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Minutes of the ... Held at West-Stockbridge,  
( Mass. ) the Third and Fourth of June, 1812.  
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# MINUTES

OF THE

*SHAFTSBURY*

*Baptist Association,*

HELD AT

WEST-STOCKBRIDGE, (Mass.)

*THE THIRD AND FOURTH OF JUNE,*

1812.



TOGETHER WITH THEIR

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING  
LETTER.

---

ALBANY:

G. R. VAN BENTHUYSEN, PRINTER...COURT-STREET.

1812.

# MINUTES, &c.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1812.

1. **A**T 10 o'clock, A. M. Brother Isaiah Mattison preached the Introductory Sermon, from Prov. xi. 30. "He that wineth souls is wise."

2. A Moderator and Clerk 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 *Italic characters*: Those marked thus (\*) were not present: From Churches marked thus (†) we have received no account this year, and have given their numbers as they stood when last represented: Churches distinguished thus (—) have no settled Ministers.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dism.</i>	<i>Excl.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Nb.</i>
Adams,	<i>George Witherell.</i>	2	1	2	0	57
Albany,	{ <i>Isaac Webb.*</i>	11	1	3	1	72
	{ <i>Ephraim Howard.</i>					
	{ <i>Isaac G. Hutton.</i>					
Berlin,	{ <i>Justus Hull.*</i>	225	8	2	1	611
	{ <i>Alderman Baker.</i>					
	{ <i>Benjamin Ovet.</i>					
Cambridge,	{ <i>Cuff Spencer.</i>	14	7	3	2	112
	{ <i>Obed Warren.</i>					
	{ <i>Leonard G. Center.</i>					

Churches.	Messengers.	Added.	Mism.	Excl.	Died.	Whole No.
1 Canaan,	{ John Gott, Deac. Silas Spalding. Jacob Ford.	2	5	1	1	4
2 Canaan,	{ Samuel A. Curtis. James Hall. William Flint.	4	0	0	0	113
1 Cheshire,†	<i>Bartemus Braman.*</i>	0	0	0	0	43
2 Cheshire,†	_____	0	0	0	0	213
Chatham,	{ <i>Job Champion.</i> Jonathan Peck.	0	0	0	0	36
Charlotteville,†	Titus Finch.*	0	0	0	0	54
Cliftonpark,	{ <i>Abijah Peck.</i> Wm. Groom, jun. Abel Harrington. Hubbard Burdick.	0	3	1	4	293
Clinton, (U. C.)	{ _____ Letter.	0	0	0	0	34
Egremont,	{ <i>Daniel Sherwood.</i> Daniel Loomis.	2	6	0		103
East-Hillsdale,	{ <i>Abel Brown.</i> Oliver Teall. Edward Bayley.	2	0	2		116
West-Hillsdale,	{ _____ Richard Kinyon.	0	0	0	0	47
Lansingburgh,	{ _____ Aaron B. Hinman.	4	0	2	1	36
Hoosick,†	_____	0	0	0	0	141
Nassau,	{ <i>Ephraim Harris.</i> Peter Brown. Joseph Pitts.	3	0	0	1	97
Pittstown,†	<i>Charles Lahatt.*</i>	0	0	0	0	5
Pittsfield,	{ <i>John Francis, Jun.</i> Joal Redway. Samuel Root, Dea.	10	0	1	0	5
1 Pownal,	{ <i>David Hulbert.*</i> Letter.	1	0	6	4	10

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dism.</i>	<i>Excl.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Whole No.</i>
Schodack,	<i>Stephen Olmsted.</i>	10	3	2	1	72
1 Stephentown,	{ <i>Julius Bzeman.*</i>	9	1	1	3	58
	{ <i>Ephraim Peince.</i>					
1 Shaftsbury,	<i>Isaiah Mattison.</i>	6	0	0	0	136
4 Shaftsbury,	{ _____	23	3	3	3	389
	{ <i>Ebenezar Clark.</i>					
	{ <i>Daniel Tinkham.</i>					
Savoy,	{ <i>Phillip Pearce.*</i>	4	0	0	0	43
	{ <i>Wm. Ingraham,</i>					
Stanford,	{ <i>Paul Himes.*</i>	54	9	0	1	95
	{ <i>Letter.</i>					
West-Stock- bridge,	{ _____	0	2	5	2	63
	{ <i>Fairring Wilson.</i>					
	{ <i>Thomas Whelpley.</i>					
	{ <i>Asa Smith.</i>					
Troy,	{ <i>Francis Wayland.</i>	2	3	3	1	86
	{ <i>Daniel Johnson.</i>					
Townsend,†(v. c.)	<i>Fairchild.*</i>	0	0	0	0	56
Sandisfield,	{ <i>Jesse Hartwel.</i>	4	0	1	2	129
	{ <i>Ezekiel Fargo.</i>					
Oxford,†(v. c.)	_____	0	0	0	0	22
<i>22. Mar</i> <i>22. Mar</i>	<i>Total,</i>	392	52	38	30	3567

N. B. The Churches, in Becket, Chesterfield and Hinsdale, have joined the Westfield association, therefore, are dismissed from us.

We announce to the churches, the death of the **Rev. James Glass**, of Hoosick.

He was a pious, faithful, and an Evangelical Minister of the gospel. Much beloved and respected by his friends and acquaintance. Removed from the church militant, in the midst of his usefulness, (we trust,) to join the church triumphant; to receive the happy plaudit, "enter into the joys of thy Lord." The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance."

6. There being two letters, from the 2d church in Cheshire, presented to the association, (there evidently appearing to be some difficulties existing among them,) the association appointed the following brethren, a committee to look into their circumstances and make report at the next session of the association; viz. Elders Warren, Lahatt, Peck, Olmsted, Hanis, Morse, Champion, Kingley, Wayland, and Brown, brethren Hinman, Harrington, Hendrix, Clarke and Brown.

The committee to meet the 1st Wednesday in July, at the Meeting-house belonging to the 2d church in Cheshire, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

7. Voted, that the brethren of the former council should be requested to attend, to give information on the business. Brother Warren to write them a friendly letter in behalf of the association.

8. The circular and corresponding letter was read and referred to be examined by the following brethren a committee, viz. Wayland, Morse and Witherell.

9. Messengers and visiting brethren from sister associations, were invited to take a seat with us.

10. Received from corresponding associations, as follows:—

1. Philadelphia—no account the year past, but received a letter, and minutes of 1810.
2. New-York—no account.
3. Warren—letter and minutes.
4. Otsego—no account.
5. Leyden—letter and minutes.
6. Rensselaerville.—no account.
7. Cayuga—no account.
8. Stonington—letter and minutes.
9. Vermont—letter and minutes, by their messengers, Cyrus Andrews and Obed Warren.
10. Woodstock—no account
11. Danbury—letter and minutes, by their messenger, Asahel Morse.

12. Essex—letter and minutes, by their messenger, Daniel Hascall.

13. Saratoga—letter and minutes.

14. Sturbridge—no account. Br. Spencer Alden, a member of the Sturbridge association, invited to a seat with us.

Preaching in the Baptist Meeting-house at 5 o'clock, afternoon, by brother Hascall, while the association was attending to their business, in the congregational Meeting-house.

11. Appointed the following brethren to corresponding associations, viz.

Lahatt, Wm. Groom, jr. Hubbard Burdick and Isaac G. Hutton, to New-York.

Covel and Jenks, to Warren.

Witherell and Mattison, to Leyden.

Hartwell and Peck, to Rensselaerville.

Warren, Tinkham and Burdick, to Vermont.

Spalding and Tinkham, to Woodstock.

Lahat and Mattison, to Danbury.

Wayland, Witherell, Mattison and Tinkham, to Westfield.

Witherell, Olmstead and Joel Readway, to Saratoga.

12. Adjourned till to-morrow morning 8 o'clock A. M. Brother Olmstead prayed.

Thursday, June 4th, at 8 o'clock, A. M. Met according to adjournment—after prayer, proceeded to business.

13. The circular and corresponding letter, as corrected by the committee, was read the second time and adopted.

14. The following report was made by the Missionary committee:

“Your committee, charged with missionary affairs, appointed to co-operate with the New-York Northern Baptist Missionary Society, beg leave to report: That the monies received from the several districts, churches, societies and individuals, amount to the sum of \$226 51—

The balance in the treasury of 1811—\$76 7. The whole amounting to \$302 58.

“ That we have employed brother Daniel Hascall, as a missionary, to travel and preach in the destitute places of the northern parts of the state of New-York, for the term of two months, for which we have paid him \$40 00.—That we have likewise employed brother Cyrus Andrews on a mission, to travel and preach in the western parts of the state of New-York and the province of Upper Canada, for the term of six months, for which we have paid him \$120 00—Amounting in the whole to \$160 00.—Leaving a balance in the treasury of \$142 58: The brethren Hascall and Andrews, the above named missionaries, made quite an acceptable report of their mission to your committee and the missionary society, of the reception they received, together with the great want of missionary labors in some of those places where they travelled; heard many Macdonian cries ‘ come over and help us.’”

By order of society and committee,

FRANCIS WAYLAND, *Chairman,*

WM. GROOM, Jr. *Clerk.*

15. Voted that the above report is satisfactory to the association.

16. Brethren Warren, Peck and Mattison, were appointed a missionary committee for this year, to co-operate with the New-York Northern Baptist Missionary Society.

17. Brother Lahatt, having \$6 00 left in his hands plus, over printing last years' minutes; voted, that he should retain it as a compensation for his trouble.

18. Voted that our next meeting of the association be held at the Union Meeting-house, in Nassau, the Wednesday in June, 1813.

19. Appointed brother Obed Warren to preach the introductory sermon, at our next association; and in case of failure brother Isaac Webb.



20. Appointed brother Wm. Groom, jr. to superintend printing the minutes.

21. Brother Warren was appointed, to express our thanks to the church and congregation in this place, for their friendly and kind attention to the association, during the session.

22. Adjourned to the close of public worship. Brother Morse preached at 10 o'clock, A. M. from I. Kings, vi, 7, "And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither : so that there was neither hammer nor axe, nor any tool of iron, heard in the house while it was building."

23. After public worship, proceeded to business. Voted to open a correspondence with the Westfield association, and appointed the following brethren, viz. Witherell, Olmsted and Joel Redway, our messengers.

24. Appointed the following brethren, viz. Champion, Olmsted, Peck, Warren, Harris, Witherell, Wayland, Mattison and Morse, a committee to look into some matters of difficulty in the church at West Stockbridge, and make report at our next session.

25. At 2 o'clock the association finished their business. The moderator addressed the association and assembly in a very solemn and impressive manner, and closed by imploring the divine benediction on the association, and all the churches, and on the world of mankind.

The missionary society is to meet at the house of Captain Samuel E. Gibbs, in Nassau, the day before the meeting of the next session of the association, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

After a short intermission, brother Niles addressed the assembly in a very solemn and impressive manner. This session has been particularly agreeable. Several things contributed to render it so ; the union and friendship which reigned among us ; a quick dispatch of business ; the solemn and evangelical preaching ; with a sense of the divine presence with us, made it a season, (we trust,) long to be remembered.

## Supplies for the church in Lansingburgh.

Brother Witherell,	3d	Sabbath in August.
Spalding	5th	do. in August.
Wayland	3d	do. in July.
Brown	3d	do. in October.

An account of monies contributed at this association, to the missionary fund.

District, church and society in Troy,		\$16	25
do. do and do. Cleftonpark,		38	10
do. do and do. Lansingburgh,		7	89
Female Mite society, in Shaftsbury,		20	00
Nathan Bliss, Captain Richerson,		2	00
From the church in Chatham,		5	00
District, church and society, of			
East Hillsdale,		8	00
West Hillsdale, district and society,		15	00
Pittsfield, do. do.		4	45
1 Shaftsbury, do. do.		4	50
4 Shaftsbury, do. do.		11	00
Savoy, do. do.		2	25
Albany, Church,		7	85
Schodack, do. do.		4	00
Mr. Morse,		1	00
Thomas Whelpley,		1	00
Pittstown Church,		3	85
Dea. Curtis		2	00
Contribution at the close of the association,		13	97
Contributed to brother Cyrus Andrews for the society,		15	00

Total,

\$ 182 51

N. B. The 4th church and society in Shaftsbury, hereby informed, that their money was received into the treasury; but a mistake was made in the minutes; that church called the 4th in Cheshire.

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# CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTER.

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*The Elders and Messengers of the SHAFTSBURY ASSOCIATION, assembled at West Stockbridge the 3d and 4th days of June, 1812. To the several Churches whom we respect, and associations with whom we correspond; SENDETH CHRISTIAN SALUTATION.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

Through the covenant mercy and goodness of our God upon us, we have been favored with another anniversary meeting, which brings us nearer our eternal home. We again feel disposed to make our customary address to you in sincerity and christian friendship, hoping that the great Shepherd of souls may deign to crown our feeble efforts with his blessing.

We live in a day of great and awful judgments: by the great events which are occurring, it rather appears, that the "Lord God has come out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity." According to Isaiah, xxvi. 2. And it surely becomes us as christians, under such circumstances, to be discerning of the times, acknowledging and cheerfully submitting to the justice and sovereignty of his hand, and to rejoice with trembling, that the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The people of God constitute a part of nations, and, as men of infirmity, participate in, and contribute more or less to national sins, and consequently are, in their degree involved in national punishments. How far, and in how many instances, we (as professors of the pure and holy religion of Je-

sus) are guilty in this respect, is our solemn duty to inquire. The holy scriptures exhibit many threatenings, and inflictions of punishment, by the hand of God, on his professing people, for their neglect and violation of truth. The declension of truth and gospel order, with many is greatly to be lamented; and without doubt is now, as formerly, one of the procuring causes of the Divine judgments on our land, as well as on other nations. We are, therefore, loudly called upon by his word, and Providencies to awake out of sleep, and return and repent, holding fast that which we have, that no man take our crown. Under a humbling sense of our sins, our encouragement is great in the precious promises of the Gospel, for regaining what we have lost in truth and righteousness, "if we confess our sins; God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."—Our God is a God of truth; as a Saviour he is truth: the Holy-ghost is truth. This triune God has given us his word for the rule of our faith and practice. This God is the searcher of our hearts; and is jealous for his truth with a holy jealousy. Brethren, we profess to believe this truth; let us see that our love for it be not divided; but zealously maintain the principles, experience and practice of it. It may be asked, why the judgments of God are abroad in the earth; and in a great degree threaten our nation for her ingratitude and other sins? The answer is prepared for us, none (or at least, few) plead for truth, Isaiah lix. 4, and truth is fallen in the streets, verse 15. That this is so with many teachers and churches of our day, is for a lamentation, and shall be for a lamentation. Some publicly profess and subscribe to the fundamental faith of the Gospel; and at the same time deny and persecute that which they have professed.

To have a reserve in this matter, or to prevaricate, is ungrateful and criminal; let us who are of the day be sober and watchful, that whenever the Master of the House shall come unawares, we may not be found wanting.—God's eyes are upon the truth; Jeremiah, v, 3. No

doubt for his honor and glory, we love association and correspondence in the truth; in any other way it would be unedifying. Dear brethren, we desire at present affectionately to call your attention to a few important particulars; and put your pure minds in remembrance, although you know them, being induced thereto by observing the potent and inveterate attack Satan and Antichrist are making against the truths of the gospel. We profess to believe and maintain, that there is one true God, the Father, Son, and Holy ghost, maker of heaven and earth; that this God has graciously revealed his covenant to fallen man, by oath and promise; that the son assumed human nature—and hence is both God and man in one person; and as such is the mediator between God and man.

That Jesus undertook to redeem his people from iniquity; by making a full atonement for their sins on the cross. That he died, was buried, and rose again the third day; and ascended into heaven. That he shall come again to judge the quick and the dead. That the righteousness of Christ is that by which sinners are justified in the sight of God. That God chose his people in Christ from everlasting, to give them grace and holiness here, and eternal life hereafter. That they are saved from the curse of the law, a guilty conscience, and the love of sin, by application of the blood of Christ in regeneration and renewing of the Holy ghost; and that this is effected by the sovereign power of God, while yet in their sins; Eph. ii. 1. Acts ix. &c. and not on account of their walk or deserving, either before or after regeneration, but only through the mercy of God for Christ's sake; and that the whole world lieth in wickedness. Further it is a truth that the kingdom of Christ under the gospel, is a spiritual kingdom, and not to be modelled in its visible capacity by man's devices; but to be built up according to the gospel pattern, under the immediate laws of Zion's King. That all believers who bring forth fruit meet for repent-

ance, and who for themselves submit to the important duty of baptism, according to the direction in Mat. xxviii. 19; Mark xvi. 16; and understandingly unite in Church fellowship; acknowledging one Lord and one faith, keeping the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace; and are alone entitled to participate in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, as a grateful memorial of his death; and waiting for their Lord as a bride waiteth for her husband. We believe that God has always owned these truths whenever he has had a people to call on to sustain, and that his faithfulness will never fail to his chosen. The effects and advantages of simple unadulterated truth are great and many, both to the world and to the Church "he that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness; Prov. xii. 17, for the fruit of the spirit is in all goodness, righteousness and truth; proving what is acceptable to the Lord:" Eph. v. 9, 10. "Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that is may be displayed because of the truth;" Psal. lx. 4. Truth is attended with peace, Jer. xxxiii. 6, Isa. xxxix. 8, "truth is light; John vi. 3, and 18, 37. Truth is a defence. Thy truth shall be my shield and buckler; Psal. xci. 4, John xvii. 19, having our loins girt about with truth, Eph. vi, 14. Truth brings and maintains liberty. The truth shall make you free John, viii. 32. Truth is peace: by mercy and truth iniquity is purged; Prov. xvi. 6. Sanctify them through truth: thy word is truth, John xvii. 17, 19. Finally truth giveth admittance into glory, Isa. xxvi. 2. If these are the blessed principles and effects of truth, brethren let us be valiant for the truth; and fight the good fight of faith, laying hold on eternal life, willing to sacrifice below for Christ and the truth's sake; thus "buy the truth and sell it not," was the solemn advice of the wise King of Israel. Earthly ease, wealth and applause are but dross when compared to this invaluable treasure. In holding forth the truth, and trusting God for the event we shall promote his glory, although we may suffer much. The time would fail us to say all we wish to say. Fin

ly, let us remember what our Lord saith, whosoever shall be ashamed of me, and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in the glory of his Father, and of the holy angels, Luke ix. 26 ; Mark viii. 38. The God of truth be with you. Fare ye well.

OBED WARREN, Moderator.

WM. GROOM, jr. Clerk.

ERATA.—Page 7, line 21, read Wayland, Witherell, Mattison and Tinkham to Saratoga, in stead of to Westfield.—Same page, line 23, read Witherell, Olmsted, and Joel Redway, to Westfield in stead of to Saratoga.

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ing-house in this city. (Albany.)