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Baptists . New York . Shaftsbury Association, 1811.

Minutes of the . . . at Cheshire . . . June, 1811.

Lansingburg, Tracy & Blils [i.e., Bliss], 1811. 14 pp.

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MINUTES

OF THE

SIAFTSBURY

Baptist Association,

HELD AT

CESHIRE, (MASSACHUSETTS);

THE FIFTH AND SIXTH OF JUNE,

1811.

TOGETHER WITH THEIR

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING

LETTER.

LANSINGBURGH;

PRINTED BY TRACY & BLISS.

.....

1811.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1811.

1. **A**T 10 o'clock, A. M. Brother Charles Lahatt preached the Introductory Sermon, from Isai. ix, 6:—"The government shall be upon his shoulder."
2. A Moderator and Clerk were chosen.
3. Adjourned for one hour.
4. Met according to adjournment. After prayer, proceeded to business.
5. Letters from the following Churches were read, and the usual list taken.

N. B.—In the following List, the names of ordained Ministers are inserted in *Italics*: Those marked thus [*], were not present: From Churches marked thus [†], we received no accounts this year, and have given their numbers as they stood last year:—Churches distinguished by a [—], have no settled Ministers.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dism.</i>	<i>Excl.</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Adams,	<i>George Witherell.</i>						
	Otis Blackington, Dea.						
	Caleb Whitmore.	2	0	0	0		58
Becket,	<i>Amos Kingsley.</i>						
	Daniel Childs.	4	0	0	0		40
Berlin,	<i>Justus Hull.*</i>						
	Wells Kenyon.						
	Richard Mentor.						
	Jonathan Hakes.						
	David Torrey.	13	2	4	2		396
Chesterfield,	<i>Asa Todd.</i>						
	William Keen, Deac.						
	Dan Daniels.	2	1	0	0		196

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dism.</i>	<i>Recd.</i>	<i>Transf.</i>	<i>Total No.</i>
Cambridge,	Robert R. Bennet.	23	1	3	1	122
1st Canaan,	Jacob Ford.	1	1	0	1	45
2d Canaan,	Simon Hough. William Flint.	22	19	0	1	111
1st Cheshire,	<i>Bartimus Braman.</i> St'n Carpenter, Deac. Martin Bowen. Israel Cole.	3	3	0	0	43
2d Cheshire,	Coman, Deac. Joel Redway. William Collson.	1	5	1	2	213
Chatham,	<i>Job Champion.*</i>	3	1	0	1	36
Charlotteville, (U.C.)	<i>Titus Finch.</i>	5	6	1	1	54
Cliftonpark,	<i>Abijah Peck.</i> <i>Jacob St. John.</i> William Groom, jun. Abel Herrington.	32	0	4	0	301
Clinton, (U. Ca.)		5	0	1	1	26
Egremont, ¶	<i>John Nichols.</i> <i>Daniel Sherwood.</i>	2	3	0	1	106
East-Hillsdale,	<i>Abel Brown.*</i> Silas Evans. Edward Bagley.	3	0	1	1	117
West-Hillsdale,	Samuel West, Deac.	2	0	0	0	48
Lansingburgh,	A. B. Hinman, Deac.	3	5	1	2	35
Hoosick, ¶	<i>James Glass.*</i> Nathaniel Otis.	88	1	0	0	141
Nassau,	<i>Ephraim Harris.</i> Abel Hodges. Peter Brown. Jonathan Knapp.	5	1	1	0	89

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dism.</i>	<i>Recl.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total No.</i>
Hinsdale,	{ <i>Ebenezer Smith.</i> <i>Abraham Jackson.</i>	10	0	0	1	121
Pittstown,	<i>Charles Lahatt.</i>	0	0	0	0	56
Pittsfield,	{ <i>John Francis, jun.</i> <i>Daniel H. Francis.</i> <i>Samuel Root.</i>	4	0	0	0	44
1st Pownal,	{ <i>David Hulbert.</i> <i>Benjamin Gardner.</i> <i>Isaac Clark.</i> <i>Abiathur Buck.</i>	1	2	6	0	192
Schodack,	<i>Stephen Olmstead.</i>	0	0	1	0	68
Stephentown,†	—————	0	0	0	0	52
1st Shaftsbury,	{ <i>Isaiah Mattison.*</i> <i>Enoch Daniels.</i>	33	0	0	0	130
4th Shaftsbury,	{ ————— <i>Isaiah Hendrix.</i> <i>Oliver Whipple.</i> <i>Ebenezer Clark.</i> <i>Daniel Tinkham.</i>	81	8	2	3	375
Savoy,	{ <i>Philip Pearce.</i> <i>William Ingraham.</i> <i>Jabez Briggs.</i>	0	0	0	0	59
Sandisfield,	<i>Jesse Hartwell.</i>	3	1	1	2	124
Stanford,	{ <i>Paul Himes.</i> <i>George Sampson.</i> <i>Matthew Baker.</i>	17	0	0	0	52
W. Stockbridge,	{ ————— <i>Fairing Wilson.</i>	3	0	1	0	72
Troy,	{ <i>Isaac Webb.*</i> <i>Silas Covell.</i> <i>John Leonard.</i> <i>Edward Tylee.</i>	4	3	0	3	77
Townsend,† (U. C.)	—————	0	0	0	0	56
Albany,	{ <i>Francis Wayland.</i> <i>Friend Humphrey.</i>	0	0	0	0	67
Oxford, (U. Ca.)	<i>a letter of request.</i>	0	0	0	0	22
<i>Total,</i>		375	63	28	32	3724

The two last mentioned Churches were received at this session.

☞ The two Churches marked thus [¶], have altered their respective names since last year—from *Great-Barrington* to *Egremont*, and from *Mapletown* to *Hoosick*.

6. The Circular and Corresponding Letters having failed, Brethren Todd, Morse and Babcock, were appointed to prepare a general Circular and Corresponding Letter.

7. Messengers and visiting Brethren from sister Associations were invited to take a seat with us.

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

8. Brother Francis Wayland preached at 6 o'clock, from Phil. iv. 13.—“*I can do all things through Christ strengthening me.*”

THURSDAY, June 6, 7 o'clock.

Met according to adjournment, and after Prayer, proceeded to business.

9. From Corresponding Associations, received—

1. Philadelphia—No account.
2. New-York—No account.
3. Warren—No account.
4. Otsego—Letter and Minutes.
5. Leyden—No account.
6. Rensselaerville—Letter and Minutes, by their Messenger, Benedict Arnold.
7. Cayuga—Letter and Minutes for two years, by their Messenger, Ebenezer Smith.
8. Stonington—No account.
9. Vermont—Letter and Minutes, by their Messenger, William Herrington.
10. Woodstock—Letter and Minutes, by their Messenger, Aaron Leland.
11. Danbury—Letter and Minutes, by their Messengers, Rufus Babcock and Asahel Morse.
12. Essex—Letter and Minutes, by their Messenger, Daniel Hascall.
13. Saratoga—Letter and Minutes, by their Messenger, Samuel Rogers.
14. Sturbridge—No account.

10. The following Report was made by the Missionary Committee :—

“ Your Committee, charged with Missionary Affairs, appointed to co-operate with the New-York Baptist Missionary Society, beg leave to report :—That the monies received by donations from the several churches, individuals, and collections, at the close of the last session, amounted to \$81.99 :—That the sums raised by the several districts composing the New-York Baptist Missionary Society, amounted to 90.19 :—Likewise, the balance of 1810; from the churches at Pittstown and Shaftsbury, and the returns of Brother Finch, 83.89 :—The whole amounting to \$256.07.

“ That we have employed Brother George Witherell, as a Missionary to the destitute settlements in the western parts of the state of New-York, and the province of Upper-Canada, for the term of three months; for which we have paid him sixty dollars :—That we have likewise employed Brother Daniel Hascall, to travel and preach on the same rout with Brother Witherell, for three months; for which we have paid him sixty dollars :—That we have paid Brother Ebenezer Smith twenty dollars, to bear his expences on a preaching tour to the westward :—Also, that we have employed Brother Cyrus Andrews on a mission into the north part of the state of New-York, for the space of two months, for which we have paid him forty dollars; amounting in the whole to \$180; leaving a balance in the Treasury, of \$76.07.

“ That Brethren Witherell, Hascall and Andrews, the above named Missionaries, made an acceptable report of their Missions to your Committee and the Missionary Society, of the kind reception they received, together with the great want of missionary labors in those places where they travelled.

“ *By order of the Committee,*

“ EDWARD TYLEE, *Chairman.*

“ WILLIAM GROOM, *Jun. Clerk for the Day.*”

11. Voted, that the above report is satisfactory to this Association.

12. Brethren Peck, Ford and Himes, were appointed a Missionary Committee for this year, to co-operate with the New-York Baptist Missionary Society.

13. Voted to appoint a Committee of five, to meet with a Convention of Churches in August next, at Westfield, Massachusetts, for the purpose of forming a new Association, and to grant the request of those churches belonging to our body to form with them. Appointed Brethren Hull, Lahatt, Witherell, Francis and Mattison, to be said Committee.

14. Appointed Brethren Lahatt and Wayland to be our Messengers to the New-York Association, at their next session—Covel, to Warren—Olmstead, to Otsego—Smith and Witherell, to Leyden—Peck and Wayland, to Rensselaerville—Lahatt and Hartwell, to Danbury—Newton and Jackson, to Stonington—Mattison, Groom and Otis, to Vermont—Olmstead, Tinkham, Withereli and Himes, to Woodstock—Whelpley, to Cayuga—Andrews and Hulbert, to Essex—Peck and Himes, to Saratoga—Todd and Jackson, to Sturbridge.

15. The Circular and Corresponding Letter being presented by Brother Morse, it was read and adopted.

16. In consequence of a proposition made by Elder Herrington, from the Vermont Association, to furnish any number of the Baptist Missionary Magazine, which is printed by them quarterly, a Committee of three Brethren were appointed, Coman, Wayland and Todd, to consider this subject, and report thereon this afternoon.

17.- Brother Lahatt was appointed to write our Circular and Corresponding Letter, for next year.

18. Voted, that the Association hold their next meeting in the Baptist Meeting-House in West-Stockbridge, the first Wednesday in June, 1812.

19. Voted, That Brother Isaiah Mattison preach the introductory Sermon at our next Association; and in case of his failure, Brother George Witherell.

Adjourned till half past 2 o'clock.

Brother Aaron Leland preached from: Psalm lxxx, 14:—
“Return, we beseech thee, O God of Hosts: Look down from Heaven, and behold, and visit this vine.”

Half past 2 o'clock.

Met according to adjournment, in a convenient room,

Brother Rogers preaching in the meeting-house at the same time.

20. The Committee appointed relative to the Vermont Magazine, reported—That the Brethren of Vermont propose to furnish any number of copies at the neat cost; the profits of which might be appropriated to missionary purposes; therefore, in their opinion, they recommend that the Association join with the Missionary Society in appropriating a certain sum from the Missionary Fund, for a definite number of copies, and recommend it to the Elders and Churches to give all the aid in their power.

21. Voted, on positive evidence, that the Churches of our order be cautioned against countenancing *William Thomas*, and *John Williams*, who have both been excluded from our fellowship for immoral conduct; the former for intemperance and prevarication of the truth; the latter for adultery, and other immoral practices. Also, against one *John W. Carey*, who says that he is from North-Carolina. He has been guilty of a variety of immoral conduct since he has been in these parts; we consider him as an impostor, and request our sister Associations throughout the United States to publish his character, as he appears to take an extensive range of travelling.

22. Brother Lahatt is appointed to superintend the printing of the Minutes.

23. Brother Warren was appointed to express our thanks to the Church and Congregation in this place, for their liberal and friendly attention to this Association, during the session.

The Missionary Society is to meet at the house of Ezra Hubbell, in West-Stockbridge, the day before the meeting of the next Association, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

For general information it is to be noted, that for some years past, there have existed two Missionary Societies, by the same name, of our order, in the state of New-York.—The Missionary Society connected with the Shaftsbury Association have therefore resolved to be known hereafter by the name of *The New-York Northern Baptist Missionary Society.*

An account of monies contributed at this Association, to the Missionary Fund.

Received—	D. C.		D. C.
From a friend,	1 00	District of W. Hillsdale,	20 00
Brother Jacob Ford,	2 00	District of Schodack,	3 00
Brother Aaron Hynes,	1 00	Church & Society in Ad- } ams, by Br. Witherell, }	5 32
A few Br'n of Cambridge,	1 57	Dist. Church and Socie- } ty in Cliftonpark, }	53 26
Two other Brethren,	1 00	Church in Chatham,	4 98
Dn. S. Carpenter, Cheshire,	4 40	Dist. & Ch. in E. Hillsdale,	11 00
Br. Moses Willard,	00 50	Dist. & Church at Hoosick,	4 94
The contribution at the } close of the Associ- } ation,	28 85	Ch. and Society at Pownal,	3 00
By three friends,	1 17	Church in Pittsfield,	5 25
By two female friends,	00 45	1 Church in Cheshire,	7 25
Received from the Fe- } male Mite Society, in } Shaftsbury, by Br. I- } saiah Hendrix,	16 45	Church in Savoy,	2 05
District of Troy,	16 62	4 Church, Dist. and So- } ciety in Cheshire, }	15 30
District of Lansingburgh,	10 21	Ch. & Society in Pittstown,	5 52
		<i>Total,</i>	<u>\$226 09</u>

LETTER *from the* SHAFTSBURY FEMALE MITE SOCIETY.

*The SHAFTSBURY FEMALE MITE SOCIETY, to the Trustees
of the NEW-YORK BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY; to-
gether with the Committee of the SHAFTSBURY ASSOCIA-
TION; sendeth CHRISTIAN SALUTATION.*

IMPRESSED, as we trust, with a sense of Divine Goodness, in that we enjoy the inestimable blessing of a preached gospel; and considering the deplorable state of the destitute; and feeling encouraged to hope, that the time is fast approaching, when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters do the sea; and knowing that faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God; and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent? and who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? and viewing it both our privilege and duty, to assist in the promotion of so glorious a cause; we have joined in society to the number of about forty females; and have been casting in our mites, a few months past, which amounts to sixteen dollars and forty-five cents; and now send it to you by the hand of our brother ISAIAH HENDRIX, whom we have appointed our Trustee for the present year; and wish it to be applied to missionary purposes, according to your discretion.

Done in behalf of the Society,

MARY CLARK, *President.*

Shaftsbury, May 30, 1811.

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Elders and Messengers of the SHAFTSBURY ASSOCIATION, to the Churches we represent ; and to the sister ASSOCIATIONS with whom we correspond ; wishing GRACE MERCY and PEACE, to be multiplied among you, and the whole ISRAEL of GOD.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

TRIBULATION is a part of the legacy, which the *Shepherd of Israel* hath bequeathed to his church in its *militant state*. We are in a *state* between the glorious light of heaven, and the darkness and reigning power of sin.—“We know in part ; we see through a *glass* darkly.” We find, by daily experience, we are *where* God hath said he hath *chosen Zion* ;—“in the furnace of affliction.” *He* who spake as man never did, said, “In this world ye *shall have tribulation*.” Though affliction and sorrow attend us here, we have divine assurance that the triune graces, *Faith, Hope and Charity*, abide with the Christian ; to which our experiences testify. And if we are saints of God, our salvation is made sure by *oaths, by promises, and blood*.

By evangelical *faith*, we understand, the exercise of that *principle* of eternal *life* which is implanted in the soul in regeneration ; which is defined by inspiration—Hebrews xi, 1.—“The substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen.” It is impossible for a *sentence* to be more concise, or words to be more expressive. If the mourning penitent hopes to be delivered from indwelling sin, from all evil propensity, and to be freed from every evil which attends this *trial state* ; if he hopes to be holy in the presence of God and the Lamb ; to join the cherubic choir

in a general concert of praise ; if he hopes for the *enjoyment* of the *divine perfections*, which his understanding, fully enlightened by the Holy Spirit, can discern ; *which* his *will*, perfectly rectified by sovereign grace, would choose, and *in which* all heavenly affections will centre ; *he* will be able in a good degree to understand the Apostle, and to ascertain what faith is ; that it is the dawn of Heaven, the expanding *blossom* of eternal glory, which will hereafter be swallowed in the celestial fruit. The *object* of this *faith*, is *Christ*, in his offices and graces. The *effect* of it, communion and peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, brokenness of heart and contrition of spirit, a firm reliance upon the divine promises, an attachment to the cross of Christ, and a humble trust in his mercy. The *end* of it, the eternal salvation of the soul. If we possess this faith, it may, and will *be* tried, but cannot be destroyed.

By *hope*, we understand that joyful blessing which is the exercise of the *spirit of adoption*, and *which* is an earnest of an eternal inheritance ; an anchor to the soul, which entereth into that which is within the veil. *Hope*, which originates from an application of atoning blood to the soul, reaches to the mercy seat, in the holiest of holies ; and though it may be *shaken*, cannot be broken. It is *peace* amidst inward affliction, and *joy* among surrounding sorrows. It supports us in adversity, and makes us humble in prosperity. It is a consolation in life, and in death will be swallowed in the enjoyment of God.

The *grace of charity*, is the love of God shed abroad in the heart. It is the *foundation* and *top-stone* of the *work* of grace. It is the governing principle of the Christian in time, and will be the element in which his mental powers will expand in the endless rounds of eternity. It unites kindred spirits together, and brings them to drink in *one* spirit. It disposes us to be of the same mind in sympathy and heavenly affection—“ so that neither rising hills, spreading plains, nor rolling oceans, can prevent us from weeping with those that weep, and rejoicing with those who rejoice :” And *is*, therefore, *the greatest of the three*.

Evangelical exercises, are all links of one chain ; and if

they *be* and abound in us, we are assured *they will make us*, "that we be neither barren nor unfruitful."

Brethren, it is a day, in which *God*, in a very particular manner, is accomplishing the predictions of his word. Many of the powers of the earth tremble to their centre; and nations are dashing, one against another, as potter's vessels. Many of our churches are deeply afflicted, and much shaken. Notwithstanding the perilous state of nations, and the trials of the church, we have much reason to rejoice. The gospel ensign is lifting up, and our Emanuel is extending the conquests of his grace. May the exertions of our brethren, who, like *Paul*, have had perils by water and among the heathen; who have encountered the dangers of the seas, and endured the fatigues of a missionary life, to spread the gospel in the regions of the east, where superstition has long held her dismal reign, and in the infant settlements of America, where souls are perishing for lack of vision, *stimulate* us to similar exertions—to use the means in our power to promote the same glorious design.

The discovery of the *magnet* and the *art of navigation* have been a *mean*, not only of enriching the commercial world, but of spreading the gospel of Christ.

He on whose shoulder the government of the church and world rest, is causing the events of the latter to subserve the interest of the former.

May the same glorious *Being* give us hearts to say—"thy kingdom come;" and dispose us to act correspondent with that solemn petition.

Our present interview has been pleasing, and we hope it may be profitable.

It is with pleasure we receive your Minutes, Letters and Messengers, and will endeavor to make like returns.

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.

OBED WARREN, *Moderator.*

CHARLES LAHATT, *Clerk.*