

36096

Baptists. Pennsylvania. Philadelphia Association, 1799.

Minutes ... at the Great Valley ... October ... 1799.

[Mt. Holly, 1799.] 8 pp.

BrU copy.

# MINUTES

OF THE

## Philadelphia Baptist Association,

HELD

At the GREAT VALLEY, Chester County, State of Pennsylvania,

October 1st, 2d, and 3d, 1799.

TUESDAY, October 1st, 1799.

1. AT 3 o'clock, P. M. Brother THOMAS MEMMINGER being prevented by indisposition, Brother WILLIAM STAUGHTON, agreeably to appointment last year, preached the Introductory Sermon from *Psalms* xlviii. 12, 13. "Walk about Zion and go round about her, tell the towers thereof, mark well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the generations following."

2. After Sermon business was opened with prayer by Brother DAVID JONES, when Brother BURGISS ALLISON was chosen Moderator, and Brother WILLIAM STAUGHTON, Clerk.

3. Letters from twenty-nine Churches were read.

N. B. Ministers names are in CAPITALS. Licenced Preachers in *Italics*. Those marked with an \* were not present. From Churches marked thus † we received no intelligence. Dashes denote no settled Minister.

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.
Lewis Dublin,	{ SAMUEL JONES, Thomas Holmes.	—	1	—	—	—	1
Middletown,	BENJAMIN BENNETT*.	—	—	4	—	—	4
Conantley,	{ HENRY ALLEY* David ...	3	—	—	1	8	9
	Carried over,	3	1	4	1	12	21

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Baptized.</i>	<i>Received by Letter.</i>	<i>Dismissed by Letter.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Deceased.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	Brought forward,	3	1	4	1	12	306
Great Valley,	DAVID JONES, JOHN BOGGS, Daniel Cornog, Isaac Abraham, James Abraham, Jonathan Philips, Enoch Jones, David George, Isaac Bewla.	2	—	2	—	2	61
† Cape May,	JOHN STANCLIFF *.	—	—	—	—	—	47
Hopewell,	JAMES EWING, JOHN BLACKWELL *. David Stout, Joseph Ott. [ <i>Restored</i> x.]	55	—	1	—	4	179
Brandywine,	JOSHUA VAUGHAN, William Simonson, John Garret, jun. Thomas Davis, Thomas Stroud.	—	1	—	—	—	85
Montgomery,	JOSHUA JONES, Charles Humphries.	—	1	—	—	1	28
Kingwood,	GARNER HUNT.	4	—	—	—	1	70
Highs Town,	PETER WILSON, John Mawford.	38	1	3	1	3	222
	THOMAS USTICK, WILLIAM ROGERS, Isaac Carlisle, George Ingels, John M'Leod, Hugh Goulzy, Joseph Keen*, Benjamin Thaw *.	—	—	—	—	—	126
Southampton,	Arthur Watts, Abel Marple, Thomas Folwell*.	—	—	—	—	2	87
Knowlson,		—	—	—	—	—	17
	Carried over,	102	4	10	2	25	1325

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.
	Brought forward,	102	4	10	2	25	1328
New Britain,	{ WILLIAM WHITE *, Edward Matthews, William James, Ephraim Thomas.	28	1	—	—	3	54
Salem,	{ Benjamin Thompson, Henry Mulford.	—	2	—	—	5	79
Dividing Creek,	—	—	—	2	—	3	60
New-Mills,	{ ALEX'R. M'GOWAN, Levi Wilson.	11	—	—	1	3	109
† Conoloway,	JOSEPH POWELL *.	—	—	—	—	—	40
Coram,	—	—	—	—	—	—	30
Upper Freehold,	AND w. HARPENDING.	4	3	—	1	1	79
Pittsgrove,	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
† Manahawkin,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vincent,	{ Josiah Phillips, Enos Miles, Thomas Lloyd.	6	1	—	—	—	30
Tuckahoe,	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
London Tract,	THOMAS FLEESON.	—	—	—	—	—	38
Hill Town,	{ JAMES M'LAUGHLIN, Philip Miller, Isaac Morris, Thomas Matthias.	35	—	—	1	4	120
† Lower Smithfield,	DAVID JANE *.	—	—	—	—	—	20
Jacobs Town,	{ BURGISS ALLISON, W'm. STAUGHTON.	2	—	—	—	—	6
† Pitts Town,	—	—	—	—	—	—	34
Marcus Hook,	{ John Ellis, George Mustin, George White, [Restored 1.	—	—	—	2	1	27
Roxbury,	{ John Levering, Anthony Levering, Cornelius Holgate *.	—	—	—	—	3	46
† Penns Manor,	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Sideling Hill,	{ THOMAS RUNYAN, John Ockerman.	—	—	1	—	1	48
		161	13	16	7	49	2256

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Baptized.</i>	<i>Received by Letter.</i>	<i>Dismissed by Letter.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Deceased.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	Brought forward,						
West Creek,	{ PETER GROOM, Lemuel Edwards, James Edwards.	161	13	16	7	49	2356
		7	2	—	1	2	43
Shemokin,	{ JOHN PATTEN.	46	8	3	—	—	101
Amwell,	{ _____ William Merrell.	10	5	—	—	—	29
Total,		224	26	19	8	51	2529

4. Brother ISAAC SKILLMAN, who was appointed to write the Circular Letter, being removed by death, Brother SAMUEL JONES is requested to prepare one.  
After Prayer by the Moderator, Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

—◆—

*WEDNESDAY, October 2d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Brother David Jones prayed.

5. Letters from the following corresponding Associations, with their Minutes, were received—from New-York, by their Messenger, Rev. William Vanhorne—from Warwick, by Rev. John Williams—from Delaware, by Br. Jesse Williams, and from Charleston.

6. Appointed the following Brethren to write to the said Associations: Staughton, to Charleston—Ellis, to Warren—Ulick, to New-York—Wilson, to Shaftsbury—Ewing, to Warwick—Hunt, to the Delaware; and to produce the letters to-morrow.

7. The following Brethren are appointed Messengers to the Associations: M'Gowan, M'Laughlin and Ewing, to the New-York—Vaughan, to the Delaware—and Harpending to the Shaftsbury.

8. The Church at Salem having applied for assistance, the Brethren under named will endeavour to supply them:

Samuel Jones,	3d	Lord's day in October.
John Ellis	3d	November.
William Staughton,	5th	December.
John Ellis,	3d	January.
Alexander M'Gowan,	3d	April.
William Rogers,	3d	May.
Thomas Ulick,	3d	June.
William Rogers,	3d	July.
Peter Wilton,	3d	August.
Burgis Allison,	3d	September.

9. The Church at Manahawkin may expect supplies from the following Brethren:
- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Samuel Jones,      | 2d Lord's day in November. |
| Alexander M'Gowan, | 4th ———— Do.               |
| Isaac Carlile,     | 2d ———— December.          |
| Peter Groom,       | 2d ———— February.          |
| A. Harpending,     | 2d ———— March.             |
| Alexander M'Gowan, | 1st ———— May.              |
10. The following Brethren will endeavour to be at Pittsgrove:
- |                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Samuel Jones,  | 4th Lord's day in October. |
| John Ellis,    | 3d ———— April.             |
| Isaac Carlile, | 1st ———— November.         |
11. At Tuckahoe,
- |              |                               |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Peter Groom, | 1st Lord's day in each month. |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
12. At Dividing Creek,
- |                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| A. Harpending, | 3d Lord's day in December. |
|----------------|----------------------------|

*Note.* It is particularly recommended by the Association, that such Churches as are destitute of Pastors do endeavour regularly to support divine worship. Their widowed state bespeaks the necessity for prayer, and the promises of the Lord of the harvest encourage it. In most Churches there are brethren who can with acceptableness to a congregation read sermons; and the support of unity and intercourse among the brethren, as well as the duty of publicly venerating the Lord's day in the midst of an infidel world, loudly call for these holy services.

13. The Brethren appointed as a Committee to give advice relative to existing difficulties in Brandywine church, reported the course of conduct they had recommended to that church, which was fully approved.

Brother Samuel Jones concluded in prayer.

Adjourned for an hour—1 o'clock.

2 o'clock, P. M. Met pursuant to adjournment.

14. Agreeably to the request of the Committee, the Church at Brandywine reported their proceedings consequent on the Committee's advice—on which the Association directed, That its opinion be transmitted to the complaining parties, in writing, which was accordingly done.

Brother William Rogers prayed. Adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

[Sermon at 4 o'clock by Brother William Vanhorne, from Col. ii. 10. *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.*]

**THURSDAY**, October 3d, 10 o'clock, A. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

15. The case of the Church at Opecon Creek being taken up by the Association, and a letter from the Kotockton Association, and another from the Church at Opeckon Creek, on the subject, being read, it is the opinion of this Association that the subject be dismissed, and that Brother Samuel Jones be appointed to write both to the Kotockton Association and to said Church, our reasons for this measure.

16. The Letters to the different Associations were read and approved.

17. The Circular Letter, produced by Brother Samuel Jones, was read and approved.

18. The Church at Sideling Hill requesting dismissal to a nearer Association, it was granted.

19. Brother Staughton is appointed to write the Circular Letter for the ensuing year, and left to his own discretion as to the subject.

20. Brother Samuel Jones and Brother Staughton are appointed to prepare a Map of the situation of the Churches in this Association, and to inform themselves of the probable expence attending its engraving.

21. Apprehensive that many advantages may result from a General Conference, composed of one or more members from each Association, to be held every *one, two, or three* years, as may seem most subservient to the general interests of our Lord's kingdom; this Association respectfully invites the different Associations in the United States to favour them with their views on the subject.

22. Brother Ustick is requested to forward to each Association in the United States a copy of our Minutes, on account of the above request.

23. The four following days, viz. the first Tuesdays in January, April, July, and October, are recommended as days of humiliation and prayer, that we may humble ourselves under the hand of God, and seek his forgiveness and favour—and that he would be pleased to pour out his Spirit upon his Churches.

24. This Association, desirous of spreading ecclesiastic information, recommend *Crosby's History of the English Baptists* to our Churches and sister Associations, as a valuable work, and hope that, should our Brother Ustick be disposed to publish it, he will meet with universal encouragement.

25. Brother Ustick reports that the Monies raised for the Savannah African Church were:

	Dolls.	Cents.
From the Church at Middletown -	22	00
From the Church at Montgomery -	13	50
From other churches in smaller sums -	36	34 1-2

Dolls. 71 - 84 1-2

Which was remitted in the following manner, viz.

Cash sent by Mr. Michaels -	10	00
Paid by Rev. Mr. Furman -	30	00
An order on Mr. John Hamilton for -	31	89

Dolls. 71 - 89

26. Collections received for Shemokin Church, viz. from the Church at

Montgomery	-	-	4	-	56	1-2
Philadelphia	-	-	40	-	5	
Pennapeck	-	-	5	-	3	
Hopewell	-	-	5	-	62	1-2
Hill Town	-	-	4	-	75	
Dolls.			60	-	2	

Paid Mr. Daniel Rhees	-	55	-	27	
to Rev. Mr. Patten	-	4	-	75	
Dolls.			60	-	2

27. Brother Samuel Jones is appointed to preach the Association Sermon next year, and in case of failure Brother William Rogers.

28. Brother Ustick is requested to superintend the Printing of the Minutes.

29. The Association is appointed to meet, on the first Tuesday in October, 1800, at 2 o'clock, P. M. at Philadelphia; but in case of the return of the fever there, to be held at Cohansey.

### (CIRCULAR LETTER.)

*The ELDERS and MESSENGERS of the several BAPTIST CHURCHES, pertaining to the PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, convened at the Great Valley, on Tuesday, October 1st, 1799,*

*To the several Churches to whom they relate, send Christian Salutations.*

#### *BELoved BRETHREN,*

WHILE we lament the distress in which our Metropolis is involved, which prevented our meeting there, yet we have the pleasure to observe that we have had a pretty general representation from the Churches in our connection, and a comfortable opportunity, for which we desire to be thankful.

You will see by the returns from the Churches, that although it be a dark and declining day, yet the Lord has not left us without the manifestation of his power and grace, but has granted some quickening and refreshing showers of divine influence in divers places, both in our bounds and those of our sister Associations. Being disappointed in addressing you at this time, from the pen of that great man we last year appointed to that service, you can expect but a few general hints imperfectly penned in the midst of the

hurry of business. Doctor SKILLMAN is no more! He has been removed, we trust, from his labours in the Church militant to that rest which remaineth for the people of God; and though we feel and lament the loss we sustain by this heavy visitation, yet we desire to be resigned to the divine will, in a comfortable assurance that our loss is his gain. When we take a view, Brethren, of the number of Churches destitute of those to go in and out before them and break unto them the bread of life, and at the same time that there are so few likely to come forward in the ministry, while so many are removed from their posts on Zion's walls; we think it a time, when we should feel with solemn weight on our minds, the force of our blessed Lord's injunction when he said, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth



"many labourers into his harvest," and we wish it to be more effectually impressed on each of our hearts. Yes, Brethren, we beseech you all to attend seriously to this weighty consideration.

When we consider the unbounded mercies of God, the rich displays of his goodness and grace in the various dispensations of his hand, both in a spiritual and temporal way, we have the highest reason to praise and adore his holy name. May the streams of his bounty lead us to him who is the fountain of all good, may they lead us to unfeigned repentance, that shall be attended with reformation of life, and influence us to walk worthy of the high vocation wherewith we are called. How desirable to experience the shedding abroad of the constraining love of God in our hearts. Then shall we love as brethren, then shall we be moved to diligence in the use and improvement of the privileges, means and opportunities we enjoy, whereby we may grow in grace, and abound in holy zeal. How indispensable to cause our light to shine before men, that they seeing our good works may glorify our Father who is in heaven. Yes, Brethren, let us by our demeanor and deportment in life recommend to others the holy religion we profess, as it were stamp it with the seal of reality and truth, and cause the beholders to observe,

that we have been with *Jesus* and learned of him. Is it not of serious concern, that when the preacher explains the principles of pure and undefiled religion, in regard to their native tendency to holiness and purity of life; the very professors of that religion should, by their unworthy conduct, cause the hearers not to believe the preacher, and as it were testify that there is not a word of truth in what he says?

Permit us, Brethren, before we close, to beseech you to bear in mind those who labor among you in word and doctrine. We beseech and intreat you to pray for them; that a door of utterance may be given unto them abundantly, and that the power of God may rest on their labours; and withal, a conscience of contributing towards their comfortable support as God has prospered you.—Finally, Brethren, farewell.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord *Jesus*, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 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, Amen.

By order of the Association,

BURGISS ALLISON, Moderator,  
WILLIAM STAUGHTON, Clerk.

MR. CROSBY'S HISTORY will be comprised in 4 volumes octavo, neatly bound and illustrated, at six dollars, unless it should be thought more eligible to abridge the work. The sister Associations are requested to send their advice and subscriptions to the meeting of this Association in October, or to T. Ustick previously.

JUST PUBLISHED, and for Sale by Rev. Messrs. Alexander McGowan, Mount Holly, and Thomas Ustick, Philadelphia, *Norcott on Baptism*, price 12 1-2 cents singly, and good allowance by the retail.

Also for sale by T. U. the *Grand Affair*, price 2 cents singly, and One Dollar per hundred—*Booth's History—Booth's Reign of Grace & Glad Tidings—Fuller's Letters—Rippon, Law, & Adgate's*

N. B. The five first volumes of *Mosheim* are ready for the subscribers, and the last is in press. Those friends who wish to patronize the republication of *Booth's Abhadie*, price one dollar, are requested to send in their names to T. Ustick, No. 79, North Third Street.