Collins Roberts					
Winchester	ASA TALMADGE	1	4			110
	ISAAC BELLOWS					
	Deacon Noah North					
	White G. Spencer					
	John Farnham					
	Abner Slade					
Hartford	HENRY GREW	20			2	100
	Elijah Hills					
Granville	JONATHAN SHELDON	2	3	1	2	78
	Deacon Slias Root					
	John Worden					
	Benjamin Stedman					
	John Manchester					
†Sharon & } Cornwall }	_____					78
Armenia Town	*ELIJAH WOOD	9				53
	Deacon John Guernsey					
	Caleb Barnham					
Granby	_____		1			31
	Amasa Holcomb					
	Deacon Samuel Gillett					
Milton	_____	2			1	39
	George Smith					

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
‡North Stamford	_____	14				77
‡Berlin	_____		1			26
	Gideon Williams John Osgood					
‡North East Town	ISAAC ALLERTON Silas Roe William Sheldon James Winchell Hezekiah Simons					90
		104	23	18	21	2034

5. The Church in North Stamford having requested by Letter to be received again into this Association, and dismissed to the Union Association, on account of their local situation,—Voted, to comply with said request.

6. Received from Sister Associations, as follows :

<i>From the</i>			<i>Messengers.</i>
Shaftsbury	_____	_____	JESSE HARTWELL
Stonington	_____	_____	
Otsego	Letter	Minutes	ASHBEL HOSMER Amos Brattle
Warwick	Letter	Minutes	HENRY CHARLOCK
Warren	_____	_____	
Groton Union } Conference }	Letter	Minutes	JOSEPH UTLEY
Sturbridge	Letter	Minutes	JESSE WIGHTMAN
Rensselaerville	Letter	Minutes	NEMH. H. RIPLEY

7. Voted, That Brethren Morse, Hosmer and Grew, be a Committee to examine the Circular Letter.

After prayer, adjourned till 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Preaching at different places in the Evening.

THURSDAY, October 5th.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Brother Allerton.

8. Read and approved the Circular Letter prepared by Brother Bradley.

9. Brother Huntington having failed to prepare our Corresponding Letter,—Voted, that Brother Grew prepare the same.

10. Appointed Brethren to attend Sister Associations, viz.—

<i>To the</i>	<i>Brethren.</i>
Shaftsbury	JESSE HARTWELL
Stonington	BRADLEY and GREW
New-York	MORSE and GREW
Otsego	MORSE and WILDMAN
Warwick	BULKLEY
Saratoga	HARTWELL

Warren	GREW and BRADLEY
Groton Union Conference	UTLEY and BRADLEY
Sturbridge	BABCOCK and WRIGHTMAN
Rensselaerville	HOSMER

11. Voted, to give fellowship to the Baptist Church in Berlin, as a Sister Church in this Association.

12. Voted, to give fellowship to the Baptist Church in North East Town, as a Sister Church in this Association.

13. Voted, that Brother Bradley be appointed to answer the Query from the Church in Winchester, by Letter.

14. Voted, to dismiss the first and second Baptist Churches in Danbury, to the Baptist Union Association, on account of their local situation, agreeable to their request.

15. The Church in New-Hartford being dissolved,—Voted, to discontinue the same in our Minutes.

16. Read and approved the Letter to the Church in Winchester.

17. As we consider it an object of great importance that the destitute Churches in this Association, and others, should enjoy the ministry of the Word, and the Ordinances of the Gospel;—also, that the Servants of Christ receive temporal support, while fulfilling their duty :—Voted, That Brethren Wildman, Mills and Bradley, be a Committee to adopt a plan for this purpose, to be presented for consideration, at our next Meeting.

18. Voted, That this Association recommend to the different Churches to subscribe for Doctor Gill's complete Exposition of the Bible, to be deposited with the Minister, as the property of the Church.

19. Voted, That we also recommend the more general circulation of the Massachusetts' Baptist Missionary Magazine.

20. Appointed Brother Pepper to write our Circular, and Brother Oliver Tuttle, our Corresponding Letter, for the next year.

21. Voted, to hold our next Association at the Baptist Meeting House in Hartford.

22. Appointed Brother Wildman to preach the introductory Sermon, and in case of failure, Brother Babcock.

23. Appointed Brother Grew to superintend the printing and distribution of our Minutes.

Concluded with divine worship,—Brother Hosmer discoursed from Matt. xxiv. 14.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The ELDERS and MESSENGERS of the DANBURY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, to the CHURCHES, they represent, send Christian salutation.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

HAVING obtained help of God, we enjoy another opportunity of hearing from you, and the various parts of Zion.—You customarily expect an address from us, upon some interest-

ing subject ; calculated to administer consolation to all who know our Lord Jesus, and the power of his resurrection.

We would, therefore, invite your attention to a few remarks upon the Divinity of Christ. That he is truly God, will appear from the titles given unto him in the scriptures. He is omniscient. Lord, thou knowest all things, said Peter, Thou knowest that I love thee. The heart of man, in scriptural language, is so deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, that none but God can know it. Solomon said, Thou, even thou, O Lord, knowest the hearts of all the children of men. Jesus, then must be God, for it is said of him, That he needed not that any should testify of man, for he knew what was in man. He said unto John, All the churches shall know, that I am he, which searcheth the reins and hearts. He is omnipresent. Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Jesus will judge the world. How could he do this in righteousness, if he were not present, when all intelligences put forth their thoughts, volitions and actions ? Certainly he could not. He must then be a God, who can bring into judgment the vast concatenation of events, and the works of all beings from the beginning of creation, till the consummation of all things. He is omnipotent.—He upholds all things by the Word of his Power. He is the mighty God ; the blessed and only Potentate ; the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

He is eternal. I am Alpha and Omega.—He only hath immortality. His goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. He is the Word which was made flesh. For, in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. This is the true God, and eternal life. In the days of his humiliation, he said, And, now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine ownself ; with the glory which I had with thee, before the world was. He is Creator of all things, and consequently must be God. All things were made by him, and without him was not any thing made that was made : For, by him were all things created, that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, all were created by him, and for him, and by him all things consist. He laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of his hands.

The work of redemption transcends all his other works : for these are only spread out as a stage, upon which he will exhibit his purposes, and the inexhaustible riches of his grace, to the astonishment of the universe. A body being prepared him, which was holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners, he magnified the law, made atonement for sin, cast up an high-way of holiness, brought life and immortality to light, laid a consistent plan to destroy the works of the devil, and save all who come unto the Father by him. In fine, he is the resurrection and the life of that vast multitude who are the predestinated heirs of an inheritance, incorruptible, and spread over with an eternal weight of glory.

His Divinity appears from the spread of his gospel. John the Baptist began to publish the way of life, and to say unto the people, Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Here we see the first preacher coming from the wilderness, with all the rusticity of an obscure life, to lay waste the long range of hereditary greatness in the Jewish nation, to break through the strong holds of Pharisaical selfishness, to uncover the dry bones of hypocrisy, to bring to light the hidden iniquities of a corrupted priesthood, and to thunder the terrors of the Lord, against an whole world laying in wickedness. Behold, multitudes fell by the power of the gospel before this herald of salvation, and he buried them in Jordan and Enon, because there was much water there. Jesus sent forth others, whom he had called from various employments, to preach his everlasting gospel to a perishing world of sinners. This gospel spread through every kingdom, and country round about, to the amazement of the nations. Councils were called, armies were raised, and empires moved forward to combine their influence to stop the progress and rising glory of Emmanuel's kingdom. Many of his disciples were imprisoned, and multitudes were driven by legislative vengeance to seal their testimony with their blood.

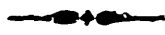
Why did this gospel spread so extensively, by these unpolished earthen vessels, without the strength of arms, the wealth of empires, or the least legislative approbation? It was because Jesus Christ is God, and gave it his irresistible influence, and stretched forth his omnipotent hand to deliver many souls from plunging into endless condemnation. The Sanhedrim at Jerusalem knew that his name had more than usual efficacy attending its pronunciation; therefore, they commanded his disciples that they should not speak any more in the name of Jesus. The reason is clear, there was more divinity in that name than any other name given among men. Yes, brethren, we all stand forth as monuments of his boundless divinity, power and grace. Let us look around us and then ask, Who has made this gospel of the kingdom spread through America with such rapidity and unspeakable power? Great sinners have been brought to bow before the majesty of grace, and to be clothed in humility at the feet of Jesus. Unto you, therefore, which believe, he is precious. There was, and there is more power and glory connected with Christ, than with any other being ever manifested in flesh. At his presence and command, water was turned into wine; the infirmities and sicknesses of multitudes were annihilated; abandoned sinners brought to love holiness; demons fled from the bodies and souls of men; the winds ceased from howling, and the billows from roaring; the blind saw; the lame walked; the deaf heard, and the dead were raised; the earth was overwhelmed with darkness at noon day, and all creation groaned and travailed with pain, when this Emmanuel hung without the gates of Jerusalem. Dear Brethren, can a mere man make these displays of greatness independently: lay down his life in the presence of trembling

mortals and a gazing universe ; rise from the power of death, shew many infallible proofs of his resurrection for forty days, and then ascend into heaven and give undeniable demonstrations that all worlds, angels, men and wicked spirits, are at his command ? Certainly not. Then Jesus Christ is God, and should be loved supremely.

Finally, to render this important truth incontrovertible, we have the testimony of the eternal Father himself ; who saith unto the Son, thy throne, *O God*, is for ever and ever. May you depend upon his merits and righteousness for eternal happiness ; live in peace among yourselves, do good unto all, and especially to the household of faith. be perfect, triumph over death and the grave, and enter into the joy of your Lord, to praise him with the Father and Holy Ghost for ever. Amen.



CORRESPONDING LETTER.



The DANBURY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, to the ASSOCIATIONS with whom we correspond :

BELOVED IN THE LORD,

HOLY love, the only bond of Christian union, excites us to address you as brethren in the family of Jesus ; engaged with us in the cause of truth ; partakers of the same rich grace, and heirs of the same glorious inheritance. Holy love. This is the leaven which leavens "the one" bread of Christ's mystical body. This is the cement which unites the "lively Stones" of the temple of new Jerusalem. Blessed stream ; flowing into our hearts, from the unfathomable fountain, of everlasting love ; and conveying back, to the same infinite source, every passion and faculty of the immortal mind.

Feeling its heavenly influence, we sit on calvary's mount ; and pour the floods of holy contrition at the feet of a dying Saviour ; his blood is all our hope ; his crown is all our joy.

Feeling its heavenly influence, we are humble, esteeming each other better than ourselves. We are long-suffering, we watch over one another in the Lord ; we restore each other from error in the spirit of meekness ; we are zealous for the Lord of hosts, we abstain from the very appearance of evil ; we fight, we pray, we believe, we rejoice, we adore. May the Holy Spirit fan this flame, which he has enkindled in our hearts, till it shall burn before the throne of God, and eternally shine to the praise of the triune author of our redemption.

The scenes which are exhibiting on the stage of this world, excite both our mourning and joy.

We mourn, while in our imagination, we look on the fields of Europe, and behold men with garments stained with blood, hurrying each others' souls unwashed, unpardoned, to the tribunal of an incensed God. We shed the tear of sympathy over those, who feel the dire effects of horrid war, carried on by the haughty sons of vain ambition.

We lament the case of millions enveloped in spiritual darkness, delusion and death. We mourn that we are no more affected with the deplorable state of our brother Man ; how little disposition do we manifest to appropriate our talents, influence, and property to meliorate the condition of our fellow creatures by the advancement of the peaceful kingdom of the Redeemer. Ah ! where is our benevolence for man ? where is our zeal for God ? We present our petitions at the Court of Heaven, for the salvation of sinners, for the spread of the Gospel ; but alas ! how often does our practice, at the same time protest against them.

We mourn, also, our insensibility of the distinguishing goodness of God, and our base ingratitude for unparalleled favors ; we are exalted to heaven in point of privileges ; “ but Oh ! how few returns of love, hath our Creator found,” we lament that iniquity abounds ; and that by the love of many waxing cold, Jesus is wounded in the house of his friends ; that there are in our land so many graceless professors ; so many unfaithful ministers, who watch not for souls as those who must give account ; who say many good things, but never say “ thou art the man.”

But beloved, we also rejoice.—We rejoice, that we mourn ; that we are not wholly unaffected by the awful scenes which are passing before us ; we rejoice with you in the increase of that missionary spirit, among the sons of Zion, which is so necessary to her enlargement ; the light of the gospel, which is the light of truth, love and life ; is dispelling the clouds of ignorance, hatred and death. We praise the Lord, for some mercy drops distilling on ourselves and poor sinners around us ; although we are not enjoying such refreshing showers as in times past.

Amid the revolutions of empires ; the depravity of wicked men ; the rage of malicious devils, and the corruption of our hearts ; one consideration, above all others, beloved brethren, animates our hope, and banishes our fear ; **JEHOVAH JESUS REIGNS.** How precious is this truth to the heart of every believer. God grant we may never forget it. This light shines through the darkest cloud, and inspires our souls with confidence immortal. He is the mighty God. He is Zion’s bulwark. He is our friend, and his friendship is eternal. The hills shall be removed, but his kindness shall not depart. Let us live ; let us die in his cause ; let us oppose the enemies of his kingdom ; not with carnal weapons, nor with a lifeless profession, but with **HOLY LOVE.** We solicit a continuance of your correspondence, and shall cordially receive your Messengers into our hearts and our houses, as our beloved brethren in a precious Redeemer, to whose infinite grace we commend you.

DANIEL WILDMAN, *Moderator.*
HENRY GREW, *Clerk.*