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Baptists. Vermont. Shaftsbury Association, 1818.

Minutes ... Held at Shaftsbury June 3d and 4th, 1818.

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( Some pages closely trimmed. )

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# MINUTES

## OF THE Shaftsbury Baptist Association,

HELD AT SHAFTSBURY, *4<sup>th</sup> Church*

JUNE 3d & 4th, 1818.

— 300 — 300 —

1. **MET** at the meeting-house of the fourth Baptist Church, at 10 o'clock, A. M. when a sermon was delivered by Elder Elijah F. Willey.
2. Business of the Association opened by prayer, by Elder J. Cornell.
3. Elder Joseph Cornell was chosen Moderator.
4. Elder Elijah F. Willey, Clerk.
5. Letters from the Churches were read.

*N. B.*—The names of ordained Ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS: Licentiates in *Italics*. Those Ministers with this mark (\*), were not present. Vacant churches are distinguished by a dash [—].

| Churches.               | Messengers.  | By let. | Bap. | Disn. | Excl. | Died. | Whole. |
|-------------------------|--|---------|------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Adams,                  | { <i>Hosea Wheeler.</i><br>Dn. Otis Blackington.                               |         | 1    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 57     |
| Arlington,              | { <i>Isaac Bucklin.</i><br>Elisha King.  |         | 18   | 1     | 0     | 1     | 83     |
| Berlin,                 | Eld. JUSTUS HULL.  |         |      |       |       |       | 515    |
| Cambridge,              | { Eld. DAN'L TINKHAM.<br>Ebenezer Wright.<br>John Powers.                      | 4       | 49   | 5     | 0     | 2     | 159    |
| 1st Canaan,             |  |         |      |       |       |       | 28     |
| 2d Canaan,              | Eld. NATH'L OTIS.  |         |      |       |       |       | 87     |
| 3d Canaan,              | Eld. HENRY PALMER.*  | 4       | 2    | 0     | 1     | 1     | 45     |
| Charlotteville, (U. C.) | Letter.  |         |      |       |       |       | 63     |
| Chatham,                | { Eld. ERASTUS DOTY.<br><i>William De Groff.</i>                               | 2       | 10   | 1     | 1     | 0     | 43     |
| 1st-Cheshire,           | Eld. SAMUEL BLOSS.*  |         |      |       |       |       | 37     |
| Cliftonpark,            | { Eld. ABIJAM PECK.<br>Eld. WM. GROOM.*<br>Abel Herrington.<br>George W. Beal. |         | 17   | 0     | 0     | 3     | 323    |
| Clinton, (U. C.)        | Eld. GEORGE UPFOLD.  |         | 15   | 0     | 2     | 1     | 45     |
| Egremont,               | <i>Elisha Hubbell.</i>   |         | 21   | 5     | 2     | 1     | 223    |

| Churches.               | Messengers.  | By let. | Bapt. | Dis. | Excl. | Died. | Whole. |
|-------------------------|--|---------|-------|------|-------|-------|--------|
| East-Hillsdale,         | Eld. ABEL BROWN.*  | 2       | 10    | 6    | 4     | 0     | 192    |
| West-Hillsdale,         | _____  |         | 2     | 2    | 0     | 0     | 58     |
| Hoosick,                | { Dea. Solomon Gale.<br>John Haynes.   |         | 16    | 11   | 4     | 1     | 95     |
| Lansingburgh,           | { Eld. ELIJ. F. WILLEY.<br>Asa Burt.   | 3       | 8     | 3    | 0     | 0     | 56     |
| Massau,                 | { Eld. JOHN HARRIS.<br>Dea. Peter Brown.<br>Nathan R. Crandall.<br>Charles Williams. | 2       | 28    | 5    | 2     | 1     | 152    |
| Pittsfield,             | Dea. Joel Redway.  |         | 1     | 0    | 0     | 1     | 54     |
| Pownal,                 | Eld. GEO. ROBINSON.  |         |       |      |       |       | 161    |
| 1st Sandisfield,        | { Eld. J. HARTWELL.*<br>Asahel Doud, Jun.  |         | 12    | 6    | 1     | 1     | 148    |
| Savoy,                  | _____  |         |       |      |       |       | 44     |
| Schodack,               | Eld. STE'N OLMSTED.  | 7       | 31    | 9    | 1     | 1     | 130    |
| 4th Shaftsbury,         | { Truman Galusha.<br>Jacob Galusha.<br>Oliver Whipple.                               |         | 24    | 0    | 0     | 4     | 339    |
| Stamford,               | { _____ Baker.   |         |       |      |       |       | 85     |
| Stephentown,            | { Elnathan Sweet.<br>Dea. Edward Carr.<br>Dea. Ephraim Pierce.                       | 3       | 6     | 4    | 1     | 2     | 198    |
| Townsend, (U. C.)       | Letter.  |         |       |      |       |       | 37     |
| Talbot-street,* (U. C.) | Letter.  |         |       |      |       |       | 19     |
| West-Stockbridge,       | _____  |         | 12    | 4    | 0     | 1     | 67     |
| Williamstown,           | { Stephen Smith.<br>David Alden.   |         | 0     | 2    | 0     | 0     | 51     |
|                         |  | 33      | 286   | 64   | 19    | 21    | 3554   |

30. Admitted the present session.

15. Admitted the present session.

6. Ministering Brethren occasionally present were invited to a seat.

7. A letter being presented from the Baptist Church in Talbot-Street, (U. C.) requesting be to admitted as a member of this Association:—

Voted, that said Church be received.

8. Received communications from corresponding Associations.

New-York, Minutes by Elder Peck.

Otsego, Minutes by Elder Matteson.

Hartford, Elder Israel Keach, with minutes.

Leyden, Elder Witherell, with minutes.

Rensselaerville, Minutes.

Vermont, Elder Tuller.

Saratoga, Elder Joseph Cornell, with minutes.

Westfield, Minutes, by Elder Jackson.

Black-River, Minutes, by Elder Cornell.

Hudson-River, Minutes, by Elder Willey.

9. Elder Job Foss, messenger from the Union Association, presented the minutes of said Association, and a request to open a correspondence with us.

Voted, to open a correspondence with said Association.

10. A like request presented by the New-London Association.

Voted, to open a correspondence with said Association.

11. Appointed Elders Witherell and Foss, and Brothers Bucklin and Beach, with the author, to be a committee to examine the circular and corresponding letters prepared by Br. Otis.

12. A request being presented by the first Church in Cheshire, voted unanimously, that said Church be dropped from our minutes.

13. At 4 o'clock, P. M. Elder Witherell delivered an appropriate sermon, from 1 Samuel, xii, 24.

14. Voted, that the Secretary pay to the Treasurer of the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, \$100.

15. Voted, to adjourn until 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

*June 4.*—Met agreeably to adjournment.

16. Prayer by Elder Olmsted.

17. Voted, that this Association meet at the Baptist meeting-house in Pittstown, on the first Wednesday in June, 1819.

18. Voted, that Elder G. Robinson preach the introductory sermon: Br. Bucklin in case of failure.

19. Voted, that the following messengers be sent to corresponding Associations:—

New-York, Deacon Curtis.

Philadelphia, Elder Willey.

Warren, Elders Cornell and Doty.

Hartford, Elder Olmsted.

Leyden, Elders Otis and Bucklin.

Rensselaerville, send Minutes.

Cayuga, Dns. Brown and Hubbell.  
 Westfield, Elder Otis and Dn. Redway.  
 Stonington, Elder Cornell.  
 Boston, Elders Cornell and Tinkham.  
 Saratoga, Elders Willey, Olmsted, Peck and Harris.  
 Black-River, send Minutes.  
 New-London, Elder Olmsted.  
 Union, Elder Hartwell,

20. Voted, that Br. Hosea Wheeler write the circular and corresponding letters for next year.

21. Voted, that Brs. Willey, Matteson, Otis, Wheeler and Bucklin, be a committee to obtain information on the subject of Theological Seminaries, and lay before the Association, at the next session, such information, and propose such measures as may be thought best calculated to promote them.

22. Voted, that Brother E. F. Willey superintend the printing and distributing the minutes.

23. Elder Cornell preached the concluding sermon from Ephesians ii, 6.

## MISSIONARY.

*Amount of the Contributions to the Missionary Fund, received from the Churches, &c.*

|                                  |         |                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Cliftonpark, - - -               | \$27 01 | West-Hillsdale, . . .            | 5 50     |
| Schodack, - - -                  | 10 00   | East-Hillsdale Female Mite       |          |
| Lansingburgh, . . .              | 8 00    | Society for for. Missions, 15 00 |          |
| Pittstown, - - -                 | 5 75    | Egremont Female Mite So-         |          |
| Mrs. Mary Downs, a gold          |         | ciety, for miss. purposes, 15 51 |          |
| ring, - - -                      | 3 00    | West-Stockbridge Female          |          |
| Nassau, - - -                    | 16 83   | Mite Society, for mission-       |          |
| Stephentown Female Mite-         |         | ary purposes, - - -              | 10 00    |
| Society for for. Missions, 10 87 |         | Adams Mission'y Cent So-         |          |
| Chatham, - - -                   | 4 00    | ciety, - - -                     | 15 88    |
| Peter Reynolds, - - -            | 1 00    | Williamstown Female Mite         |          |
| Dn. Sam'l A. Curtis, 2 00        |         | Society, for mis. purposes, 6 00 |          |
| Female Mite Society, San-        |         | Unknown hand, - - -              | 50       |
| disfield, - - -                  | 16 92   | Contribution, - - -              | 37.00    |
| Church in Sandisfield, 6 00      |         | Elsea Baker, - - -               | 25       |
| Cambridge or Whitcreek, 9 14     |         |                                  |          |
|                                  |         |                                  | \$214 16 |

*Board of Trustees for the ensuing Year.*

Elder Abijah Peck,  
 Jesse Hartwell,  
 Stephen Olmsted,  
 Elijah F. Willey,  
 John Harris,  
 Daniel Tinkham,  
 Abel Brown,  
 Elisha Hubbell,

Elder Erastus Doty,  
 Dea. Ephraim Pierce,  
 Otis Blackington,  
 ——— Curtis,  
 Peter Brown,  
 Br. Wilbur Sherman,  
 ——— Gibbs,  
 Jacob Galusha.

\* \* \* The 4th report of the Board of Foreign Missions will be sent to the Churches with the Minutes; which, as it merits, we hope will receive, the particular attention of all the Members.



## Circular Letter.

*The SHAFTSBURY ASSOCIATION, convened at Shaftsbury, June 3d & 4th, 1818:—To the several Churches which they represent, sendeth Christian Salutation.*

BELOVED BRETHREN,

**T**HROUGH the abounding mercy of a covenant God, we have been privileged to assemble with the saints from different parts of Zion. With joy we have heard of the conquests of Zion's King. It has refreshed our souls.—It is, indeed, as good news from a far country; as cold water to a thirsty soul. While we adore the riches of his grace, manifested in the conversion of many souls, we anticipate with sacred rapture the dawning of that glorious morn, when he who is now King of Saints shall reign King of Nations; when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth, as the waters now cover the sea.

In view of this glorious era, our thanksgivings ascend to the author of every good and perfect gift, who hath inclined the hearts of so many thousands to cast their mite into the missionary treasury, that the heralds of the cross

may be enabled to unfurl the banners of salvation, and proclaim redeeming grace and dying love to the poor benighted Pagan, to the wandering and outcast Indian.— While we rejoice with thanksgiving at their benevolence, may we unitedly pray the great Head of the Church, that the souls of those from whom the Missionaries receive pecuniary aid may be watered with the rich streams of divine grace; that together we may rejoice in the fulness of that salvation which cost a Saviour's blood.

BRETHREN, while we rejoice, let us be exceedingly careful to discriminate. There are sometimes wolves in sheep's clothing, who love the fleece, but care little for the flock. Of such we have need to stand in fear.

Our blessed Lord was careful in instructing his servants what to teach, as well as how to practice. His commands were—"As ye go, preach, saying the kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Repentance toward God, and faith in Jesus Christ, are the only conditions of salvation; and these conditions are in the covenant of redemption, made between the Father and the Son before the foundation of the world. "I lay down my life for the sheep. I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish." This was the doctrine which Jesus taught: Yes, blessed be God—"I will, and they shall, thy people shall be willing in the day of my power." Again, Jesus taught—"I and my Father are one; one, equal in power, wisdom and truth. Before the world was, I am." Again, Jesus taught that he was king and lawgiver in Zion; that his kingdom was not of this world; that he had chosen his people out of the world; and that they must be separate both in faith and practice, deny themselves, take up the cross and follow him.

But, Brethren, how many are they, who say, away with this doctrine of a covenant made between the Father and the Son: They are never chosen until they are born again: Christ died for the whole world; denying the particular redemption of the sheep of Christ; when Christ says positively—"I lay down my life for the sheep, and they shall never perish." Ah, say they, not so: He loves his people no longer than they are obedient; thus placing the salvation of man on the feeble tenor of man's obedi-

( 1 )  
ence. Others there are, who deny the divinity of the Saviour; while others deny that he is King in Zion, in distinction from this world. Thus, in many instances, are the truths of God perverted, and the hearts of the children are caused to mourn.

Let us then, beloved Brethren, contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints; that faith which works by love and purifies the heart. Let us pray for the influences of the Holy Spirit; that pernicious doctrines may be purged from the Zion of God; that the simplicity of gospel truth may more abundantly prevail; and since God is not leaving us without a witness of the power of his efficacious grace, let us then be encouraged, that Jesus will take to himself his power and reign; that he will make his truths shine brighter and brighter until the more perfect day. Let us press forward in this glorious cause, until we are called to lay down these bodies in the grave; that we may resign ourselves to the dust in the glorious hope of a glorious resurrection, where soul and body shall be united, and we, with all the ransomed millions round the throne, unite in that grand chorus—"Not unto us, not unto us, but unto him who has washed us in his own blood, be praise for ever and ever"

Our interview has been pleasant and agreeable. We can say with the spouse—"We sat down under his shadow, and his fruit has been sweet to our taste."

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## Corresponding Letter.

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*The SHAFTSBURY ASSOCIATION to the Associations with whom they correspond, sends Charity, which never faileth.*

BELOVED BRETHREN,

**BLESSED** with good tidings from various parts of the Lord's vineyard, we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth, the king of glory, is multiplying the trophies of his victorious grace; and



in the advancement of his kingdom and conquests of his love, he is making us to share a blessed part. While God is enlarging the border of Zion's tent, we trust we are making progress within, in faith, hope, charity, and every grace. Yea, we trust shortly to meet all the redeemed beyond the Jordan of death, in that new heaven and new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

BRETHREN, we rejoice in our holy correspondence, and desire that it may continue, trusting that our intercourse will be nearer, dearer, sweeter, and more glorious, in the kingdom of our heavenly Father. The waste places of our Zion are filling up; union and strength are increasing, and our zeal in the missionary cause is becoming more and more effectual. May this spirit pervade the religious world, until the angel of the ministry shall gather together the elect from every kindred, language and people, under the whole heavens. May we continue steadfast in the faith, in due preparation and watching for the appearing of the King in Zion.

Our meeting has been one of the most pleasant ever experienced, for the Lord was there.

JOSEPH CORNELL, *Moderator.*

ELIJAH F. WILLEY, *Clerk.*