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Minutes ... in Sanford ... June ... 1803.

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MINUTES

OF THE

NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION,

HELD IN

SANFORD,

AT

ELDER OTIS ROBINSON'S

MEETING-HOUSE,

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,

June 8th and 9th,

1803.

PORTSMOUTH:

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1803.



MINUTES
OF THE
NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

JUNE 8, 1803.

A SERMON by Elder EBENEZER NELSON, from John chap. 15—verse 22.

At 2 o'clock, Elder HENRY SMITH, preached the Introductory Sermon, from Psalm 132, 18—"His enemies will I clothe with shame; but upon himself shall his crown flourish."

Chose Elder WILLIAM BATCHELDER Moderator, and Elder WILLIAM HOOPER, Clerk.

Voted that the messengers from corresponding associations take a seat with us.

Prayer by the Moderator.

Read letters from the several churches, and took the following account of members, who have been added, dismissed, excluded, or died the year past, with the whole number in each church, with the names of ministers and messengers present.

N. B. *Ordained ministers in Italics.*

♦ This mark ministers not present.

		Add.	Dis.	Exc.	Died	No.
Berwick and Madbury,	<i>William Hooper,</i>					95
	<i>Eliphalet Cloutman,</i>					120
Berwick Great-Hill,	<i>William Batchelder,</i>					
	<i>Benjamin Knight,</i>					
	<i>John Emery,</i>					
	<i>William Joy,</i>					
Brentwood,	<i>Joseph Hubbard,</i>					
	* <i>Samuel Shepard,</i>	9	4		6	504
	<i>Broadstreet Gilman,</i>					
	<i>Joshua Case,</i>					
	<i>Stephen Bayley,</i>					

		Add.	Dis.	Exc.	Died	No.
Saaford.	<i>Otis Robinson,</i> Eleazer Chadbourn, Nathan Powers, Ezra Thompson, James Chadbourn, William Worster,	4	3		3	118
Gilmanton,	* <i>Walter Powers,</i> Hosea Hatch, Andrew Gilman, Jacob Blafdel,	1				82
Northwood,	Simeon Knowles, William Welch, Joshua Drew,					90
Wells and Berwick,	<i>Nathaniel Lord,</i> <i>Joseph Eaton,</i> Robert Ford, Thomas Fernald, Abraham Annis, Jacob Perkins,	15	1	1	1	147
Lyman.	<i>Simon Lock,</i> Samuel Smith, Samuel Ham,	12	10			43
Shapleigh,	Samuel Simons, John Lary, Jonathan Ross, John Bodwell,	4		1		103
Waterboro'	<i>Henry Smith,</i> Edward Scribner, Dominicus Ricker, Timothy Hodsdon, Benjamin Peirce,	7		1	2	102
Cornish,	Isaac Thompson, David Rundlett, Moses Cross, Noah Pike,	1		2		54
Fryburgh,	<i>Zebediab Richardson,</i> James Lord, Moses Pette,	2		2	3	38
Newton,	*Newton, <i>Ebenezer P. Kinsman,</i>	4	1	1	1	58
Limerick,	Jacob Mills, Pennel Clark, Ebenezer Record.					44

		Add.	Dis.	Exc.	Died	No.
Parsonfield & Newfield,	Levi Chadbourn.	25	2	2	1	173
	Wentworth Lord,					
	Timothy Remick,					
	John Doe,					
	Caleb Martin,					
	John Drake,					
Buxton,	Joseph Towle,	18				65
	Nathan Nocks,					
	Phinehas Graves,					
	Abner Flanders,					
Lebanon & Berwick,	Joseph Atkinson,	3		1		59
	Ephraim Woodman,					
	Thomas P. Sawyer,					
Newmarket,	Zebedee Delano,	3				59
	Nathaniel Gubtail,					
Exeter,	Thomas Murry,	5				30
	Benjamin Libbey,					
Limington,	Thomas Noble,	8		1		38
	John Taylor,					
Deerfield,	Benjamin Hoit,	5				24
	Thomas Kimball,					
Second Parish Wells,	John Chadbourn,	5				15
	James Lord,					
	John Andrews,					
	Ede Hall Bergin,					
	Joshua Roberts,					
	John Taylor,					
	David Ross,					
TOTAL,		125	23	13	19	2022

The names of licensed preachers belonging to the churches of this Association—Andrew Sherburne of Arundel; Timothy Hodsdon and Stephen Webber of Waterborough; Timothy Remick, William Taylor and Joseph Towle of Parsonfield; Joseph Smith of Cornish; Thomas Paul of Limerick; William Gunison of Madbury church; and several more in Brintwood church, whose names were not sent in.

Received minutes and letters from Warren association, by their messengers, Elders Ebenezer Nelson, and Shubael Lovel. From Bowdoinham, by Elder Elisha Williams. From Meredith, by Elders Nicholas Folsom and James Hayley.

Voted that all the brethren present, belonging to sister associations, take a seat and act with us.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning, eight o'clock.

Met according to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder Folsom.

Read and approved the circular letter prepared by Elder Robinson, and the corresponding letter by Elder Flanders.

Received a letter from the church of the second parish in Wells, requesting to be received into this association : after reading their articles of faith, voted to receive them, and gave them the right hand of fellowship.

Chose messengers to sister associations—to Warren, Elders Batchelder and Smith : to Bowdoinham, Elders Hooper and Delano ; also, brother Andrew Sherburne, licensed preacher ; brother Jacob Mills, and brother Samuel Dame. To Meredith, Elders Simon Lock and Abner Flanders, and brother Timothy Remick, licensed preacher.

Chose Elder Henry Smith, to prepare the circular letter, and brother Timothy Hodsdon, the corresponding letter for next year.

A sermon by Elder Isaiah Stone, from Hosea 1st ch. 1st ver. at eleven o'clock.



The Committee to attend to the questions from sister Churches, give their opinion upon the questions, as follows—

Quest. 1. **WHETHER** something may not be done to prevent the riot and tumult that has heretofore been at our association.

Ans. It is our opinion that the sister Churches which compose this association ought to attend particularly to the impropriety of disorderly conduct without ; and selling spirituous liquors at our yearly meetings ; and it is recommended that the Churches and Societies be publickly informed that this Association disapprobates such tumults, and that the Church where the Association is to be holden, act discretionary in fixing upon the limits which may be expedient to attend public worship, and keep disorders without.

Quest. 2d. **Whether** something may not be done either in conference or public consultation, to render the public gifts more generally useful, either by exchanges, supplying vacancies or travelling.

Ans. We recommend it to the ministering Brethren to use their influence in rendering each others gifts as extensively useful as possible.

Quest. 3d. Whether it is agreeable to the laws of Christ's Church to excommunicate those who have and still do embrace the Universal salvation of all men, and openly declare it.

Ans. We as an Association, do not think it duty to interfere with the discipline of Churches, but as our opinion is asked we give it in the affirmative.

Quest. 4. How the comforter reproves the world of sin, righteousness and judgment as in John xvi. 7, 8.

Postpone giving an answer until our next association.

WILLIAM BATCHELDER.

EBEN^r P. KINSMAN.

EBENEZER NELSON.

SHUBAL LOVEL.

HENRY SMITH.

ANDREW SHERBURNE.

Contribution for our mission, 39 dollars.

Voted to hold our next association at the North Baptist Meeting House in Buxton, second Wednesday in June, 1834.

Supplies for Exeter—Elder Henry Smith, 1st Lord's Day in July; Elder Levi Chadbourn, last in July; Elder Robinson, first in September; Timothy Hodsdon, third; Elder Simon Lock, last in October.

Supplies for Newmarket—Elder Kinsman, third Lord's Day in September; Elder Chadbourn, first in August; Elder Delano, third in August; Elder Flanders, last in January.

Supplies for Shapleigh—Elder Batchelder, third in June; Elder Kinsman, second in July; Elder Chadbourn, third in September.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

Beloved Brethren,

GOD having favored us with another anniversary Meeting, we deem it not only a duty, but a privilege to address you by letter. And seeing we are favored of the Lord with setting under our own vines and figtrees, and worshipping him, agreeable to the dictates of his word and spirit, without molestation, we feel bound to exert every faculty of soul and body, for the promotion of the cause of truth : that cause which we have espoused, which is dearer to us than natural life ; and which we are determined to stand in the defence of, until death. This is a day in which iniquity abounds, and the love of many waxes cold : error like a flood is rolling in, and threatening destruction to the cause of truth, and laboring to frustrate the purposes of Jehovah.—So dreadful is the artillery of the Great Adversary, that the dear saints of God would despair of all hope of eternal life, was it not that the Lord opens their eyes, as he did the eyes of Elisha's servant, to see the horses and chariots of fire encamped round about them : And that Almighty arm which ever was, and still is, extended for the defence of Zion. Let us remember, that the divine purpose, as it respects the salvation of all the predestinated sons and daughters of Zion, cannot be frustrated ; for Jesus reigns King of kings, and Lord of lords : The government is on his shoulder, and he is riding forth from conquering to conquer. Therefore, dear Brethren, let us rejoice, that our eternal salvation is absolute and safe in the hands of the great Redeemer, who hath said, " I give unto them eternal life ; and they shall never perish"—John x. 28. Notwithstanding the foundation of God, and the salvation of his children stands sure—yet, if we would see the cause of the dear Redeemer flourish, and feel our souls comforted ; we must live in the practice of pure and undefiled religion—In order to be found walking in the delightful paths of wisdom. we should ever repair to Jesus, the only fountain of wisdom, for that instruction which we need. The day, (doubtless) is come, mentioned in 2d. Timothy iv. 3, " When they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears." Let us therefore contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints—The doctrine of divine sovereignty, election, and predestination, are at this day violently opposed, and of course misunderstood—although they are the great pillars on which
the

the children of God are borne in the day of adversity : for when the believer finds within himself the fruit of electing grace, the pledge of his Saviour's love, he may be assured, that the decree which is gone forth, is more unalterable than the laws of the Medes and Persians.—Dear Brethren, one more important matter which we are called upon to attend to, is, the discipline of Christ's church. Nothing more beautifies the saints than an uniformity in the rules of the Gospel—Therefore it behoves us to be dressed in Gospel attire, to be of one heart and one mind, and to speak the same thing—The soldiers of Jesus being thus arrayed, will be able to stand in the evil day ; while the enemies of the cross of Christ will be terrified and struck speechless. As the great enemy of souls is ever endeavouring to sow the seeds of discord among Brethren—it becomes us to be well harnessed for the field ; put on the breast plate of faith and love, and for an helmet, the hope of salvation—fight the good fight of faith ; and always remember that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God.

Dear Brethren, let us make a stand for the Lord, and not be disheartened in such a glorious cause. The streams of error are innumerable ; the way of truth is but one—None but God alone can give his people the one heart, which he promised them, that they may walk in that one way which leads to life eternal. May we continue steadfast in the Apostles doctrine in fellowship, in breaking of bread and in prayers. Let us shun the very appearance of evil—come out from the world and be separate, and touch no unclean thing.

Look up dear Brethren, our redemption draws nigh, our salvation is nearer than when we believed. Soon we shall reap, if we faint not. May we ever be found the humble followers of Jesus while here—and at last join the Church triumphant, to sing electing grace, to all eternity. AMEN.

To Corresponding Associations.

*The New-Hampshire Association, to sister Associations
with which we correspond.*

BELOVED BRETHREN,

GOD has, in mercy, favored us with another Annual Meeting, and has given us an opportunity to hear good news from different parts of Zion ; we believe you can unite with us to praise God for the manifestations of his love to hell-deserving sinners, such as we. It appears to be a day of God's power—he is pouring down spiritual blessings on us, (at least in many parts of our Union) sinners are bowing to Jesus, and Saints rejoice ; O ! let all our hearts say, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is done in Heaven : —Dear Brethren, let us be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. We received your letters and messengers with joy, we wish a continuance of your correspondence, for we trust it will be for God's glory, and the advancement of his kingdom in the world.

WILLIAM BATCHELDER, *Moderator.*
WILLIAM HOOPER, *Clerk.*