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Baptists. Pennsylvania. Philadelphia Association, 1774.  
Minutes of the Baptist Association ... October the 12th,  
13th, 14th, 1774.

[ Philadelphia, 1774. ] 11 pp.

LCP copy.

# M I N U T E S

OF THE

## BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

held in PHILADELPHIA,

OCTOBER the 12th, 13th, 14th, 1774.

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OCTOBER 12.

**A**T Three o'Clock, P. M. the Association was opened with a suitable discourse from Jer. xxiii: 28. *The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully: what is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD.* by our beloved Brother ISAAC STELLE.

2. After Divine service Brother BENJAMIN MILLER was chosen Moderator, and Brother WILLIAM VAN HORNE Clerk. Letters from 39 Churches were read.

Note. *The Ministers names are in capitals. Those marked with an \* not present. The Churches marked in the same manner sent neither letters nor Messengers; their numbers remain as at last Association. Dashes denote no Minister.*

| Churches.  | Ministers and Messengers.                             | Baptized. | Add. by L. | Restored. | Dead. | Dismissed. | Excom. | Members. |
|------------|---|-----------|------------|-----------|-------|------------|--------|----------|
| Penr peck  | { SAMUEL JONES,<br>Alexander Edwards,<br>Peter Smith. | 0         | 0          | 0         | 0     | 0          | 0      | 65       |
| Middletown | { ABEL MORGAN,<br>James Mott,<br>William Bown.        | 1         | 0          | 0         | 1     | 0          | 0      | 141      |
| Piscataqua | ISAAC STELLE.   | 0         | 0          | 0         | 0     | 0          | 0      | 72       |
| Cohansey   | { ROBERT KELSAY,<br>Isaac Mulford.                    | 4         | 0          | 0         | 1     | 0          | 0      | 84       |
| Welshtract | { JOHN SUTTON,<br>John Bowen,<br>Hugh Glassford.      | 1         | 0          | 0         | 5     | 1          | 0      | 124      |
|            |   |           |            |           |       |            | Great  |          |

*Churches.*

*Ministers and Messengers.*

|                            |  | Baptized. | Add. by T. | Referred. | Dead. | Dismissed. | Excom. | Members. |
|----------------------------|--|-----------|------------|-----------|-------|------------|--------|----------|
| Great Valley               | { JOHN DAVIS,*<br>Samuel Jones,<br>Griffith Jones,<br>John Davies.   | 0         | 0          | 0         | 1     | 0          | 1      | 70       |
| Capemay                    | PETER P. VAN HORNE.  | 0         | 0          | 0         | 2     | 0          | 0      | 57       |
| Hopewell                   | { Nathaniel Stout,<br>William Parks.   | 0         | 0          | 0         | 1     | 3          | 4      | 155      |
| Brandiwine                 | { John Baldwin.  | 1         | 0          | 0         | 0     | 1          | 0      | 29       |
| Montgomery                 | JOHN THOMAS.   | 4         | 0          | 0         | 0     | 2          | 0      | 104      |
| Kingwood                   | { DAVID SUTTON,<br>Elkana Holmes,<br>Andrew Bray.  | 7         | 0          | 0         | 0     | 1          | 0      | 86       |
| Southampton                | { WILLIAM VAN HORNE,<br>JOHN BLACKWELL,<br>Arthur Watts.   | 1         | 0          | 0         | 0     | 0          | 1      | 64       |
| Philadelphia               | { WILLIAM ROGERS,<br>MORGAN EDWARDS,<br>Samuel Davies,<br>Joshua Moore,<br>John Brown,<br>Ezekiel Letts,<br>George Bright. | 7         | 1          | 0         | 4     | 0          | 0      | 173      |
| Cranbury                   | —  | 1         | 2          | 0         | 0     | 0          | 0      | 27       |
| Scotsplains                | BENJAMIN MILLER.   | 4         | 0          | 0         | 5     | 0          | 0      | 122      |
| Oysterbay                  | —  | 4         | 0          | 0         | 0     | 0          | 0      | 26       |
| Morristown                 | { REUNE RUNYAN,<br>John Brookfield.  | 10        | 0          | 0         | 0     | 0          | 0      | 64       |
| * Knowlton                 | —  | 0         | 0          | 0         | 0     | 0          | 0      | 41       |
| Baltimore<br>(now Harford) | { JOHN DAVIES.*  | 6         | 4          | 0         | 3     | 6          | 3      | 144      |
| New Britain                | JOSHUA JONES,  | 1         | 0          | 0         | 0     | 3          | 1      | 53       |
| Salem                      | { ABEL GRIFFITHS,<br>Abner Long.   | 1         | 2          | 0         | 3     | 0          | 0      | 23       |

New-

*Churches.*

*Ministers and Messengers.*

Newtown

{ NICHOLAS COX,  
Hezekiah Smith, jun.

Beckman's Precinct

SAMUEL WALDO.\*

Dividing-Creek

{ SAMUEL HEATON,  
Jonadab Sheperd.

1 New-York

{ JOHN GANO,  
Abrabam Cannon.

Newmills

{ Samuel Gaskill.

Conoloway

JOSEPH POWELL.\*

Coram

NOAH HAMMOND.

Upper Freehold

{ DAVID JONES,\*  
Thomas Farr,  
Peter Sexton,  
Burgess Alison.

Mount Bethel

ABNER SUTTON.

Goshen

JAMES BENEDICT,\*

Lyonsfarms

Oblong

SIMON DAWKIN,\*

Philip's Patent

JOHN LAWRENCE.\*

Pitt's Grove

{ WILLIAM WORTH,  
Joseph Champness.

Manahawkin

(now Stafford)

HENRY CROSSLY.

Vincent

{ William Wells,  
David Phillips.

Tuckahoe

WILLIAM LOCK.

\* Northern Liberty

\* 2 New-York

Stamford

JOHN DODGE.\*

Kingstreet

{ William Brundage.

| Members. | Excom. | Dismissed. | Dead. | Rejected. | At. of A. | Baptized. |
|----------|--------|------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 78       | 1      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| 107      | 1      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| 34       | 0      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 3         | 0         |
| 139      | 0      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 2         | 0         |
| 51       | 0      | 6          | 0     | 0         | 2         | 0         |
| 57       | 0      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 16        | 2         |
| 33       | 0      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 3         | 0         |
| 50       | 0      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 1         | 1         |
| 22       | 0      | 6          | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| 113      | 0      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 10        | 8         |
| 22       | 0      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| 76       | 0      | 13         | 0     | 0         | 17        | 0         |
| 98       | 0      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 6         | 0         |
| 40       | 0      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| 15       | 0      | 0          | 1     | 1         | 1         | 4         |
| 57       | 0      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| 24       | 0      | 1          | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| 15       | 0      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| 14       | 0      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| 32       | 0      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 6         | 1         |
| 13       | 0      | 0          | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0         |

OCTOBER 13, 1774.

3. PRESIDENT MANNING, of Rhode-Island, BENJAMIN COLES, of Connecticut, and JOHN CORBLEY, of Virginia, ministering Brethren, being present, their company and assistance was desired.

4. A letter and minutes from the Baptist ASSOCIATION held at *Medfield*, in the Massachusetts Bay, September 13 and 14, 1774, were read, which inform us, that they had a very comfortable interview; that 146 had joined their Churches by baptism, and that three Churches more were received, which increases their Number to *Twenty-seven*.—Our much esteemed Brother in the Ministry ISAAC BACKUS was their Messenger to us.

5. A letter and minutes from the Ketocton ASSOCIATION, held at *Braxton*, in Virginia, August 17—19th, 1774, were read, by which it appears that the Brethren there are walking in truth, and increasing in number; 217 have been added by baptism, and three churches were received. Their Messengers to us were our esteemed Brethren DAVID THOMAS and DANIEL FRISTOE.

6. A letter and minutes from the ASSOCIATION held at *Charleston*, in South Carolina, were read.—The plan adopted by them respecting Rhode-Island College, recommended to us.—Agreed to recommend the same to the Churches we stand respectively related unto, and that our Brethren JOHN GANO and WILLIAM ROGERS receive the monies so raised, and remit the same to Colonel JOB BENNET, treasurer.

7. A letter from the Baptist Church at *King's Street*, in Fairfield, in Connecticut, constituted November 3, 1773, was read, requesting to join this Association;—which was granted, after satisfaction given of their faith and practice, and their Messenger *William Brundage* received.

8. Letters from well disposed people in different places, requesting supplies, were read, viz. *Mudderkill Forest*, in Kent County, *Carnarven*, in Berks, and *Tolbert*, in Northumberland, in the province of Pennsylvania; also from *Baltimore Town*, in Maryland.

9. A letter from our Brother JAMES SUTTON, setting forth the loss of his papers and effects by fire, was read.—Agreed, that this minute certify his regular standing in the ministry; and in lieu of the *Interest* of the Association fund, which he requested, agreed, rather to recommend to the Churches to contribute to his necessities.

10. After deliberations on some *Queries* from the Church at the *Welsh-tract*, it was finally agreed, that our Brethren ABEL MORGAN, ISAAC BACKUS,

BACKUS, ISAAC STELLE and SAMUEL JONES form a minute in answer to them, which being done, and approved, is here inserted:—"Whereas a book was published, entitled, "The Customs of primitive Churches," which the Author proposed should be altered, amended and corrected by his ministering Brethren, and then re-printed for the use of the Churches, which was never done; and whereas we have reason to think, that it is understood by many abroad to have been adopted by us in its present form, as our custom and mode of Church-discipline and practice: It is therefore thought meet, that we should thus *publicly* testify to the contrary, as it is not, nor never has been, adopted by us, or by any of the Churches belonging to this ASSOCIATION."

11. The ASSOCIATION considering that the catechising or instructing youth in the principles of the Christian religion, though so plain and important a duty, is yet too generally neglected, have thought it expedient to recommend to the Churches, *seriously* to consider and promote the same.†

12. The general letter formed by Brother SAMUEL JONES, being read, and considered, was approved.

13. The case of our Brethren, suffering under *Ecclesiastical oppressions* in New-England, being taken into consideration; it was agreed to recommend to our Churches to contribute to their necessities, agreeable to the pattern of the *primitive Churches*, who contributed to the relief of the distressed Brethren in *Judea*—And that the money raised for them be remitted to Mr. BACKUS; to be by him, in conjunction with the *Committee of Advice* in said colony, distributed to the Brethren.

14. The case of our Brethren above considered, induced us to appoint a *Committee of Grievances*, who may from time to time receive accounts of the sufferings and difficulties of our *Friends* and *Brethren* in the neighbouring colonies; and meet as often as shall appear needful in the city of Philadelphia, to consult upon, and prosecute such measures for their relief, as they shall judge most expedient; and may correspond with the *Baptist Committee* in the Massachusetts Bay, or elsewhere:—Accordingly the following Gentlemen were appointed, viz.

Robert Strettle Jones, Esq;

Mr. Samuel Davies,

Mr. Stephen Shewel,

Mr. Thomas Shields,

Mr. George Wescott,

Alexander Edwards, Esq;

Benjamin Bartholemew, Esq;

Rev. William Rogers, A. M.

John

† Catechisms may be had of Mr. GANO, at New-York, (with the proofs at large) and of Samuel Davies, hatter in Philadelphia.



21. The supplies granted to destitute places are as follows,
- Hopewell.* Second Lord's day in November, Samuel Jones.  
 Second ditto in December, Elkana Holmes,  
 Fourth ditto in December, Thomas Uftic.  
 First ditto in January, ditto.  
 Second ditto in January, David Sutton.  
 First ditto in April, Abner Sutton.  
 Third ditto in May, Reunè Runyan.  
 Fourth ditto in May, Nicholas Cox.
- Oyster Bay.* Third Lord's day in April, John Gano.  
 Third ditto in May, Isaac Stelle.
- New Mills.* Third Lord's day in October, Henry Crossly.  
 First ditto in December, William Worth.  
 Second ditto in ditto, Isaac Stelle.  
 Third ditto in January, Henry Crossly.  
 Third ditto in April, ditto.  
 Fourth ditto in May, Reunè Runyan.  
 First ditto in June, Nicolas Cox.  
 Fourth ditto in June, Robert Kelsay.  
 Third ditto in July, Henry Crossly.  
 Fourth ditto in September, Samuel Jones.
- Lyons Farms.* Fifth Lord's day in October, John Gano.  
 First ditto in December, Abner Sutton.  
 Third ditto in April, Reunè Runyan.  
 Third ditto in August, ditto.
- Vincent.* Third Lord's day in October, Isaac Stelle.  
 First ditto in November, David Sutton.  
 Second ditto in ditto, Abel Griffith.  
 Second ditto in December, Samuel Jones.  
 Fourth ditto in ditto, Elkana Holmes.  
 First ditto in January, ditto.  
 Second ditto in ditto, Morgan Edwards.  
 Second ditto in April, John Blackwell.  
 Second ditto in May, Joshua Jones.  
 Second ditto in August, Abel Griffith.
- Kingstreet.* Third Lord's day in March, John Gano.  
*Mudderkill.* Last Lord's day in December, John Gano.



- Mudderkill.* Fourth Lord's day in March, Abel Griffith.  
 Third ditto in May, Peter P. Van Horne.  
 Fourth ditto in September, Robert Kelsay.
- Peak's Kith.* Third Lord's day in November, John Gano.
- Baltimore Town.* First Lord's day in November, Morgan Edwards.  
 Fourth ditto in ditto, John Sutton.  
 First ditto in March, Daniel Fristoe:  
 First ditto in April, Peter P. Van Horne.  
 Fourth ditto in ditto, William Rogers.  
 First ditto in May, Abel Griffith.  
 Third ditto in ditto, William Van Horne.  
 First ditto in June, Daniel Fristoe.  
 Fourth ditto in September, John Blackwell.

Brother David Sutton, William Worth and Elkana Holmes are to visit the inhabitants of Tolbert Township, at times to be fixed upon by themselves.

22. Brother PETER PETERSON VAN HORNE was requested to write a letter to the ASSOCIATIONS of *Warren, Rhode-Island, Ketocton* and *Rapidanne*, in Virginia, also to that of *Sandy-Creek* and *Quekuky*, in North Carolina, and to the *Congaree* and *Charlestown* ASSOCIATIONS in South Carolina.

23. Brother JOHN GANO and Brother WILLIAM ROGERS were appointed Messengers to the *Warren* and *Rhode-Island* ASSOCIATIONS, and Brother ISAAC STELLE and WILLIAM WORTH to the *Ketocton* ASSOCIATION in Virginia.

24. A motion being made, and the question put, Whether this ASSOCIATION divide, and another be held annually at *New-York*?—After deliberation, it was voted, not to divide.

25. The ASSOCIATION meeting twice in the year, not answering so well as was expected,—Agreed to meet annually—and that it be held next year at *Philadelphia*.

26. Voted, that the ASSOCIATION begin on Tuesday after the second Lord's day in October, at Three o'Clock, P. M.—and that Brother WILLIAM ROGERS preach the introductory sermon, and in case of failure, Brother WILLIAM VAN HORNE.

27. Agreed, that Brother ABEL MORGAN prepare a general letter against the next ASSOCIATION.

N. B. The printing of the memorial drawn up by the Committee of Grievances, and read before the ASSOCIATION, is for special reasons deferred.

*The*

*The ASSOCIATION of Elders and Brethren of the several BAPTIST Churches in Pennsylvania, and the Colonies adjacent, held at Philadelphia, October 12, 13, and 14, 1774,*

Send our CHRISTIAN SALUTATION.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

**A** GREEABLE to the plan adopted at our last Association for the general letter to the Churches, we come now to address you on the next article contained in our confession of faith, which treats of the being and perfections of GOD, and includes the doctrine of the TRINITY.

This is an important article; a foundation, a corner-stone in the Christian faith. Remove this, and the whole superstructure will fall. Material then it is that we clearly conceive of, firmly believe, and without wavering hold the same agreeable to the form of sound words, wherein it is held forth in divine revelation.

*First.* That there is an only living and true GOD, the supreme and eternal JEHOVAH, is manifest.

1. From the reason of things. Since there cannot be an effect without cause, there must be a first cause, self-existent and independent.

2. From the works of creation, all-marvellous and astonishing from the least to the greatest. As also,

3. From those of providence, in sustaining and well ordering the whole universe, through all the successive periods of time. And especially,

4. From the consciousness of a Supreme Being impressed on every rational soul. Above all,

5. From the holy scriptures. Deut. vi: 4. xxxii: 39. iv: 35. Psalm lxxxvi: 10. Isa. xlv: 5.

*Secondly.* The perfections of GOD may be easily deduced from the same sources, especially his wisdom, power and goodness infinite. And though his mercy, justice, truth and holiness be not so clear from the works of creation and providence, yet there is a strong consciousness of these, as well as of his omniscience, omnipresence, &c. while they are also abundantly manifested by his word and spirit.

*Thirdly.* Now in this divine and infinite Being there are Three subsistences; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. The Father neither begotten nor proceeding, the Son, or Word, eternally begotten of the Father, John i: 14. 18. iii: 16. 1 John iv: 9. and the Holy Ghost proceeding from the Fa-

ther and the Son, John v: 26. constituting in the undivided essence of the Godhead a Trinity of persons, each of them possessed of all divine perfections, and every way co-equal; and these Three are One, **THE ONE GOD.**  
**1 John v: 7.**

That there are Three appears through all the sacred writings, in reference to the works of creation, providence and grace, 1 Pet. i: 2. in whose name baptism is administered, Matt. xxviii: 19. and to whom divine worship and adoration are addressed, 2 Cor. xiii: 14. and that these Three are One, or that there is One, and but **ONE GOD**, is no less clear, as above.

Now that we may further explain this doctrine, and remove some difficulties attending it, so far as the mysteriousness of the subject will admit, we shall endeavour to resolve the following Queries,

*Quest.* 1st. How can Three be One, and One Three?

*Ans.* Three are not said to be One, and One Three, in the same respect strictly. We do not say that there are Three persons in One person, nor that there are Three Gods in One God; but three persons or subsistences in the undivided essence of the One God.

*Quest.* 2d. Why are these three subsistences called persons?

*Ans.* 1. Because they are distinguished by personal relative properties: The Father begetting, the Son begotten, and the Holy Ghost proceeding.

2. They are stiled I, Thou and He. They speak, are spoken to, and spoken of.

3. They have each of them understanding and will. And besides,

4. They have personal characters, as Creator, Redeemer, Judge, Comforter, Intercessor, &c. and are covenanted with, sent, &c. *Ps.* cx: 1. 3. 6. 7. *John* viii: 16. xiv: 16. 17: 26.

In one word, they have attributed to them and spoken of them every thing essential to and descriptive of personality.

*Quest.* 3d. In what respect is Christ the only begotten Son of God?

*Ans.* 1. Not with respect to his human nature. For he was the only begotten Son of God before.—In that case the Spirit would have been the Father. And in his human nature he was manifested to be what he was before, namely, the only begotten of the Father.

2. Nor with respect to his resurrection. For he was so before he rose by his own power. And by his resurrection from the dead he was manifested to be what he was before. *Rom.* i: 4.

3. Nor yet with respect to his Mediatorial office. For it is his Sonship that

that adds lustre to this office, Heb. iv: 14. as well as efficacy. 1 John i: 7. Neither is there any thing in that office, that should give rise to the title Son, only Son, only begotten. Further, this did not make the Son a son, but a priest. Heb. i: 8. vii: 28. And his priesthood and sonship are distinctly spoken of, Acts viii: 37. ix: 20. while also in the capacity of a Mediator he was a servant.

4. It remains then, that he was the only begotten Son of GOD by eternal generation inconceivable and mysterious. He was his Son, John v: 18. 1 John v: 5. his own Son, Rom. viii: 3. 32. his only begotten Son, John i: 14. 18. iii: 16. 1 John iv: 9. was with him in the beginning, John i: 1. before his works of old, even from everlasting. Mic. v: 2. Prov. viii: 22. 23.

*Quest.* 4th. If he was the Son of GOD by generation as to his divine nature, how could he be co-equal and co-eternal with the Father?

*Ans.* When we conceive of the Father and the Son, there is a priority in the order of nature, but not in the order of time: As GOD's eternal decrees, the mind and thought, the sun and light; though these be prior and successive among themselves in the order of nature, yet not in point of time; the instant the sun existed, light did exist also, proceeding from it, or as it were generated by it. So the instant there is a Father, there must be a Son. And as the Father exists a Father from eternity, so does the Son a Son.

Thus, dearly beloved, we have endeavoured to set before you this essential article of our faith, in as clear a manner as the narrowness of our limits, and the mysteriousness of the subject, would permit. But let no one presume to think, that he can, by searching, find out the Almighty to perfection, nor vainly enquire where the LORD has not revealed. Let us rather be humbly thankful, that the divine majesty has condescended to make such wondrous discoveries of his being and perfections.

Let us set the Triune GOD before us in all our ways and enjoyments, and rejoice in him, who is worthy of our highest confidence and purest affection, worthy of all divine worship and adoration. Finally, Brethren, let us be established in the present truth, nor suffer any to remove us from the firm basis of divine revelation. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise GOD, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be all honour, glory, divine worship, praise, power and dominion, both now and ever more. Amen.

BENJAMIN MILLER, *Moderator,*  
WILLIAM VAN HORNE, *Clerk.*

