

19984

Baptists. Shaftsbury Association, 1786.

.... Minutes of the ... Association, at their Annual  
Convention ... in Adams, 1786.

Albany, 1786. 7 pp.

Western Reserve Hist. Soc. copy.



THE  
SHAFTSBURY  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

Was begun and held at *Shaftsbury*, on June 11, 1781;  
and continued yearly as follows:

June 12, 1782, at *Steventown*;

June 11, 1783, at *Steventown*;

June 9, 1784, at *Shaftsbury*;

June 8, 1785, at *Steventown*.



M I N U T E S

O F T H E

SHAFTSBURY ASSOCIATION,

At their annual Convention, held at Elder *Warden's*  
Meeting-House, in *Adams*, 1786.

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Wednesday, June 14, 1786.

1. **A**T ten o'clock, A. M. Elder *Justice Hull*, according to appointment, preached the introductory sermon, from *Psal. cvii, 8*. After which Elder *Powers* opened the Association by prayer.

ed. Chose

2. Chose a Moderator and Clerk.

3. Letters were read from the respective churches, and the following account was taken of the members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the last year—and of the present number in each church.

N. B. No accounts were received from the churches distinguished by this mark †.

| Churches.              | Messengers.  | AD  | Dis. | Ex | D. | No. |
|------------------------|--|-----|------|----|----|-----|
| Pittsfield,            | Valentine Rathbun, elder,<br>Daniel Rathbun.                       | 7   | 1    |    | 1  | 24  |
| Steventown, †          |  |     |      |    |    | 39  |
| Stillwater,            | Lemuel Powers, elder,<br>John Andros,<br>David Irish.              | 1   |      |    |    | 46  |
| West Ch. †             |  |     |      |    |    | 45  |
| East do. †             |  |     |      |    |    | 34  |
| Shaftsbury.            |  |     |      |    |    |     |
| Wallingsford, †        |  |     |      |    |    | 44  |
| Adams,                 | Peter Warden, elder,<br>Jonathan Richardson,<br>Stephen Carpenter. | 4   | 2    | 2  | 4  | 117 |
| N. Bethlehem,          | Jacob Harrington,  |     |      |    |    | 17  |
| Sandersfield, †        |  |     |      |    |    | 50  |
| Washington,            | John Nichols, elder,<br>Samuel Whelpley,<br>Thomas Whelpley,       | 51  |      | 2  |    | 114 |
| Batten-Kill, †         |  |     |      |    |    | 74  |
| Chesterfield, †        |  |     |      |    |    | 33  |
| LittleHosick,          | Justice Hull, elder,<br>Joseph Boles,<br>Elisha Berry.             | 1   | 1    |    |    | 43  |
| Halifax,               | David Bell,<br>Elisha Warden.                                      |     |      |    |    | 19  |
| Hancock, 2d<br>Church, | John Hammond.  |     |      |    |    | 16  |
|                        |  | 167 | 4    | 4  | 5  | 715 |

4. A letter and the minutes were read from the Warren Association—handed to us by their messengers, Isaac Beals, elder, and John Lyons.

5. A letter and the minutes were read from the Stonington Association—handed to us by their messengers, Sands Niles and Valentine W. Rathbun.

6. The two last mentioned churches (viz. Halifax and Hancock) were received into our fellowship the present year.

7. Elder John Nichols and deacon Stephen Carpenter, appointed to write a letter to the Warren Association.

8. Elder Justice Hull and Samuel Whelpley, appointed to write a letter to the Stonington Association.

9. Elder Lemuel Powers, appointed to write a letter to the Woodstock Association.

10. Elder Lemuel Powers, appointed our messenger to the Woodstock Association, to open a mutual correspondence with them.

11. Elder Peter Warden and deacon Jonathan Richardson, appointed our messengers to the Warren Association; and elder John Nichols, elder Justice Hull and deacon Joseph Rogers, to that of Stonington.

12. The motion made the year past, for annual and social communion, was considered, and for the present put by.

13. Adjourned to to-morrow morning, 7 o'clock.

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June 15, met according to adjournment.

Valentine W. Rathbun preached a sermon, from Zachariah iii, part of the 9th verse.

14. David Rathbun and elder John Rathbun were received to set and act with us.

15. The letters prepared to our sister Associations were read and approved of.

16. Elder

16. Elder Jones appointed to supply elder Warden's place, at his meeting-house in Adams,

|                     |                          |          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------|
|                     | 2d Sabbath in September. |          |
| Mr. Shepherd,       | 4th do.                  | do.      |
| Elder John Nichols, | 2d do.                   | October. |
| Mr. John Hammond,   | 4th do.                  | do.      |

17. Supplies for New-Bethlehem church, for the present year :

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Elder Jones, the     | 1st Sabbath in August. |
| Elder Justice Hull,  | 3d do. do.             |
| Elder Lemuel Powers, | 1st do. in February.   |
| Elder Peter Warden,  | last do. do.           |
| Elder John Nichols,  | 2d do. in September.   |

18. Elder Lemuel Powers, John Andross and David Irish, appointed to prepare and get printed the minutes of this present year—for which contributions are now made.

19. It is recommended by the Association, that for the future, the several churches contribute, and send in by their delegates, a sufficient sum yearly to get the minutes printed.

20. The Association for the ensuing year to be held at this place, on the second Wednesday in June, to begin at ten o'clock, A. M.

21. Elder Morse to preach the introductory sermon, and in case of failure, elder Lemuel Powers.

22. Query, If an ordained elder, of any particular church, is dismissed in friendship and fellowship to another church, and by them received, whether he shall be considered as their regular minister without further ordination ?

Answered unanimously in the affirmative.

23. It is recommended to the several churches in this Association, to contribute to the wants of traveling ministers, properly recommended, as opportunity shall present.

24. Minutes

24. Minutes read, and signed in behalf of the Association, by

LEMUEL POWERS, Moderator  
THOMAS WHELPLEY, Clerk,

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# A P L A N

## O F T H E

### SHAFTSBURY ASSOCIATION.

**W**HEREAS a number of Churches of the Baptist Persuasion, in several towns of these Northern States, have thought it might be for the glory of GOD, the advancement of religion and the promotion of Christian knowledge and fellowship, to associate together by delegates from their several churches; and that this Association shall begin the 13th day of June, 1781, and on the second Wednesday in June annually hereafter, and shall be known by the name of "The Shaftsbury Association."

1. This Association hold the Scriptures of Divine Truth, as their only rule and guide; from which they infer these following *Important Truths*, viz. 1st. That man, who was made in the image of GOD, by his rebelling and sinning against his Creator, rendered himself and all his posterity wholly depraved and without either will or ability to save himself. 2d. That the whole system of man's salvation takes place exactly agreeable to the purposed design and counsel of the glorious TRINITY, in a uniform harmony, for causes foreseen and foreknown of GOD, which cannot

**not fail of perfecting the design.** 3d. That in the glorious system proposed by GOD to save his people, the whole stress is laid on the perfect life, death, resurrection and righteousness of JESUS CHRIST; which being imputed to us, is the only foundation of our justification in the sight of GOD, and of our adoption into his family; the knowledge of which we obtain by an inherent receiving of JESUS CHRIST by faith, which produces in us a hope of glory.

2d. This Association will receive into their fellowship, on proper application, all such churches as shall give evidence of their being built up in the faith and order of the gospel.

3d. Whereas we are not insensible of the divers ways that attempts are made to assume a classical power over the churches—neither are we insensible of the evil effect of the obtaining such power, which we desire to watch against: yet, as it is certain that the churches in the Apostolic age did, by messengers and letters, hold a friendly correspondence with each other, for mutual advice, help and comfort, and sometimes by the meeting of many of them together for that purpose—and as we are commanded to follow after the things that make for peace, and the things wherewith one may edify another, we have been convinced it is both warrantable and expedient, for our churches that are scattered through this northern country, who have been heretofore so much unacquainted with each other, thus to associate for prayer, union and gospel order among them, and to afford what assistance we can to flocks that are destitute, weak and oppressed—and also to communicate our ideas respecting the mysteries of the gospel, especially in this day, when truth is so much abused and heresy promoted, in which skilful workmen are called for to divide the word of truth, that error may be discovered,

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discovered, and the glory of GOD promoted, while  
we wait for the further opening of truth as it is in  
**JESUS, to whom be glory, AMEN.**

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Printed by CHARLES R. WEBSTER, No 36;  
(North Side of) State-street, near the English  
Church, ALBANY. M.DCC.LXXXVI.