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Baptists . Vermont . Shaftsbury Association, 1813.

Minutes . . . at Nassau, U.M. June Third and
Fourth, 1813.

Lansingburgh, [N.Y.], Tracy & Bliss, 1813. 15 pp.

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MINUTES

OF THE

SHAFTSBURY

Baptist Association,

HELD AT

NASSAU, *N. M.*

JUNE THIRD AND FOURTH,

1813.

TOGETHER WITH THEIR

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING

LETTER.

LANSINGBURGH:
PRINTED BY TRACY & BLISS.

.....
1813.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, June 3, 1813.

1. **A**T 10 o'clock, A. M. agreeably to appointment, Elder **O**BED **W**ARREN delivered the introductory discourse, from 1 Timothy iii, 15. * "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

2. Chose Elder Isaac Webb, *Moderator*, and Elder Eli Ball, *Clerk*.

3. Adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M.

Met according to adjournment.

4. Received letters from the churches, and took the following account of the members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died in the year past, and the present number in each church.

N. B.—The names of Ordained Ministers in the following list are in **SMALL CAPITALS**: Licentiates in *italics*. Those ministers with this mark [*], were not present. From churches marked thus [†], we had no information this year, and have given their numbers as when last represented. Vacant churches are distinguished by a dash [—].

Churches.	Messengers.	Added.	Dismiss.	Excl.	Died.	Total.
Adams, †		0	0	0	0	57
Albany,	{ ISAAC WEBB.	16	3	7	1	73
	{ Joshua A. Burke.					
Berlin,	{ JUSTUS HULL.	28	26	8	18	563
	{ Benjamin Rogers.					
Cambridge,	OBED WARREN.	4	3	1	4	108
1 Canaan,	{ SILAS SPALDING.	3	1	0	0	43
	{ Jacob Ford.					

Churches.	Messengers.	Added.	Disin.	Transf.	Decl.	Total.
2 Canaan,	_____	1	0	0	4	112
	Dn. Sam'l A. Curtis.					
	Justus Johnson.					
	Jacob Horton.					
1 Cheshire,	William Flint.					
	_____	5	0	2	1	39
2 Cheshire,	Dn. Ste'n Carpenter.					
	Allen Brown.					
Chatham,	_____	0	0	0	0	213
	Dn. Daniel Goman.					
Charlotteville,†	William Fish.					
	Job Champion.	1	2	0	0	35
	Joel Champion.					
Cliftonpark,	Isaac Beeman.					
	TITUS FINCH.*	0	0	0	0	54
Clinton, (U. C.)†	ABEIJAH PECK.	3	5	5	8	278
	Abel Harrington.					
	Andrew Evens.					
East-Hillsdale,	_____	0	0	0	0	34
	DANIEL SHERWOOD.	2	2	0	1	104
West-Hillsdale,	ABEL BROWN.	0	2	1	0	113
	Oliver Teall.					
	Edward Bagley.					
Lansingburgh,	_____	0	0	0	0	47
	Dn. Samuel West.					
Hoosick,	ELI BALL.	5	0	0	1	40
	Dn. A. B. Hinman.					
	Dn. Asa Burt.					
	Naphali Guild.					
Nassau,	THO'S PERINGTON.	0	0	4	11	120
	John Rogers, jun.					
	Edward Martin.					
Troy,	ENOCH FARRIS.	8	0	1	6	89
	Dn. Abel Hodges.					
	Dn. Peter Brown.					
	Philip Roberts.					
Troy,	John Dusenbury.					

Churches.	Messengers.	Added.	Disin.	Transf.	Decl.	Total.
Pittstown,†	CHARLES LAHATT.*	0	0	0	0	56
Pittsfield,	JOHN FRANCIS, jun.	0	0	0	0	53
	Joel Redway.					
Pownal,†	_____	0	0	0	0	182
	S. OLMSTEAD.	19	0	1	1	89
Schodack,	Henry Tucker.					
	Joseph Gregory.					
	Joshua Haff.					
	Daniel Adams.					
	Orin D. Olmstead.					
1 Stephentown,	JULIUS BEEMAN.	7	0	0	2	63
	Cary Briggs.					
	Ephraim Pierce.					
1 Shaftsbury,	Gridley Judd.					
	ISAIAH MATTESON.*	0	5	1	4	126
4 Shaftsbury,	Giles Willard.					
	_____	2	50	1	4	336
Savoy,	Elon Galusha.					
	Ebenezer Clark.					
	Oliver Whipple.					
Stamford,	PHILIP PEARCE.	12	0	1	1	53
	Dn. W. Ingraham.					
	Daniel Dunham.					
W. Stockbridge,	_____ †	2	6	2	2	88
	A letter.					
Troy,	_____	10	1	0	2	70
	Dn. Peter Perry.					
Troy,	Valentine Perry.					
	FRANCIS WAYLAND.	3	0	3	1	61
	Silas Covel.					
Troy,	John Watts.					

† N. B. — Mr. Aaron Haynes, (by some called Elder Haynes), not in fellowship with this association; nor has he ever been acknowledged as a regularly ordained minister by it; and as he has gone and joined the church in Stamford, and through the medium of their letter been represented to us under the pretext of a member in good standing; we feel it our duty, in this way, to expose his fallacy to the world, and warn all the churches of our order against receiving him as a minister of Christ.

Churches.	Messengers.	Adm.	Dis.	Excl.	Died.	Total.
Townsend, (u.c.) †	— FAIRCHILD.*	0	0	0	0	56
Sandisfield, †	JESSE HARTWELL.*	0	0	0	0	129
Oxford, u.c. †	—————	0	0	0	0	22
3 New-Canaan,	HENRY PALMER.	0	0	0	0	35
	Joel Barns.					
	Samuel Waldo.					
Williamstown,	—————	0	0	0	0	26
	Daniel Torrey.					
34 churches						
22 messengers	Total,	131	115	38	72	3572

N. B.—The two last mentioned churches were received this session.

We announce to the churches, the death of that truly estimable member of this Association, and Pastor of the church in Nassau, Elder EPHRAIM HARRIS. He was eminent in piety, useful in the ministry, and faithful unto death. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

- Received corresponding Ministers and Brethren to a seat with us.
- The Circular and Corresponding Letter, prepared by Elder Francis Wayland, was read, and referred to Elders Warren and Champion, in connexion with its author, as a committee to revise it.
- Received from sister Associations accounts as follows, viz:—

From	Messengers.	Minutes.
Philadelphia, no intelligence.		
New-York,		Minutes.
Warren,		do.
Otsego, no intelligence.		
Leyden,	ELI BALL.	do.
Rensselaerville,	ABEL BROWN.	do.
Cayuga, no intelligence.		
Stonington, no information.		
Vermont,	SAMUEL ROWLEY.	do.
Woodstock,		do.

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|---------------------------|-------------|----------|
| Essex, | ISAAC WEBB. | Minutes. |
| Danbury, | ASA MORSE. | do. |
| Saratoga, no information. | | |
| Sturbridge, | | do. |
7. Adjourned until to-morrow morning, 8 o'clock.

THURSDAY, June 4.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer, introductory to business, by Elder Hull.

8. Received from the Westfield Association, minutes by their messenger, Elder ABRAHAM JACKSON; and appointed Elders OLMSTEAD, MORSE, and CHAMPION, as a committee to examine into some difficulties existing in that Association, and report at the next session.

9. Opened a correspondence with the Union Association.

10. The Circular and Corresponding Letter was brought forward by the committee appointed to revise it, and unanimously received, with demonstrations of approbation of the sentiments it contains; and committed to the clerk for printing.

11. The committee, appointed last year, to look into some difficulties existing in the 2d church in Cheshire, reported, that "the church would not receive them."

12. The Association agreed to unite with the 2d church in Cheshire, together with some brethren dismissed from them on account of some difficulties existing between said brethren and the church, in council, for the purpose of settling their difficulties: For which object, five ministering brethren were to be chosen, two by the church, two by the dismissed brethren, and one by the association, and to report next session. Accordingly Elders MORSE and HULL, were chosen by the church: Elders WARREN and JACKSON, by the dismissed brethren; and Elder PURINGTON, by the association. This council is to meet at the meeting-house occupied by the 2d church on Wednesday, 25th of August, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

13. Adjourned until afternoon.*
At half past 2 o'clock, met and proceeded to business.

* At 10 o'clock, Elder Isaac Webb delivered an excellent discourse, from John, vi, 45.

14. The committee appointed to look into some difficulties existing in the church in West-Stockbridge, read the result of their deliberations; which was satisfactory to the Association.

[The above mentioned report is too lengthy to be printed in the minutes; it is therefore deposited with the clerk, to be consulted if needed.]

15. Appointed the following brethren as messengers to corresponding Associations, viz:—

To the Leyden—Elder BALL.

Rensselaerville—Elder CHAMPION.

Vermont—Elder MATTESON.

Woodstock—Elder SPALDING.

Danbury—Elders BEMAN and SPALDING.

Westfield—Elders OLMSTEAD, CHAMPION & MORSE.

Union—Elders FARRIS and HULL.

Saratoga—Elders WARREN, PURINGTON and Brother Benjamin Rogers.

16. Voted that Elder WARREN write the Circular and Corresponding Letter for next year.

17. The Missionary Committee reported as follows:—

“The Trustees of the New-York Northern Baptist Missionary Society, respectfully report: That the monies received from the several districts, churches and individuals, amount to the sum of \$68,08. The balance remaining in the treasury in 1812, was \$51,87. The aggregate now is \$119,95.

“Elders Cyrus Andrews, and Daniel Haskall, whom we employed last year on a mission into the destitute parts of the north and west parts of the state of New-York, and the province of Upper-Canada, return accounts of their labors highly satisfactory to your committee.

“They report, that, in consequence of the present war existing between America and Great-Britain, they can have no access to many places where they have labored with success; but that there is yet a sufficiency of missionary ground.

“Requests, urged from the consideration of churches on the brink of ruin; the tears of hundreds of destitute saints;

thousands ready to perish; and the good success of those we have employed; are again presented to us!!! Our funds are small and our efforts must therefore be feeble; but a desire of doing something for the perishing souls of men, impels us to do all we can. We have therefore employed Elder Cyrus Andrews, on a mission for three months, to travel and preach in the Holland-Purchase; for which we have paid him in advance \$60. We have also chosen the Chairman, Treasurer, and Clerk of the Missionary Board of Trust, to appoint another missionary as they think proper.

“By order of the committee,

“FRANCIS WAYLAND, *Chairman.*

“ELI BALL, *Clerk.*”

18. Voted, that the above report is satisfactory to the Association.

19. Appointed Elder FARRIS, Judge Ford, and Br. Benjamin Rogers, with the last year's committee, to co-operate with the New-York Northern Baptist Missionary Society.

20. Voted, to hold our next Association at the Baptist meeting-house, in Schodack, on the first Wednesday in June next, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

21. Appointed Elder ISAAC WEBB to preach the introductory sermon; in case of failure, Elder HULL.

22. Appointed the following supplies for Cheshire:—

Elders Olmstead, 1st Lord's day in July.

Farris, do. do. in August,

Beman, do. do. in September.

West, do. do. in October.

Peck, do. do. in November.

Sherwood, do. do. in January.

Supplies for Lanesborough.

Elders Brown, 1st Lord's day in October.

Jackson, do. do. in November.

23. Appointed the Clerk to superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes.

24. Under a sense of obligation to the church and society in Nassau, for their kindness and respect to their brethren, the Association voted that Elder WEBB present our returns of gratitude to them; which was respectfully done.

25. The Association voted to use our influence to patronise the Missionary Society.

This laudable institution has for its object, the *salvation* of lost sinners. We should think that this were sufficient to stimulate every well-wisher to man. If every member of this association would only lay by the small sum of one cent a week for the missionary fund, it would amount to the sum of \$1857, 44, in one year!!! And but for some such small exertions by those who enjoy the gospel, thousands must lie in the dismal night of paganism, *without God and hope in the world.* May God inspire our zeal!

At 3 o'clock this agreeable interview was closed, by an appropriate address and prayer by the Moderator. Thro' the whole session, the business was conducted with much decorum; the preaching was solemn and appropriate, and love like heavenly dew distilled.

At half past 3, Elder WITHERELL preached to the people ready to depart.

There is to be a general meeting held at Sandlake meeting-house, on Saturday the second day of October next.

By the request of the 1st Baptist Church in Canaan, an Ecclesiastical Council formed; and having attended to the usual mode of examination, at 11 o'clock, Wednesday, A. M. proceeded to ordain Brother Silas Spalding, to the *holy work of the ministry.* Elder WEBB preached the sermon, from John vi, 45. Elder HULL made the consecrating prayer, and laid on hands with Elders WARREN and WEBB.

Elder WARREN gave the charge. Elder WITHERELL gave the right hand of fellowship, and made the concluding prayer.

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

From the district in Troy,	\$12 75
Do. Lansingburgh,	6 77
Do. Schodack,	7 50
Do. Cliftonpark,	27 00
From the church and congregation in Cambridge, } by Elder Warren,	75 00
From Widow Walworth, by Elder Warren,	1 00
Carried forward,	\$60 02

Brought forward,	\$60 02
From Widow Choate, by Br. Hinman,	1 00
From the church in Chatham,	3 50
From the church in Pittsfield,	3 06
From Br. Daniel Haskell,	2 00
From Elder Brown, contributed to him on his mission,	10 00
From Widow Perry,	25
Public contribution at Nassau,	21 44
Total,	<u>\$101 27</u>

The Missionary Society is to meet at Schodack, on the first Tuesday of June next, at 2 o'clock P. M. at the house of Elder Olmstead.

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The ELDERS and Ministers of the SHAFTSBURY ASSOCIATION, assembled in the Union Meeting-House, in MASSACHUSETTS, June 2d & 3d, 1813: To the CHURCHES they severally represent, and ASSOCIATIONS with whom they correspond, SEND CHRISTIAN SALUTATION.

DEAR BRETHREN,

THE indulgent kindness of our heavenly Father, has afforded us another opportunity of addressing you in our associate capacity. We improve it with pleasure, because of the many advantages derived from epistolary correspondence of associations. These have been so frequently enumerated, that to recapitulate them would be unnecessary. We can assure you, that we have enjoyed much satisfaction from your Messengers and Letters, and feel a disposition to rejoice in all your joys, and to sympathize with you in all your afflictions. Ever bearing in mind the sacred connection by which we are united, we shall not cease to pray for your prosperity.

Some notice was taken in our last, relative to the period in which we live, as being a time pregnant with important events; "when the Lord has come out of his place, to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity;" and of our deep concern therein, as men and as christians. Your attention was also invited to a consideration of the importance of knowing the truth as it is Christ, and of standing fast in it agreeable to the apostolical injunction—"Content yourselves earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints."

We hope the present state of things, relative to the political and religious world, will be a sufficient apology, if we should again take occasion to make some brief remarks on the signs of the times, which we shall be rather under the

necessity of doing, on account of its relation to the subject to which we shall take the liberty of now inviting your attention: We mean the nature, necessity, and advantages of prayer. If ever there was a necessity for Christians to be found engaged therein, it is now, when dangers stand thick around us. It is not presumed that any thing new will be offered on the subject, as affording information, but with a view "to stir up the pure mind by way of remembrance of these things, tho' ye know them, and be established in the present truth."

Prayer is the work of the believing soul, desiring of God things lawful and needful, with confidence to obtain them, through the alone mediation of Christ. Ask in my name, is the divine direction.

Prayer is the very breath of faith, and may be considered as the first evidence of new and spiritual life in the soul. The Lord said of Paul—Behold he prayeth. No doubt he had often prayed before, as far as lips were concerned: But the spirit, not words—life, not expression, constitutes prayer with God. Prayer is either private, or public; for ourselves, or others; for the procuring of good things, or the removing or preventing of things evil; whence arises the divers kinds of prayer mentioned 1 Tim. ii, 1, 2.

God is the only object of prayer, and it seems hardly necessary to observe, that the exercise should be sincere, fervent, and constant, with faith. "God is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John iv, 24. Not to be sincere, is but solemn mockery, and to be subject to the charge of hypocrisy; not to be fervent, is to be formal; not to be constant, is to be indifferent; and not with faith, is to make God a liar, and to treat him as not worthy of our confidence. "He that cometh to God, must believe that he is, and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. ii, 6.

The necessity of prayer will evidently appear from the consideration of our absolute dependence upon God. "In him we live, move, and have our being." By him we are supported, and by him we are constantly supplied; "for of him, and through him, and to him, are all things." In your

approaches to the throne of grace, permit us to remind you of some things which claim your immediate attention.—The present convulsed state of the world, the situation of our own country, and the awful declension of religion in the church of God, call loudly for the prayers of those who have an interest at the throne of grace. Since we last met, the European world has exhibited an awful scene of carnage and blood. In our own country, we behold a menacing cloud blackening all the horizon, and desolating judgments fall thick around us. With regard to the Church of God, do we not hear of, and also witness the departure of many from the faith; the love of many waxen cold, and a suspension of divine influence in many parts of the Lord's vineyard? In consequence of which, the Lord's ministers have to adopt the painful language—"Who hath believed our report, and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?"—Shall we not then cry—"Spare thy people, O Lord, and bless thine heritage." Shall we not wrestle with him, then, like Jacob of old, and plead his gracious and glorious word, wherein he has promised to cause wars to cease to the ends of the earth, and to "fill it with the knowledge of his glory." "To be as the dew unto Israel, and to make him grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon; to revive as the corn, and grow as the vine."

As an excitement to the solemn duty recommended, permit us to point out some of its advantages, as contained in the sacred oracles. The prayer of faith, what has it not done? Has it not "subdued kingdoms, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens?" Heb. xi, 33, 34.—The experience of the saints serves to prove what is well express'd by the poet:—

"Prayer makes the darken'd cloud withdraw;
 "Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw;
 "Gives exercise to faith and love;
 "Brings every blessing from above.
 "Restraining prayer we cease to fight;
 "Prayer makes the christian armor bright;
 "And Satan trembles, when he sees
 "The weakest saint upon his knees."

Though Christians (as such) are not called to fight, but with spiritual enemies; yet they are called to pray; for God has bidden them seek his face, and call upon his name. And the more engaged in the exercise, the better for themselves, the better for their country, and the better for the church of Christ. For your encouragement, then, dear brethren, in the duty, remember, "We have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens—Jesus, the son of God." Let us hold fast our profession, and come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Let us beg him to make us wrestling Jacobs, that we may prevail like Israel. Who can tell, but that the Lord of Hosts may turn us again, and cause his face to shine, and we shall be saved?

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; and who is able to do exceeding abundantly, above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

A continuance of your correspondence, will highly gratify the feelings of your affectionate brethren.

In behalf of whom, we subscribe ourselves,
 Your's, in a precious Saviour.

ISAAC WEBB, *Moderator.*

ELI BALL, *Clerk.*