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Baptists. New Hampshire. New Hampshire Association,
1809.

Minutes ... in Shapleigh, June 14 & 15, 1809.

Portland, M'Kown, 1809. 12 pp.

MWA copy.

MINUTES

● OF THE

New-Hampshire Association,

HELD IN THE

FIRST BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE

IN

SHAPLEIGH,

JUNE, 14, & 15, 1809.

TOGETHER WITH THEIR

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTER.

PORTLAND.

PRINTED BY J. M'KOWN,

1809.

MINUTES, &c.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1809.

AT 10 o'clock a sermon by brother Ezra Willmarth, from Psal. cii. 16.

At 2 o'clock the introductory sermon, by brother Abner Flanders, from Psalms i. 1. "*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the council of the ungodly*"—The remaining part of the day was improved in fervent prayers and exhortations, by several of the ministering, and other brethren.

2. Adjourned until 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15.

5. Met according to adjournment and chose Elder William Hooper, Moderator; and Elder Andrew Shurburne, Clerk.—After addressing the Throne of Grace, proceeded to read the letters from the churches, and took the following account of the members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the past year, and the present number in each church.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers in SMALL CAPITALS; licensed preachers in *Italic*. Ministers not present marked thus, * churches with this mark † were not presented; vacant churches thus ---

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Add.</i>	<i>Dis.</i>	<i>Exc.</i>	<i>Diid.</i>	<i>Vol.</i>
Madbury	WILLIAM HOOPER Eliphalet Cloutman	5				73
1st Berwick	*JOSHUA CHASE Benjamin Knight Saml. Hanscomb Herchs. Fernald James Gray Jotham Junkins John Frost Dominicus Goodwin	4				198
Brentwood and branches	*SAMUEL SHEPHERD *JONATHAN KING *ELIPHALET MERRILL Jonathan Veazey Bradstreet Gillman Josiah Tukesbury <i>Israel Rowel</i>	16	26			4475
Sanford	OTIS ROBINSON Eleazer Chadbourn John Libby Wm. Worster		2	4		106
Gilmanton	WALTER POWERS URIAH MORRISON George Grayham Ebenr. Smith Jacob Blasdel			2	2	57
1st Wells	JOSEPH EATON Jacob Perkins Benja. Hatch Thomas Bragdon Robert Getchel	1			1	73
2d Berwick	NATHANIEL LORD Robert Ford Thos. D. Fernald William Perkins William Staple Nicholas Lord	4				70
Eyman	SIMON LOCK Samuel Dennet Voss Grant	8			1	72

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Add.</i>	<i>Dis.</i>	<i>Acc.</i>	<i>Di'd.</i>	<i>Tot.</i>
1st Shapleigh	WILLIAM GODDING John Bodwell Aaron Hubbard John Larey Whiting Stevens	13				100
1st Waterboro'	HENRY SMITH Samuel Dam Nathaniel Hanes Archabold Smith					84
Cornish	TIMOTHY REMICK ZEBEDIAH RICHARDSON Noah Jewett Royal Clark		1	2	2	76
Newtown	----- <i>Anthony Kelly</i> <i>David Tukesbury</i>	6		3	1	71
Limerick	----- Pennel Clark David Moulton	2				52
Parsonsfield	WENTWORTH LORD Caleb Marston James Remick John Doe Harvey More Simon More Mark Dearbourn	1			1	144
Buxton	ABNER FLANDERS Thomas P. Sawyer William Sawyer	7	1			66
Lebanon and Berwick	ZEBEDEE DELANO Nathaniel Guptail Benjamin Libby James Hanscomb				1	63
Newmarkett	-----					88
Exeter	-----					49
Limington	STEPHEN WEBBER James Lord	2		1		34

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders & Messengers.</i>	<i>Adm.</i>	<i>Dis.</i>	<i>Rec.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Vol.</i>
2d Wells	JOSHUA ROBERTS. Joseph Taylor John Wormwood					57
Arundel	Andrew Sherburne	1	1			62
Goffsten	_____					15
2d Waterboro'	_____			1		16
	William Woodward Abraham Bean					
2d Shapleigh	_____				1	18
	Nathaniel Coffin Jonathan Ross					
Phillipsburg	TIMOTHY ALLEN Ezekiel Bragdon					27
Newfield	WILLIAM GOODWIN Samuel Dam Gamaliel Smith					39
Effingham	_____					49
	Thomas Lord Jacob Mills John Drake John Andrews Libeus Blossom John S Dearborn					
3d Berwick	WILLIAM CHADBOURN Joseph Hubbard Caleb Frost					14
		70	32	23	14	2198

4. The Circular Letter prepared brother Roberts; also the Corresponding Letter by brother Webber were read and accepted.

5. Received from sister associations accounts as follows :

	<i>Letters.</i>	<i>Minutes</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>
From the Warren	Letter	Minutes	_____
Woodstock	_____	_____	_____
Bowdoinham	Letter	Minutes	JOSIAH CONVERS
			W. WILSON
Meredith	Letter	Minutes	W. WILLIAMS
			Geo. Thompson

Lincoln Letter — { JOHN CHADBOURN
JOHN RING

6. Appointed the following messengers to corresponding Associations. To the Warren, Elders Hooper, Locke, and Sherburne. To the Bowdoinham, Elders Godding, Delano, Roberts, and brother Joseph Dam. To the Meredith, Elders Powers, Flanders, and Hodsdon. To the Woodstock, Elder Otis Robinson, and brother *Israel Rowel*. To the Lincoln, Elder Delano, Wentworth Lord, Remick, and brother Joseph Dam.

7. Voted, to recommend that the first day of January next, be observed as a *day of fasting, humiliation and prayer*, through the churches of this Association; and to ask of God *their only help and head*, that he would graciously grant favourable answers to the following petitions:

I. That the Lord of the harvest will send forth labourers into his harvest.

II. 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 great rain upon 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 Lord's and Zion's use; that the labourers may be supplied; and that no want may be known in the house of God.

IV. That the Lord Jesus will give his baptised, his visible church, so to understand his revealed will, that they may know his pleasure both as to doctrine and discipline, and thus be delivered from error in practice.

V. That the compassionate Saviour will be very graciously pleased to rend the veil from off the minds of such of his own people, as are yet blindly partaking of the sins of great Babylon, that he will soon deliver them from receiving of her plagues, and grant them to know the order of his house, and the purity of his gospel kingdom.

8. Appointed brother Robinson to write the Circular Letter; and brother Godding to write the Corresponding Letter for the next year.

9. Voted, to hold our next Association at Elder Henry Smith's meeting house in Waterboro, on the second Wednesday of June next, at 2 o'clock P. M. and that brother Hodsdon preach the introductory sermon.

10. Chose brother Henry Smith, Treasurer.

Supplies for the second church in Shapleigh, brother Smith, the last Lord's day in June; brother Delano, 1st in July—brother Roberts, 2d in July—brother William Chadbourn, 1st in August—brother Eaton, 3d in August—brother Goodwin, 1st in September—and brother W. Lord, 2d in September—brother Lock, 2d in October—brother Godding, 1st in November—and brother Robinson, 3d in November.

N. B. Elders Hooper and Smith, were appointed to apportion the money upon the churches for printing the Minutes.



CIRCULAR LETTER.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

THROUGH the tender mercy of our God, we are favoured with another opportunity of meeting in an associated body; may the God of all grace sanctify it as he did the meeting of Titus with his brethren; that we may have that

wisdom which is profitable to direct us in our several callings and stations in life. The day in which we live is an eventful period, spoken of by the Saviour, Mark xiii. 22. false christs and false prophets shall arise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if possible, even the elect. The wrath of man has broken forth, distress of nations, war and bloodshed; but it becomes us not to be troubled, for Zion's God reigns, and is the governor of the universe; who causeth the wrath of man to praise him and the remainder of wrath he will restrain. We find in scripture, and by daily experience, that the wickedness of man is great: every imagination of the thoughts of his heart is evil, only evil, and that continually. A few observations on the important question presented by the psalmist, we hope will not be unacceptable at this time.

“What is man?” Man being in honour, abode not, became vain in his imaginations, incurred all the sorrows of this life, and is exposed to eternal banishment from God. All mankind by nature are children of wrath, strange plants of a degenerate vine, totally corrupt from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot. Man in his defiled state is proud, heady, high-minded, a lover of pleasures more than of God. Pleased with himself, as he is vain in making the outside like a whited sepulchre, but the defilement is within, and is open to the view, of that God who cannot be deceived and will not be mocked: he needeth not that any should testify of man, for he knows what is in man, that their mind and conscience is defiled and to every good work reprobate—there is a generation that is pure in their own eyes and yet is filthy

their eyes, and their eye-lids are lifted up.— Though they may attain to the knowledge of science, and speak with the tongues of men and of angels, it is but as sounding brass and a tinkling symbol; without faith it is impossible to please God, and all men have not faith. Antecedent to a new birth, they are enemies to God by wicked works, having a disposition to love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil; their zeal is evil, for they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge, for in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knows not God; being ignorant of the righteousness of Christ, they go about to establish a righteousness of their own. Since this is the disposition and situation of man, how evidently necessary, then, is regenerating grace, to prepare us to serve God acceptably; for a corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit. Except a man be born of water and of the spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Being born of God, souls are thereby endowed with a supernatural principle of spiritual life, which leads to know and love God in Christ; from love to obey, and in obeying to design the divine glory. Being thus favoured of the Lord, they are brought to see that it is God who worketh in them both to will and to do of his good pleasure; a work of faith with power, which brings the dead sinner to life, and being raised to newness of life the effect thereof is new obedience, they love God with all the heart; acknowledge it their highest privilege to obey God. In obeying this trust is not in their own wisdom or power, but in God who raiseth the dead. It is owing to the greatness of God's love that ever *one* sinner has been

brought into favour with God, and his sins blotted out to be had in remembrance no more.

But God who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses and sins, hath quickened us together with Christ. The love of God is a love of complacency. I have loved thee with an everlasting love, and having loved his own he loved them unto the end. It is evident that Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it, that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish. Eph. v. 25.

Thus, dear brethren, may we humbly reflect a moment, were we thus defiled, carnal, sold under sin, and enemies to God by wicked works? and hath the Lord displayed his power and redeemed our souls with the precious blood of Christ? O the boundless love of God! his favour is life, and his loving kindness is better than present life. O, may we fill our several stations through the short journey of life, and may the Lord of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION convened at Shapleigh, June 14 and 15, 1809, to Corresponding Associations—sendeth Christian salutation.

BELOVED IN THE LORD,

BY our profession we have embarked our all in the cause of God, which evinceth to the world that we then thought it of more value than all things besides, yea most precious in our esteem. And in order to render our profession valid it is of importance that we maintain the same thoughts of the cause that stimulated our minds when we first professed a knowledge of it. To do this, the most effectual measure is, ever to eye the High Priest of our profession. We can never view the value of the cause of God but in the dignity of that divine person who hath glorified God on earth. Had all the angels of God descended in bodies capable of suffering and died on the cross, it never could have reflected that glory either on the cause or character of God that Christ hath done in opening a way whereby God could be glorified, the magnitude of the law illustrated, and mercy displayed to sinners. Yea, the humiliation of the Son of God, is the most striking evidence of the preciousness of the cause; hence it is written, *let the same mind be in you that was in Christ*; that is, seeing him humbled for us, never to be high minded; and as he never loved or followed any thing but that cause which he was sent to perfect, we ought to do the same while the mind of the christian is on the cause, his eye must be on the captain of salvation, which causes all worldly glory to vanish, and earthly objects to disappear. Then may it be said of them, they look not on things which are seen, but on things which are not

seen; and they also know the value of those things which are seen, being temporal;—and, in part, the value of those things which are not seen, being eternal, while in the world they are enabled to live above it, and press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, hoping ere long to receive a crown which fadeth not away, in the enjoyment of everlasting rest.—They cannot believe, their hopes will be disappointed; the seal of grace being coequal to his nature, it never can fade away; but the just does and shall live by faith.

Therefore beloved brethren, seeing God is *of* one mind and none can turn him, let us endeavour to keep ourselves in the love of God that we may know the world is crucified to us, and we to the world; ever remembering that if any man loveth the world the love of the Father doth not exercise his heart; that we are not chosen *in* the world but *out* of it; that we are not our own but bought with a price, no less than infinite blood; that although Christ hath made us free we are always bound to love and serve him with all our strength, continuing to the end that we may be saved.

Dear brethren, we have experienced the truth of God's word, that two are better than one, and a three fold cord is not quickly broken.

Your correspondence hath been profitable to us, we therefore solicit a continuance thereof.—Our present interview has been harmonious, solemn and delightful; we trust the Lord hath met with us indeed. We wish you much of the divine presence, and an interest in your prayers.

In behalf of the Association,

WILLIAM HOOPER, Moderator.

ANDREW SHERBURN, Clerk.