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Baptists. Vermont. Shaftsbury Association, 1816.
Minutes of the ... Held at Sandisfield, June Fifth
and Sixth, 1816.

Lansingburgh, [N.Y.], Tracy & Bliss, 1816. 12 pp.
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MINUTES
OF THE
SHAFTSBURY
Baptist Association,

HELD AT
SANDISFIELD,
JUNE FIFTH AND SIXTH,
1816.



TOGETHER WITH THEIR
CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING
LETTER.

LANSINGBURGH:
PRINTED BY TRACY & BLISS.

1816.

MINUTES, &c.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1816.

1. **A**T 10 o'clock, A. M. Elder ISAIAH MATTESON* delivered the introductory Discourse from 1 Cor. xv. 58. "Therefore, my beloved Brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

2. Chose Elder ISAAC WEBB, Moderator, and Elder ELI BALL, Clerk.

3. Adjourned until half past 1 o'clock.

Met according to adjournment.

4. Received letters from the churches, and subjoined the following list of their alterations:—

N. B.—The names of ordained Ministers in the following list are in SMALL CAPITALS: Licentiates in *Italic*: Those Ministers with this mark (*) were not present:—From Churches with this mark (+) we had no information this year, and have given their numbers as when last represented: Churches without an ordained Minister settled with them are distinguished with a dash (—).

Churches.	Messengers.	Added.	Disin.	Excl.	Died.	Total.
Albany,	ISAAC WEBB.	27	12	3	2	90
Adams,	ELIJAH F. WILEY.	3	1		2	61
Berlin,	JUSTUS HULL.	7	4	3	1	521
Cambridge,	Letter.	4	4	1		95
1st Canaan,	{ SILAS SPALDING. Dn. John Gatt.	3		2	1	37
2d Canaan,	{ Nathaniel Otis. Justus Johnson. William Flint.					50

* Elders WAYLAND and LAHATT, who were appointed to preach, were not present.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dism.</i>	<i>Recl.</i>	<i>Prod.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1st Cheshire,	{ SAMUEL BLOSS. Allen Claffen. Rufus Carpenter.	1	3		1	33
2d Cheshire,	{ Dr. Daniel Comer. Asahel Buck. Nathan Wood. Amos Pettibone. John Vineen.		4		2	188
Chatham,†	JOB CHAMPION.*					38
Charlotteville,†	TITUS FINCH.*					54
Cliftonpark,	{ ABIJAH PECK.* WILLIAM GROOM.* Abel Harrington. David Schauben.	18		1	4	294
Clinton, (U. C.)†						34
Egremont,	{ DAN'L SHERWOOD.* John Millard. Elijah Hubbel.	5	3	1	2	99
East-Hillsdale,	{ ABEL BROWN.* Richard Latting.	4			1	128
West-Hillsdale,	{ Richard Kinion.	3				46
Lansingburgh,	ELI BALL.	5		1		43
Hoosick,	{ OBED WARREN.* Abraham Keatch.		3	2		95
Nassau,	{ Erastus Dwy. <i>Soly</i> Peter Brown. John Harris. Charles Williams.	4	3	3	1	109
Pittsfield,	{ Joel Redway.	2	1	2		56
Pittstown,†	CHARLES LAHATT.*					52
Pownal,	GEO. ROBINSON.*		1	10	4	167
Stephentown,	{ JULIUS BEMAN.* Elnathan Sweet.	8	2		2	61

Churches.	Messengers.	Added.	Dism.	Excl.	Di'd.	Total.
Schojack,	{ STEP'N OLMSTEAD. Oren Olmstead. Ezra Benton.	9	2	1	3	85
1st Shaftsbury,	ISAIAH MATTESON,	4				128
4th Shaftsbury,	{ _____ Ebenezer Clark.	2	1	2	6	316
Savoy,	{ PHILIP PIERCE.* Letter.	13	5		1	54
Stamford,	Letter.	1	2	1	2	66
W. Stockbridge,	{ _____ <i>Nathaniel Otis.</i>		6		2	70
Troy,	{ FR'S WAYLAND.* <i>Charles G. Somers.</i> Dn. Silas Covel.	71	2	2	2	138
Townsend, (U.C.)†	— FAIRFIELD.*					56
Sandisfield,	{ JOSEPH HARTWELL, Heman Doud. Nathaniel Doud. Ezekiel Fargo. Israel Alden. Paul Sears. Simeon Sears.	29		2		154
						22
						37
Oxford, (U. C.)†						
3 New-Canaan,†	HENRY PALMER.*					
Williamstown,	{ _____ David Torrey.	1				35
Atlington,	{ _____ Reuben Beebe.	2		1		66
		226	59	38	39	

{ See M
Minutes.

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5. As the Circular and Corresponding Letter (which was to have been written by Brother GALUSHA) failed, voted that Brethren MATTESON, WILEY, and Somers, prepare one for the minutes.

6. Received from sister Associations accounts as follows, viz:—

Associations.	Messengers.	Minutes.
From Philadelphia,	_____	_____
35. 1/4	A 2	225
		1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2

From New-York,	_____	_____
Warren,	AMASA SMITH,	Minutes.
Otsego,	_____	do.
Leyden,	GEO. WITHERELL,	do.
Rensselaerville,	ELIJAH HERRICK,	do.
Cayuga,	_____	do.
Stonington,	{ WILLIAM PALMER,	do.
	{ OLIVER WILSON,	
Vermont,	THOMAS BAKER,	do.
Woodstock,	_____	do.
Essex,	_____	_____
Hartford,	{ RUFUS BABCOCK,	do.
	{ ASAHIEL MORSE,	
Saratoga,	_____	do.
Sturbridge,	_____	_____
Westfield,	{ Elder _____ TOWN,	do.
	{ Brother Newcomb,	
Black-River,	_____	do.
7. Adjourned until to-morrow morning, 8 o'clock		

THURSDAY, JUNE 6.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. BLOSS.

8. Voted, to drop the consideration of the difficulties with the 2d church in Cheshire.

Adjourned until after religious service.* Met, and—

9. Called for and read the Circular and Corresponding Letter, and accepted it.

10. Received and accepted a verbal Report of the Missionary Committee. The present state of their funds, together with their doings, may be seen at the close of the minutes.

11. Appointed Elders PECK, LAHATT, HARTWELL, and Brethren Otis, Brown, Roadway, and Curtis, with the present committee, to co-operate with the Northern New-York Baptist Missionary Society.

12. Appointed the following as Messengers to Sister Associations, viz:—

To Leyden, Elders MATTESON and WILEY.

* Elder HULL preached to the congregation, from Deut. 33, 29.

To Rensselaerville, Brethren *Somers* and *Otis*.
 Vermont,
 Woodstock, Elder *SPALDING*.
 Westfield, Elders *HULL* and *HARTWELL*.
 Hartford, Elders *HARTWELL* and *HULL*.
 Union,
 Saratoga, Elder *WILEY* and Br. Benjamin Rogers.
 Philadelphia, Elder *WILEY*.
 New-York, Brother *Somers*.
 Warren, Elder *BLOSS*, Deacon Silas Covell, and Br.
Somers.
 Stonington, Elder *MORSE*.
 Otsego, Elder *BUTOLPH*.
 Cayuga, Elders *HARTWELL* and *SPALDING*.
 Essex,
 Sturbridge, Elder *MORSE*.
 Black-River,

13. Appointed Elder *ELISHA WILEY* to write the Circular and Corresponding Letter for next year.

14. Appointed to hold the next session of the Association at the Baptist meeting-house in Stephentown, on the first Wednesday of June next, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

15. Appointed Elder *SPALDING* to preach the introductory Sermon; and in case of failure, Elder *BALL*.

16. In compliance with a request presented by Elder *MATTESON*, voted to dismiss the 1st church in Shaftsbury from the Association.

17. In compliance with a request presented by Elder *WEBB*, in behalf of the 1st church in Albany, voted to dismiss it from the Association.

18. In compliance with a request from the church in Troy, to be dismissed from this, to join the Hudson-River Association, voted to dismiss it.*

19. Appointed the Clerk to superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes.

* Br. Clark, from the 4th church in Shaftsbury, desired to have it mentioned in the minutes, that he presented a request in behalf of that church; but in consequence of its not having been formally presented, it was not granted.

20. The Trustees of the Northern New-York Baptist Missionary Society respectfully present their annual report :—

At the meeting of the Board this session, there was remaining in the treasury, \$100.64. Received from districts, churches and individuals, \$156.58. Making an aggregate of \$257.22, now in the treasury.

In addition to the appointment made last year by the Board, the sub-committee, viz. Brethren WAYLAND, BALL, and Hinman, appointed Br. Peter Brown, to accompany Br. OLMSTEAD on his tour into Canada, and to assist him in any way that duty might call; for which they allowed him \$10.

Returns have been received from Br. OLMSTEAD.— The encouragement with which he met in Canada, and the success attending his labors, fully convince your committee of the utility of missionary labors, and stimulate them to further exertions.

In order to dispose of the money which a liberal public has put into the treasury, your committee have appointed a sub-committee of the following, viz. Brethren LAHATT, WAYLAND, BALL, Covell, and Hinman, to make such appointments as they in their judgment shall think best.

By order of the Committee,

ELI BALL, *Clerk.*

An account of monies received at the present session, into the Missionary Fund :—

From the		From the	
District in Troy,	\$20 69	Church & Society in Sandisfield, by Br. HARTWELL,	12 28
Do. in Cliftonpark,	30 42	Church in W. Hillsdale,	4 00
Do. in Schedack,	10 00	Church in Pittsfield,	2 50
Do. in Lansingburgh,	5 76	Church in Cambridge,	1 62
Do. in Nassau,	10 00	A Friend to Missions (in Egremont),	53
Church in Adams, by Br. WILEY,	4 25	A public contribution Sandisfield,	22 30
Female Mite Society in Sandisfield, by Mrs. Jerusha Hartwell,	12 23		
Female Mite Society in Albany, by Br. WEBB,	20 00	<i>Total,</i>	<u>\$156 58</u>

The Missionary Society is to meet in Stephentown, on the Tuesday preceding the first Wednesday in June next, at 2 o'clock, P. M. at the house of Mr. Elnathan Sweet.

At the close of this interesting session, the Moderator presented the thanks of the Association to the people in Sandisfield, for their polite reception of their brethren; and fervently exhorted the churches to purity, to unity, and to perseverance. Brother HULL offered up a fervent closing prayer.

ELI BALL, *Clerk.*



[The Clerk begs leave to inform the Churches, that the reason why the Minutes were not published before was, that the Circular and Corresponding Letter, which was carried to Adams by the author, to be revised, was not sent here for publication until the 16th of July. He then received it, with a satisfactory apology from its author for its detention.]

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The MINISTERS and MESSENGERS of the SHAFTSBURY ASSOCIATION, (convened at Sandisfield, Mass. on the 5th and 6th of June, 1816), to the CHURCHES they represent, and to the ASSOCIATIONS with which they correspond; send Greeting.

DEAR BRETHREN,

THIS anniversary has been peculiarly pleasing to us, by the union and harmony which has subsisted among the Churches composing this body; and especially by the glad tidings, which we have heard from different parts of the Zion of God; that the Lord has visited his people, and made great accessions to his visible Church. Some of our Churches have enjoyed a rich harvest of divine blessings, so that we feel to say, the Lord has done great things for us, whereof we have reason to be glad. We view this as a day of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, a day of rejoicing among the saints, and especially a time for them to arise and shake themselves from the dust. The activity and zeal of Christians is greatly needed at this period; for it is not only a time of the display of God's grace, but also a time of the abounding of error. The Christian's motto may well be sorrowful, yet always rejoicing. While on the one hand we rejoice in the displays of God's goodness, on the other, we mourn that wickedness and falsehood abound. We mourn that any should be carried away with the infidelity of the Arians and Socinians; for we believe if Christ be not God, our faith and hope are vain, and we are yet in our sins. We esteem it matter of grief, that any should deny the doctrine of justification by the imputed righteousness of Christ; for unless justified by his righteousness, they must perish. We mourn that any of the Churches who appear generally sound in the faith, do not take proper

pains to clear themselves in this matter. We also esteem it matter of sorrow, that many professed Christians are too remiss in their duties on the Lord's day, for we are convinced that while this day is not strictly and religiously observed, we cannot look for the approbation of Heaven. We are also deeply affected with the spirit of disorganization, which has been manifested by many professors of religion. We are taught that God is a God of order, and that order is essential to the establishment and permanence of his house. We are sensible that the harmony of the Churches cannot be supported by sinful compromises; but by a strict adherence to the divine rule. While we pray that the Churches may contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints, we also pray that they may be active in practical godliness. An open door and effectual appears to be opened for the exercise of Christian zeal and benevolence; and Christians are called upon by the most powerful motives to exert them. The moral pollution and consequent misery of a great proportion of mankind is calculated to awaken the best sympathies of the christian heart. The groans of the wretched are continually crying in your ears, O ye disciples of Jesus, saying, like the man of Macedonia, "Come over and help us." Nearly five millions in this country, destitute of proper moral and religious instruction, seem now to be looking toward the Zion of God, out of which salvation comes. The poor benighted heathen, perishing for lack of vision, and groaning under the most galling chains of slavery and superstition, seem to cry to you for religious instruction. The deluded Jews and Mahometans are also the objects of your compassion. The means are in your power, ye disciples of the compassionate Saviour, to do much for the reformation of our own country, and for spreading the gospel in distant climes. O that each disciple, like Mary, may do what he can in this glorious cause. This is indeed an auspicious day to the cause of Zion's King, who, by opening the way, and placing the means in our power, seems to lay us under, if possible, greater obligations to exert ourselves in the cause

of benevolence—the cause of God. We are sensible that you have prayed, that God would open the way for the spread of the gospel. He has now done it. We trust also that you pray to God to send laborers into his harvest; but to do this without affording those laborers the means, when in your power, is little short of calling on God to witness your solemn mockery. The laudable zeal of many Churches and Societies, and particularly Female Societies, in this work of the Lord, cannot but excite the astonishment and gratitude of all the friends to missions and the prosperity of the cause of Christ; and we trust the blessing of thousands ready to perish will come on their heads. We only say, go thou and do likewise. We solicit your correspondence, and though far distant from each other on earth, we hope shortly to meet you in the New-Jerusalem.

ISAAC WEBB, *Moderator.*

ELI BALL, *Clerk.*