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Minutes ... at Hoosick Falls ... June, 1805.

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MINUTES

OF THE

Shaftsbury Baptist Association,

HELD AT

HOOSICK FALLS,

THE FIFTH AND SIXTH OF JUNE, 1805:

TOGETHER WITH THEIR

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTER.

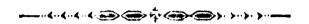
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MINUTES, &c.

OF THE

Shaftsbury Vaptist Association.



WEDNESDAY, June 5, 1805.

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1. AT ten o'clock, A. M. Elder Elias Lee, according to appointment, preached the Introductory Sermon, from 1st Peter, i. 5:—Who are kept by the power of God, through faith, unto falvation, ready to be revealed in the last time.

2. A Moderator and Clark were chosen.

3. Letters from the following Churches were road, and the following lift taken of the names of their Mchanger, their alterations during the past year, and their present number of Members.

N. B. In the following list, the names of ordained Ministers are inserted in Italic characters: Those with this mark *, were not present: From Churches marked those, we received no accounts this session—therefore have inserted their numbers as they shood when last represented: Those Churches distinguished by a dash———, have no settled Ministers.

Churches.	M. Gengers.	
Amsterdam,	S Nobel Holmes, (Thomas West.	2 2 1 23
Breadalbion.	§ Hezekiab Gorton, UJohn Godfrey.	27 3 1139
Balliton Spring.	Llius Lee.	

	{ 4 }						
Churches.	Messengers.	Acded	Difm.	Exclu.	Died.	7.	
Cambridge.	Fames Glass, Comfort Curtiss, Aman Fowler, Jabez Mosher.	28	2	1	1 1	0.1	
1 Canaan.	James Pettit.			2		51	
2 Do.	{ Elisha Barnes,* { Cyprian Fitch.	4	1	2	- 1	99	
Chatham.	Job Champion.	2	3			38	
1 Cheshire.	Aaron Bowen, Daniel Chapman, jun. Stephen Brayton.	4		1		68	*
5 Do.	Brooks Mason, Joel Redway, Asa Dean.	1	18	1	33	01	
Chesterfield.	\ Afa Todd, \ Samuel Kingman.	7	3	1		97	
Chefter.	§ Jebiel Fox, Amos Agard.		3	4	1	51	
Cliftonpark,	Abijab Peck, Nathaniel Upham, Joseph Gilbert, Abel Harrington, William Groom, jun.	14			1	2 7	
Charlotte-Ville.	William Crooms, jun.	11				41	
1 Galway.		3	1			49	
2 Do.† 1 Greenfield. 2 Do.	Ephraim Smith. ———————————————————————————————————	1		1	3	26 50	
Great Barrington.† Hancock.†	Jeduthun Gray.*				1	01	
Hadley.	Stephen Call.	2		4		4 7 59	
1 Hartford,	{ Amafa Brown, Aaron Smith.						

Churches.	Mossengers.	Diag.	Navis.
2 Do.	Zachariah Sill, Sherabiah Butterfield.	2 1 1	2 (::
East Ch. Hillsdale.	{ Abel Brown,* { Edward Bagley.	4 1 1	70
West Do.		1 1	23-9
2 Do.	Afa Spencer.	11:0	83
Kingsborough.	William Throop.	1 2 1	- [-;]
Lanfingburgh.	Nathaniel Kendrick, Aaron B. Hinman, Francis Choat.	4 3	1 50
Milton.	Jonathan Nichols.*	20 7 2	113
	David Rathbun,	3 9	21
Mapletown.	Daniel Rogers.		
Northumberland.+			98
Patridgefield.	Ebenezer Swith, Matchew Smith, Walter Dean.	2 1	2 70 ·
1 Pittstown.	{ Lenael Covel, John Roufe, Wilber Sherman.	7 1	72
2 Do.†	Siephen Huni.*	1 :	47
Providence.	{ Tonathan Fin. 6, Samuel Haltred.	3	1 26
Pownal.	$\left\{ egin{array}{ll} D_{r}(r) & Stank, \ ext{Ephysion Bulimal}, \ ext{Hanc Clark}. \end{array} ight.$	1 3	12.3
Sandistield.	Jesse Hartzvell.	1 4	1149
1 Saratoga.	Joseph Crase.		
2 Do.	William Wait.	6	1 68
Savoy.	William Legerham, Loved Eddy, Zachariah Paddleford.	5 2	107

Churches.	Messengers.	Addied	Difin.	Exclu.	Died.	Numb.
Schodach.	Stephen Olmsted, William Lewis.	7	2	2	2	79
1 Shaftsbury.	Ifaiah Mattifon, Amaziah Martin, James Siye, Nathaniel Hall.					89
East Do.+						31
4 Do.	{ Caleb Blood. Elihu Crofs, Jeremiah Fifk.	17	4	4	1	S52
Stephentown and Peterfburgh.	Justus Hull, Afa Lewis, Eliphalet Niles, Paul Hymes.	1	3	1		348
Stephentown.	Edward Carr, Matthew Jones.		1			65
West Stockbridge.	{ Fairing Wilfon.	ខ	5		S	61
Troy.	{ Ifaac Webb, Phinehas Lownsbury.	84	4		_	75
Williamstown.	David Torry, Elijah Rich.		21			24

Tot. 4, 220 90, 10 25 1093

N. B. The 1st Church at Pittstown have returned but 72 members this year, on account of the long removals of many who have been heretofore included in their returns: It heir nominal number is upwards of one hundred.

The 2d Church in Orcenfield was restored to fellowship this

eession.

- 4. Corresponding Affociations.
- 1. Philadelphia—no account.
- 2. New-York--no account.
- 3. Warren-no account.
- 4. Danbury—no account.

5. Stonington—Minutes and Letter.

6. Leyden-Minutes and Letter, by their Messenger, Elder Wheeler.

7. Otfego—no account.

8. Woodstock-Letter, by their Messerger, Brother Cheat.

9. Renfielaer-Ville-Meisenger, Elder Comstalk.

10. Vermont—Minutes and Letter, by their Messengers, Elders Warren, Chamberlin and Rathburn.

11. Cayuga—Minutes, by their Meffenger, Elder Elnarkan

Finch.

Elder Clark Kendrick, from Poultney; Elder Sylvanus Haynes, from Middleton; Elder Edward Barber, from Battskil; Elder John Nichols, from Stephentown, and a number of other Brethren were prefent, who, together with the above-named Messengers, were invited to take seat with us.

5. A Letter and Minutes were received from an Affociation lately formed on the west side of Lake Champlain, called the

Effex Afficiation, requesting a correspondence with us.

Refolved, as their meeting for this year will take place to foon that we cannot fend Delegates to attend it, that the Clerk write them a friendly Letter, and that Brother Jonathan Finch bear the fame, and deliver it to their Clerk, as foon as is convenient; and that Brethren Fox, Covell and Hartzwill attend their Meeting, on the 2d Wednelday in June, 1800, for the purpose of

opening a correspondence with them.

6. By recognits received from feveral of our Churches, and by the Minutes of two meetings of a Convention, the first at Milton, the other at Galway, we learn that an Affectation has been formed, during the year past, by the name of the San toga Baptist Association; and that the Churches at Amsterdam, 1st Galway, 1st Greensield, Hadley, 1st and 2d Hartford, Kengtborough, Broadalbion, Milton, Balliton Springs, Northumberland, Providence, 2d Saratoga, have united in the said new Association.—Whereupon,

Refolved, That the names of the above-mentioned Churches be left out of our Minutes in future; and deat our Brethren, Giafs, Ologied and Complais, visit them at their Meeting, at Batikil, on the ad Wedneiday of August next, in order to appear

correspondence; with the faid Association.

7. The Circular Letter, prepared by Brother Covell, and the Corresponding Letter, prepared by Brother Lee, were read, and referred to Pastaren Illood, Hull, Wells, Resultion and Haynes, which the will any to infect and report them to-morrows.

s. The Committee charged with the Millionary fund, reported, that during the year past, they received 91 dollars and Dy cents into the Trentury; that they have expended 51 dolls. leaving a balance of an cloba, and so ets, that they have employed Elder lieschia Garton (I ree months, on a Million thro' the wellern country, as far as Long Point, in Upper Canada; that he has reported, that he found the people in general much engaged to bear provening; that in force places in the province of Upper Canada, they were formxious to hear the goipel, that they would encounter difficulties almost infurmountable, and dangers indeferioable, to get to meetings for preaching; and that there appeared a general folicitude to have as combine to foul them makance by Millionwies; that he found the Church at Charlotte-Ville in trials, but left them in more comfortable cleanning uses; that there was forme revival or religion in that piace, and fiv a perions beptized while he was there; that he alib preferred a written request from the Church and Society in that place, and another from a number of inhabitants in other parts of the province, carneitly requality us to find Millionaries to viil Comes often as pollible; and, above all, to felde a permanent Williamry in that country; manifeliag, at the fains time, their winds, help to do all in their power to help him with fuch things as they have to befrow, for the countert of his family; that he had also visited the Tulearum Indians, was cordially received by them, and found things favoure bis and orcouraging among them; and, that they had fout a Took in writing to the A lociation, expressing their thanks to God and us for fending Milliouries to vint them; and their earnest define to be farther instructed in the gospel. The above report concludes as follows: - Popologic, unanimouffer, That this Committee do cordially approve of the labours and report of our beloved Brother Gorton; and we earnefly recommend to the Affociation the propriety of making further exertions in the fame way. The feveral papers alluded to in the above report were read, which excited transports of joy and commiseration in the hearts of many who heard them; particularly that from the

poor favages.

Refolered, ununimoully, That this Affociation do cordially approve of the doings of our Committee, and the labours of our Brother Gariau, as reported; and that we will make all fuch further exertions as lie in our power to fend Missionaries into those parts, and others destitute of preaching.—Therefore,

9. Refolved, unanimously, that the fame Committee, viz. Elders Peck, Blood, Webb, Hull, Crazu and Covell; Brethren John Rouse, Nathaniel Upham, Daniel Rogers, Isaiah Hendrix, Salmon Child and Francis Choat, be our Committee to earry the same into effect.

10. Refolved, That finitable answers be prepared by Brother Webb, in the name of the Association, to all the papers aduded to in the report of our Committee; and that whoever is fent out the prefent year as Minhonary, be the bearer of the fame.

Adjourned, to meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, From G.

11. Met purfunt to adjournment.——Brother C. Kerdei ke preached a Serman from T3. 8. 13—I cotting for that Id field kote, and the Arrivas as pearing of the great God, and our Sav-

vour, Jugus Christ.

12. Appointed the following Mellingers to fifter Affociations, vir. Tod invites energies the Danhary—Hall and Olmfol to the Renfill er-Ville -Covell. Garton and Hart I. Il to the Orlego—Giaft, Mattiffin and M. Kondrick to the Vermont—Gorgen and Element to the Stockington—Govell, Barber and Through to the Cayuga—blood and Stark to the Loyden—Blood to the Warten—Grane and N. Kondrick to the Woodflock. Also, appointed Brother Wilds to forward our Minutes to the New-York and Philadelphia Affociations.

13. The Committee appointed to inspect the Circular and Corresponding Letters reported, that for certain reasons they did not think proper to publish the Circular Letter, proposed by Brother Unvell; and that having inspected and approved the one proposed by Brother Lee—do recommend the same as a suitable one to be published for a Circular and Corresponding Letter. Reference, That the same be published accordingly.

14. Appointed Elders Blood, Hull and Webb to revise our

Conftitution, and prefent it at our next meeting.

15. This Affociation having received the affecting intelligence that the house, provisions, and most of the goods of our beloved Brother in the Ministry, Elder William Throop, of Kingsborough, have recently been consumed by fire, leaving him and a family of small children in very distressing circumstances—do recommend it to all such of our brethren, whom God has blessed with a supply of this world's goods, to impart something for his relief and athstance: those on this side of the North River can fend their liberality to the care of Elder Webb, at Troy, or Brother Francis Choat, at Lansingburgh; from whence there will be a safe conveyance to him.

16. Refolved, That the next meeting of the Association be held at the Eaptist Meeting-house, in Troy, on the 1st Wednes-

day in June next, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

17. Appointed Elder Blood to preach the introductory Sermon; and, in case of his failure, Elder Hull.

18. Appointed Brother Webb to prepare a Circular, and Brother N. Kendrick a Corresponding Letter, for next year.

19. Appointed Brother Covell to superintend the printing of our Minutes.

20. Refolved, That Elders Webb, Hull and Blood, be a Committee to prefent to the Society in this place, the fincere and cordial thanks of this Affociation, for the multiplied tokens of respect, civility and hospitality received from them during our feffice.

Adjourned to the 1st Wednesday of June next, 10 A.M.

The following are the supplies appointed for destitute Churches,

1st Church	at Pittsto	own, in	Brethren.	Lord's day.	Month.
conseque	nce of Br. Co	vell's ab-	Smith,	Sd	do.
sence on	a Mission.	Į.	Hell,	4th	do.
	Lord's day.			2d	Nov.
Fineb,	lst	Sept.	N. Kendrio	k, Sd	do.
Spencer,	2d	do.	Glass,	4th	do.
Gorton,	4th	do. 🦠	Mattison,	2d	Dec.
Olmstid,	εh	do.	Grave,	3d	do.
Post,	lst	O.S. 1	Blood,	5th	do.

		Ĺ	ı		
Brethren.	Lord's day.	Month.	Erethren.	Lord's day.	Month.
Webb,	1st	Jan.	Craw,	last	Feb.
Holmes,	2d	do.	Church at	WEST-STOC	KBRIDGE.
Glass,	3d	do.	Spenser,	$3\mathbf{d}$	Dec.
Champion	4th	do.	Warren,	\mathfrak{sd}	Jan.
Stark,	l st	Гeb.	Hall,	$\operatorname{\mathfrak{S}}\mathbf{d}$	Feb.
Rathbun,	$\mathfrak{L}\mathbf{d}$	do.	å 3d Cl	hurch at CHI	ESHIRE.
N. Kendr		do.	Pdi $t,$	$^{\circ}$ 8 \mathbf{d}	July.
Blood,	4th	do.	Nichels,	$3\mathbf{d}$	Aug.
•	WILLIAMST	own.	•	n, 2d	Sept.
7. Nichol	_	Aug.	V	ch at SANDI	SFIDUD.
Pettit,	3d	Sept.	Spencer,	5th	Sept.
Spencer,	$2\mathbf{d}$	Jan.	Pettit,	1st	Oct.
Mattison	_	May.	Nichols.	$2\mathbf{d}$	do.
	ch in Savoy.		West Chu	irch at Hill	SDALE.
7. Nichol		July.	. Champion		Sept.
Smith,	last	Aug.	Throop,	4th	Jan.
Account of	Monies cont.	ributed a	t this Meet	ing of the A	Sociation,
<i>5</i>	for the En	icourager	nent of Mif	Tionaries.	-
			3 30		Dolls. Cts.
Church at	Amsterdam,	•			1 00
	d Society at I	Broadalbi	on, -		10 7
	Cambridge,	•		en 14	4 37
2d Canaan					10 00
Church at	·	•		- "	7 43
	at Cheshire,	_			2 12

Church and Society at Cliftonpark 25 00 00 1 1st Church at Galway, 00 1st Church at Greenfield, 8 25 1st Church at Hartford, 5 25 2d Church at Harriord, 3 30 East Church at Hillsdale, ()() 4 West Church at Hilledale, 13 00 Church and Society at Lausingburgh, 5 -1 Church at Mapletown, 10 O()1st Church and Society at Pittstown, 5 00Church and Society at Providence, 5 67 Church at Pownal, 00 6 1st Church at Sandisfield, 50 Church at Schodach,

91

1st Church at Shaftsbury,

4th Church at Shaftsbury,	9	96
Church at Stephentown and Petersburgh,	5	00
Church at Milton,	4	29
From several individuals,	1	<i>5</i> 0
From Deacon Child, on subscription-paper, from several in-		
dividuals,	4	75
From Elder Comstelk, by a subscription-paper, from sundry		
persons,	7	50
Total, 1	67	91

The Missionary Committee have agreed to meet, in order to attend to their business, at the house of Elder Isaac Webb, in Troy, the day before the next meeting of the Association, at one o'clock, P.M.

Circular and Corresponding Letter,

From the SHAFTSBURY Association, to the Churches which they represent, and the several Associations with whom they correspond, greeting.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

CORRESPONDENCE is one of the greatest blessings ever enjoyed by men:—For,

1st. By this mean we have intelligence from Heaven: God fent his Son into the world under the character of his word, to open a way, and establish a system of correspondence with his apostate creatures, whom he might in justice have banished from his presence forevermore. His word! The word of God! How vast and extensive the idea contained in it! It would take millions of other words to express the sense and meaning of this one. What a sullness in Christ! in his mission! in his heart and mind! in his works of righteousness and atonement! How exceedingly great are the riches of this word of GOD! this letter of intelligence from the invisible world: it is unsearchable, and past finding out. By this word the characters of God and men are portrayed—the love of God to sinners is proclaimed—

the grand fystem of GRACE is unfolded—the promises declared and confirmed—the foundation of Zion pointed out, and all the laws, rules and regulations of the church made known and enforced. In this word we have a description of the chequered scenes through which the saints have to pass in this world—of their forrows and fears—of their joys and prospects—of their constant dependence on God, till they finally gain a complete, glorious and triumphant victory over the world, the sless, the devil and death; and enter into everlasting life. Thus have we all these things, and almost every thing else which we know of God, of ourselves, of this world and the world to come—all things pertaining to the glory of GOD and our own happiness, by a correspondence from him, through Christ, the real WORD; and sketched out in the written word for our guide, for our admonition and our comfort.

2. We have a correspondence with GOD, and Christ, and the Spirit. Christ faith of the believer, "I will love him, and will manifest myself unto him-and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." And do not many parts of the scriptures, particularly the Song of Solomon, hold up to our view an agreeable and mutual correspondence between Christ and his church? Of the Spirit he faith, "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghoft, whom the Father will fend in my name;" that is, as a correspondent; "he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatfoever I have faid unto you." He it is that takes of the things of Jefus, and shews them unto us. He instructs us in the mysteries of his grace and kingdom, and leads us into all necessary truth in matters of religion. help and affiftance do we derive from his communications!— He renews our minds, fanctifies and refreshes our hearts-infpires us to preach—to pray—to exhort—to hear: he qualifies us for the performance of every religious duty, and the reception of every divine bleffing. What a view had Jacob, in a dream in the wilderness, of the correspondence between God and men, by the figure of a ladder, which reached from earth to heaven!

3. We have correspondence with God, by the ministry of angels. They are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation:"—

"He bids his angels pitch their tents
"Round where his children dwell:
"What ills their heavenly care prevents,
"No earthly tongue can tell."

Jacob had a view of this also, in his dream of the ladder: he saw the angels of God ascending and descending upon it.

- 4. We have a correspondence from God in the events of his providence—"I will be with thee in fix troubles, and in feven * I will not forfake thee: All things fliall work together for good to them who love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Let no man glory in men, for all things are yours: whether Paul, or Apollos, or the world, or life, or death, or things prefent, or things to come; all are yours:" all turned to your advantage: all letters of encouragement and correfpondence from your divine Master. Let us advert, for a moment, to the manifestations of God in this way to his people of old, on their journey from Egypt to Canaan; and to the true church, on her journey through this world, in every age and nation. What a remarkable inflance of it have we in the fhinwreck of the apostle Paul, and of others described and predicted in the facred volume, particularly in the Revelation, which we have not room to enumerate in particular.
- 5. The faints have a correspondence with God, in the exercises of their hearts—their ejaculations—their vocal prayers, praises and thanksgivings—their reading, hearing and meditations—in public devotions—in an external profession—in general obedience to his laws—in conformity to his spirit—and in submission to his providence—the sum of all which is compressible in the compression of the com

hended in these remarkable words—The just shall live by faith. "The life which I live in the sless I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

- 6. The faints have a correspondence or fellowship with each other, in their experiences and views of things—in the word and spirit—in their focial worship—in their church relation—in visiting and conversation—by books—by preaching—by letters—by representatives—and in various other methods. Thus individuals, and churches, and associations, correspond with each other.
- 7. What a marvellous and most astonishing affair is this!— How important, beyond all calculation, are the advantages of it!. By it heaven and earth are brought near together: God and .men become acquainted and familiar with each other: People in different parts of the country-in foreign countries and climes, who have never feen, and may never fee each other in this world, become free and familiar in acquaintance, and communicate . much help and affiftance to each other. Wonderful, indeed! but so it is, that people in this way can convey their advice and requests—their joys and forrows—their fears and doubts their hopes and prospects—and, in a word, their hearts and alfections to each other, for the mutual embrace, when they are thousands of miles afunder. Thus the apostles, ministers and churches of old, and ministers, churches and abociations now, become as it were one general body; and, as the feveral members, communicate support and nourishment to one another.

By this brethren become acquainted with each other's flate and condition—their adverfity and prosperity—reformations and declensions—members—places of abode and sittings; and with the cause at large. By these means we have much assistance against our inward lusts and corruptions—against errors and deceptions—to avoid the snares of the world, and the temptations of the devil; and, to bear up under all our discouragements, trials and perfecutions. In a word, it would be impossible to point out the one half of the advantages which result

from a correspondence well supported and regulated. Is it not, there is so little attention paid to it is general?

Were our brethren, our churches, and our affociations to be a little more free and familiar—to take a little more pains to vifit each other—to meet together to pray, to preach, to exhort, to converfe, and to perform the duties of religion in a focial way: were they to be at a little more pains and expence to fend their minishers, their letters, their books, and other kinds of affittance, with their faintaions and good wifnes, to their bretition among the poor heating, and in the wilderness, would it not gladden the hearts of thoulands, and bring down the bletings of God upon ourselves? Would not Zier foon asia, and appear clear as the sun, sair as the moon, and terrible as an army with banners? O what a glorious day will that be, when the sews shall come in with the fulners of the Gentiles! then religious correspondence will be general among all nations thro' every part of the earth; and between earth and heaven.

Thus, Brethren, we have once represented unto you, to let you know that we have much comfort and joy in your correspondence, and hope you have sometimes a little from our; and that by frequently declaring to each other, in this way, the things which we have seen and heard, our fellowship may be continued; and, truly, we hope our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

By order of the Affociation.

CALEB BLOOD, Moderator. LEMUEL COVELL, Clark.