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Baptists. Vermont. Shaftsbury Association, 1802.

Minutes ... at Pittstown ... June, 1802.

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MINUTES

OF THE

Shaftsbury Baptist Association,

HELD AT

PITTS TOWN,

THE SECOND AND THIRD OF JUNE, 1802.

TOGETHER WITH THEIR

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING

LETTERS.

TROY:

PRINTED BY MOFFITT & LYON,

FOR THE ASSOCIATION.

1802.

M I N U T E S, &c.



WEDNESDAY, June 2, 1802.

AT 10 o'clock, A. M. Elder *Elias Lee*, according to appointment, preached the Introductory Sermon, from 1. John 8: *For this cause was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the Devil.*

1. A Moderator and Clerk were chosen.

2. Letters from the following Churches were read, and a correct list taken of the names of their Messengers—their alterations during the year past, and their present number of members.

N. B. In the following list, the names of Ministers are inserted in Italic characters: Those with this mark *, were not present: From Churches marked thus †, we had no accounts this session, therefore have inserted their numbers as they stood when last represented: Churches distinguished by a dash, have no settled Ministers: In the column at the left hand of the page, is noted the sum contributed for the encouragement of Missionaries, over against the name of the church contributing said sum.

No.	Churches.	Messengers.	Added.	Dis- m.	Excl.	Died.	Numb.
	Amsterdam,	_____	2	6	2	1	33
	Cambridge,	{ _____ Ammon Fowler.	11	7	5	2	51
	1 Canaan,	{ _____ James Pettit.	1	1			64
	2 Do.	{ <i>Elisha Barns</i> , Gershom Towner.	20	2			69
	Chatham,	{ <i>Job Champion</i> . <i>Peter Werden</i> ,		5		1	42
	1 Cheshire,	{ Stephen Carpenter, Stephen Brayton.				3	64
	3 Do.	{ <i>John Leland</i> ,* Hezekiah Mason, Seth Jones.	4	25	4	5	353
	Chesterfield, †	<i>Ebenezer Vining</i> .*					30
	Clifton Park,	{ <i>Abijah Peck</i> , Mathew Palmer, Nathaniel Upham.	9	2	1		75

<i>Doll.</i>	<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Disin.</i>	<i>Excl.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
2	Chester,	{ <i>Jehiel Fox,</i> <i>Enos Mead.</i>	56	9			10
	1 Galway.				1		3
2	Do.	{ <i>John Munroe,*</i> <i>James Warren,</i> <i>Barnet Stillwell.</i>	6		3	2	125
	Great Barrington,	<i>Jeduthun Grey.</i>	4	5	1		121
2	1 Greenfield,	{ <i>Isaac Brewster.</i> <i>Thomas Purrington,</i> <i>Daniel Boardman.</i>	14		3		74
	Hadley,	{ <i>Clark Rogers.*</i> <i>Amasa Brown*</i>	5	4	5	2	55
	Hancock, †						47
	1 Hartford, †						324
	2 Do.						21
	1 Hillsdale,	{ <i>Richard Kenyon.</i>		1	1	1	122
	2 Do.	{ <i>Charles Trufdale,</i> <i>Afa Spencer.</i>	11	5		4	73
	Kingsborough,	<i>William Troop.</i>		1	4		39
	Mayfield,	{ <i>Hezekiah Gorton,</i> <i>John Godfrey.</i>	11		1		86
	1 Milton,	{ <i>Joseph Cornell,</i> <i>Jonathan Nichols, jun.</i> <i>Nathan Sheffield.</i>	3	13	2		88
	2 Do. now called the Church at Balston Spring.	{ <i>Elias Lee.</i> <i>William Sillwell,</i> <i>Abijah Hubbell.</i>					21
	Northumberland, †						67
	Patridgefield,	{ <i>Ebenezer Smith,</i> <i>John Newton.</i>	9				67
7	1 Pittstown.	{ <i>Lemuel Covell,</i> <i>Isaac Webb.</i>	9	4		1	90
	2 Do. †	<i>Stephen Hunt.*</i>					47
	Providence,	{ <i>Jonathan Finch,</i> <i>Samuel Halsted.</i>	23		3	2	150
	Pownal,	{ <i>Caleb Nichols,*</i> <i>Benjamin Gardner,</i> <i>Joshua Mattison,</i> <i>Abiather Buck.</i>		2		1	125
3.50	Sandisfield,	<i>Jesse Hartwell.</i>	3	8		1	155

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dis.</i>	<i>Trans.</i>	<i>D. d.</i>	<i>Numb.</i>
1 Saratoga.	{ <i>Joseph Crow,</i> <i>Peter Olney.</i>	22	2			63
2 Do.	{ <i>Elisha Langworthy,</i> <i>Salmon Monger,</i> <i>Eliphaz Fish.</i>	12				56
Savoy, †	<i>Nathan Hoskin,*</i>					32
Schodack,	<i>Stephen Olmstead.</i>	1	3	4	2	83
1 Shaftsbury,	{ <i>Andrew Harpending,</i> <i>Isaiah Mattison.</i>			2	1	94
2 Do.	_____					40
4 Do.	{ <i>Caleb Blood,</i> <i>Jeremiah Clark.</i>	2	2	5	2	356
Stephentown and Petersburgh,	{ <i>Justus Hull,</i> <i>Alderman Baker,</i> <i>James Green,</i> <i>Joseph Crandall,</i> <i>William Rhodes.</i>	32	5	6	7	338
2 Stephentown,	{ <i>Robert Niles,</i> <i>Jesse Goodrich,</i> <i>Arvin Wood,</i> <i>Samuel Griffith.</i>	3	3	3	3	73
Stillwater,	<i>Silvanus Sayles.</i>					
West Stockbridge	{ _____ <i>Faring Wilson.</i>	1	3			69
Williamstown,	{ <i>Dyer Stark,</i> <i>Josiah Nichols.</i>	7	2			27
Mapletown, †	_____					54
<i>Total,</i>		221	120	56	43	4220

113 Chhs.
34 Ministers

Query, from the Church at Providence: "Is honour done to the
 the cause of religion, where an Association has published ad-
 ce in their minutes to the Churches, not to allow their mem-
 to associate with Free Mason Lodges, and have declared
 it; and yet give fellowship to Brethren of other Associa-
 who do the same, and call on them to take a seat in Associ-
 Voted to refer the question to a committee to prepare an
 er, and report at our next session. Elders *Blood, Gray,*
 n, and Brother *Hezekiah Mason*, were appointed a com-
 ee for that purpose.

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4. Letters and messengers were received from the following Associations, viz.—From the Danbury, minutes, but no messenger—From the Rensselaer-Ville, letter and minutes by their messengers, *Reswell Beckwith* and *Ephraim Crocker*—From the Otsego, letter and minutes by their messenger, *Elder Peleg Card*—From the Vermont, *Elder Obed Warren*, but no letter nor minutes—From the Woodstock, minutes, but no messenger.—The said messengers were invited to a seat with us.

5. Appointed the following Brethren messengers to sister Associations, viz. *Gray* and *Barns*, to the Danbury: *Smith* and *Starbuck*, to the Leyden: *Hull*, *Covell*, *Barns* and *Olmsted*, to the Rensselaer-Ville: *Blood* and *Barber*, to the Otsego: *Harpending*, *Gardner* and *Matison*, to the Vermont: *Cornell* and *Gorton*, to Warren, and also to the Stonington: *Hartwell*, to the Woodstock: Brethren *Faring Wilson*, *Thomas Whelpley* and *Elder Olmsted*, to the New-York. Voted to send Ministers to the Philadelphia.

6. Brother *Gray's* Corresponding Letter was read, and referred to a committee, consisting of Brethren *Blood*, *Webb* and *Olmsted*, for inspection. The Circular Letter having failed, Brother *Covell* was appointed to prepare one and present it to-morrow.

7. The proposition for contributing to the support of a preached gospel in destitute parts of the wilderness, recommended to the consideration of the Churches, by the 12th section of last year's minutes, was taken into consideration; and as several of the Churches have certified their approbation, and sent forward money to carry the same into effect, and as some of the Churches seem in suspense, for want of sufficient knowledge of the plan by which the application of the money is to be regulated: therefore, appointed Brethren *Blood*, *Hull*, *Warren* and *Barns*, a committee to prepare a plan for that purpose, and present it before the Association rises. Adjourned till 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, June 3.

8. MET pursuant to adjournment: A sermon, introductory to business, was delivered by *Elder Edward Barber*, from Acts xxvi. 25: *But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.*

9. The Corresponding Letter, as reported by the committee of inspection, was accepted.

10. Brother *Covell*, who was appointed to prepare a Circular Letter, and the committee appointed to prepare a Plan for the regulation of the Missionary Contribution, presented a Plan, with the necessary introduction, and requested that it might be printed in place of a Circular Letter—which was agreed to.

11. Pursuant to the first article of the said plan, the following Brethren were chosen a committee, for the purposes therein mentioned, viz. Elders *Abijah Peck, Caleb Blood, Isaac Webb, Justus* *Joseph Crow* and *Lemuel Covell*; and Deacons *William Stillwell, John Rouse, Joshua Mattison, Isaac Brewster, Stephen Carter* and *James Green*.

12. The committee charged with the contributions for the relief of the Church at *Patridgefield*, exhibited their accounts, with information that the trial at the Supreme Court had gone against them, for want of being stated right; and that, if the suit should be renewed, more money would be wanted to carry it on: The Church likewise requested the advice of the Association on the subject.

Resolved, as the advice of the Association, that they consult *Doct. Johnson* and *Mr. Baldwin*, of *Boston*, on the subject, and request them to ask the advice of some able attorney in the business: and after taking his advice, they shall think it adviseable to prosecute the matter further, we are willing to lend them further assistance.

Elder *Werden*, who was one of said committee, on his request, was dismissed from that duty, and Brother *Hezekiah Mason* appointed in his stead.

13. Appointed the following supplies for destitute Churches.

WEST STOCKBRIDGE.

Brethren.	Lord's Day.
<i>Covell,</i>	3d in October;
<i>Gray,</i>	2d in July;
<i>Olmstead,</i>	3d do.
<i>Harpending,</i>	4th do.
<i>Hull,</i>	3d in June;
<i>Hartwell,</i>	4th do.
<i>Pettit,</i>	4th August;
<i>Craw,</i>	1st in February.

1 HILLSDALE.

<i>Craw,</i>	2d in February.
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STILLWATER.

<i>Finch,</i>	1st in July;
<i>Covell,</i>	2d in January;
<i>Craw,</i>	4th in June.

SHAFTSBURY, in consequence of Elder *Blood's* absence on a mission to Upper Canada.

<i>Warren,</i>	2d in September;
<i>Covell,</i>	3d in Do.
<i>Hull,</i>	2d in October;

L. O. J.

<i>Niles,</i>	1st in Do.
<i>Webb,</i>	4th in September;
<i>Harpending and</i>	} occasionally.
<i>Mattison,</i>	

14. Appointed Brother *Troop* to prepare a Circular, and Brother *Leland* a Corresponding Letter, for next year.

15. Voted our next meeting to be held at the Baptist Meeting-house in West-Stockbridge, the first Wednesday in June next at 10 o'clock, A. M. Brother *Blood* to preach the introductory sermon, and in case of his failure, Brother *Webb*.

16. Appointed Brother *Covell* to superintend the printing of these minutes, and to forward them to the Churches.

Closed with prayer, by Brother *Hull*.

§ 7 The committee appointed to superintend the Missionary contributions, beg leave, hereby, to inform the Churches, and good people, who may be disposed to contribute for so laudable a purpose, that they have appointed Deacon John Rouse, of Pittsdown, their Treasurer, to receive such contributions, and keep a true account of the same; which will be published in our minutes next year: therefore, if any churches or individuals should (on seeing our plan) feel disposed to contribute for its encouragement, they can convey the money to him at any time hereafter, and he will give proper credit for the same, and said committee further beg leave to recommend it to those who feel interested in the upbuilding of the Redeemer's kingdom, to cast in their mite to promote the same.

This committee have appointed to meet at Brother Faring Wilson's, in West-Stockbridge, the day before the next meeting of the Association, at 1 o'clock, P. M. for the purpose of receiving the returns of Missionaries, the accounts of the Clergy and Treasurer, the contributions of Churches and individuals, and of making out their report to the Association.

By order of the Committee.

CALEB BLOOD, *Moderator,*
LEMUEL COVELL, *Clerk.*

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The **ELDERS and BRETHREN**, met in Association at P. Town,
June 2d and 3d, 1802: To the Churches which they represent,
send Greeting.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

In our last year's minutes, we recommended to you a proposition for raising money by annual contribution, for the support of the gospel in destitute parts of the wilderness: and whereas some of the churches have manifested their approbation, and sent forward their liberality, while others seem in suspense and call for further information as to the *design* of such contribution, and the *rules* by which it is to be conducted: we, therefore, think it our duty, at this time, to give you a particular statement of the design of said contribution, and the rules by which the application of it is to be regulated. And,

1st. The design of the proposition is to place things in such a situation as to enable the Association to send able and faithful Ministers to preach the Gospel, and endeavour to build up the visible cause of the Redeemer in such parts of the United States, and the Canadas, as are destitute of gospel privileges; and, as far as they can have access, among the nations of the wilderness.

2d. The design is to prevent, as far as possible, the prevalence of imposture in those parts of the world; and, for the better accomplishing these purposes, the business is to be regulated by the following

P L A N.

1st. A committee of twelve Brethren (six Ministers and six Brethren) shall be annually chosen, so long as the Associa-

tion shall judge it expedient to send out Missionaries; which committee shall have a Chairman, Clerk and Treasurer, of the number, who shall be chosen at their first meeting after their election. A majority of said committee shall be a quorum to transact business.

2d. The duty of the committee shall be—first, To take charge of the contributions made by the Churches for the assistance of Missionaries. Secondly—They shall faithfully examine all candidates for the Mission, and recommend such, and only such, as they judge to be pious, able, judicious and experienced Ministers of the gospel. Thirdly.—When the committee recommend a Missionary, they shall determine the time of his Mission, and the places where the duties thereof shall be performed; which shall be in such new settlements in the United States, or the Canadas, where the inhabitants are destitute of a preached gospel, and cannot obtain it. And the Missionaries shall keep a fair account of their expences, during their Mission, and make due returns to the committee of the same, together with a journal of their travels. And if more money has been furnished to them than they have found necessity for, they shall return the same to the Treasurer of the committee: but if the sum advanced has not been sufficient to defray their necessary expences, such deficiency shall be made up to them, if the state of the fund will admit of it. Fourthly—The committee shall furnish each Missionary with such sum, out of the Treasury, as they shall judge sufficient to defray his expences during his Mission, and no more, unless the special circumstances of the Missionary require some extra consideration in which case they shall have a right to act discretionary. Fifthly—The Treasurer shall keep a particular account of all the money contributed; and of all monies disbursed: and the Clerk shall keep fair records of the proceedings of the committee, both of which shall be annually exhibited to the Association, and published in their minutes for the satisfaction of the Churches. Sixthly

The committee shall have no fee or reward for their services.
—This Association shall have a right to alter any of these
rules, or make such new ones, at any of their annual meetings,
time and experience shall point out to be for the better. And
Church disposed to contribute, shall have a right to discon-
tinue their contributions at any time when they think proper, ex-
plaining the reasons of their so doing.

Now, dear Brethren, we have laid before you our design, and
the rules we mean to observe in prosecuting the same; and we
take the freedom to beseech you, with united hearts and
voices, to step forward in support of the glorious kingdom of the
Lord Immanuel. We beseech you, Brethren, "*Ye know the
love of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for
us he became poor, that ye, through his poverty, might be
enriched.*" Oh! let it never be said that those who have been made
partakers of the infinite benevolence of the dear Redeemer,
should have so little regard for him, as to grudge to part with a
part of their property in the support of his cause. Oh, criminal
conduct!!! may the Lord deliver us from it!

Finally, let us all unite our efforts, both at home and abroad,
to bestow our gifts and property, to propagate the truth and build up
the noble cause of religion in a sinning world. And may the
Author of all true benevolence, so instruct and influence
our hearts, that we may be willing to spend and be spent in his
cause. And may his holy spirit crown our feeble efforts with
abundant success; to the PRAISE and GLORY of his GRACE,
and the KINGDOM of JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

Shaftsbury Association: *To the different Associations
with whom we correspond.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

It is with heart-felt joy and satisfaction, that we receive your messengers and friendly letters from year to year; which furnish us with much useful and pleasing information. In our last, we addressed you on the principle of friendship: suffer us now to advance a few ideas on the importance of maintaining, inviolable, that divine principle of friendship, which hath its origin in God; which will answer the following important purposes, viz.

First—It brings into public view the religion, and causeth gainsayers to say, See these Christians how they love one another!

Secondly—Brethren dwelling together impart to the mind one of the brightest lights of interest in the favour of God, agreeable to the declaration of Christ himself: "By this shall ye know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

Thirdly—As this friendship arises from an exact view of the divine character and perfections, it leads to the discharge of every duty in a conscientious manner, whether religious, civil, or domestic. It leads ministers to teach their people the absolute obligation they are under to receive Christ as their prophet, priest, and king. As a prophet, to reveal the will of God to the souls: as a priest, to atone for their sins; and as king in Zion, to rule in them and reign over them, to protect them and destroy their enemies; and as such, they are under infinite obligations to submit to all his laws and institutions without variation; for as his in-

...in faith and practice is necessary to express
...real friendship to God and union to his people.
...Christ says, If ye love me keep my commandment
John xiv. 15: and again, Ye are my friends if ye
...whosoever I command you; John xv. 14. Hence
...infer, that we are not chargeable with want of god
...charity, if we say that we cannot commune with
...who do not submit to the ordinances of the gospel,
...pointed out in the New Testament.

Fourthly—In the scripture is expressed the duty
...rulers and ruled, ministers and people, husbands
...wives, parents and children, masters and servants.
...This friendship leads to the discharge of these duties
...and to the adoption of the gospel of Christ, as a true
...wisdom and unerring rule of right. Let us, therefore
...hold fast our profession, and walk by the same rule
...wherunto we have attained; and may the God of peace
...well amongst us.

Brethren, we wish you prosperity; and we sincerely
...in a continuance of your Correspondence.

Wm. Bar. Neill.

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