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Baptists. Connecticut. Stonington Association, 1791.

Minutes ... in Hampton, 1791.

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ABHS copy.

# MINUTES

OF THE

Stonington Baptist Association,

HELD AT THE

Baptist Meeting-House

IN

Hampton,

M,DCC,XCI.

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NEW-LONDON : Printed by T. GREEN and SON.



## *Minutes, &c.*

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TUESDAY, *October 18th*, 1791.

1. **B**ROTHER *Isaac Backus* delivered the introductory Sermon, from *1 John v. 21*.
2. After worship proceeded to business.

Brother *Isaac Backus* was chosen Moderator, and brother *Valentine W. Rathbun*, Clerk.

3. Letters from the Churches were read, and the following Account taken of the Members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the year past ; and of the present Number in each Church.

N. B. Ministers Names in *Italics*. Those to whose Names an \* is prefixed, were not present. From Churches marked thus † we received no Letter or Messenger—their Number stand as they did the last Year.—Dashes denote no settled Minister.

Churches

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Add.	Dism.	Exclu.	Deceas.	Numb.
1. Stonington,	<i>Eleazer Brown,</i> <i>Walter Brown.</i>	9				101
2. Stonington,	<i>Simon Brown,</i> <i>Simon Brown, jun.</i> <i>Zelulon Brown,</i> <i>Afa Spalding.</i>	3	1	1	1	125 44
3. Stonington, 1. Groton,	<i>Valentine W. Rathbun.</i> <i>* Timothy Wightman,</i> <i>Thomas N. Niles,</i> <i>Benadam Gallup, jun.</i>	4	1	1	1	155 17
† 2. Groton, Say-Brook,  Exeter,	_____ <i>Eliphaz Lester,</i> <i>Joseph Carter.</i> <i>* Solomon Sprague,</i> <i>Pardon Fittinghast,</i> <i>John Joslin.</i> <i>* Benjamin Weight.</i>	1	2		1	31
† South-Kingston, Church formerly of South-Kingston, now of Richmond.	_____ <i>James Sheldon,</i> <i>Benjamin Barber, jun.</i> <i>* Elisha Green.</i>	20			4	250 36
† West-Greenwich, 1 Colchester,	<i>Christopher Palmer,</i> <i>Jeremiah Rogers,</i> <i>Afa Bolles.</i>		2	2	1	67 58
2. Colchester,	<i>Abe! Palmer,</i> <i>Jabez Rogers,</i> <i>Alpheus Rogers.</i>				1	65
† Richmond, Hampton,	_____ _____ <i>Robert Baxter,</i> <i>Nehemiah Dodge,</i> <i>Noah Adams,</i> <i>Thomas Grow, jun.</i>	10				56 38
Montville,	<i>Reuben Palmer,</i> <i>Jehiel Rogers.</i>	3	2	1	1	67
Chatham,	_____ <i>Caleb Tenant.</i>					52 66
Total,		54	8	10	10	1228

The last mentioned Church was received into our fellowship the present year.

4. Brother Isaac Backus present, as Messenger from the Warren Association ; by whom, we received agreeable Tidings of the display of God's Grace, in various parts of New-England.

5. Received a Letter from the Shaftsbury Association, by the Hand of their Messenger, brother Eber Moser, containing agreeable Intelligence of the increase of our Redeemer's Kingdom among them.

6. Received a Letter from the Danbury Association, together with their Sentiments and Plan, and their Minutes of September, 1795.

7. Appointed our brethren Amos We" and David Rathbun, to draw the letter to the Corresponding Associations.

Adjourned till 9 o'Clock To-morrow Morning.

Public Worship this Evening in various parts of the Vicinity.

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Wednesday, October 19th.

Met pursuant to Adjournment.

8. Letter to the corresponding Associations, according to order of Yesterday, was brought in, read, &c. and approved.

9. Appointed our Brethren, Thomas Grow, jun. and Nehemiah Dodge, Messengers to the Warren Association ; Brethren Abel Palmer, and Reuben Palmer, to Shaftsbury ; Brethren Eliphalet Lester, and Benjamin Carter, to Danbury ; and Brother Valentine W. Rathbun, to that at Philadelphia, and the United Associations in Virginia.

10. Agreed to the following Supplies for destitute Churches.

Church

**Church of Chatham,**

**Brother Christopher Palmer, 1st Lord's-day in December,**

———— **Reuben Palmer, 1st ——— in February,**

———— **Abel Palmer, 4th ——— in April**

———— **Eliphalet Lister, 1st ——— in June,**

———— **Christopher Palmer, 1st ——— in July.**

**Church of Hampton,**

**Brother Abel Palmer, 3d Lord's-day in November,**

———— **Reuben Palmer, 3d ——— in December,**

———— **Eleazer Brown, 1st ——— in May,**

———— **Simeon Brown, 1st ——— in July,**

**Church formerly of South-Kingston, now of Richmond,**

**Brother Simeon Brown, 1st Lord's-day in November.**

**Church of Richmond,**

**Brother Simeon Brown, 4th Lord's-day in April.**

———— **Christopher Palmer, 3d ——— in May.**

11. The Circular Letter prepared by Brother James Shelden, was read, and after some Amendment, approved.

12. Our Brethren Eleazer Brown, and Zebulon Brown, are appointed to write the Circular Letter for next Year.

13. We having received Information, that the Groton Association, at their annual Convention, last June, appointed a Committee, to meet a Committee from this Association, for the Purpose of hearing and giving their Advice in certain Differences, subsisting between certain of our Brethren ;—and being requested by a number of our Brethren, particularly interested, to unite with the Groton Association, for the laudable Purpose above-mentioned,—

**VOTED,** That our Brethren Isaac Backus, Solomon Sprague, Christopher Palmer, and Reuben Palmer, be appointed a Committee, in behalf of this Association, to meet the Committee from the Groton Association, at the Dwelling-House of Deacon Samuel Gardner, in Hopkinton, State of Rhode-Island, the first Tuesday in November next.

14. Brother

14. Brother Valentine W. Rathbun, is requested to superintend the printing the Minutes.

15. VOTED, That our next Association be held at Elder Timothy Wightman's Meeting-House in Groton, the third Tuesday in October, 1792.

(CIRCULAR LETTER.)

*The Messengers of the several Churches met in Association, in Hampton, October 13th, A. D. 1791 ;*

*To the several Churches in union with this Association, send—Greeting.*

Dearly Beloved,

**WE** rejoice that the Father of Mercies has permitted us once more to meet, and enjoy the Privilege of hearing good Tidings from several Churches and Associations.

It is matter of Joy, and calls for Gratitude, that the work of the Lord is carried on with Power in many Places ; yet we have cause to lament our Unfruitfulness under these special Favours.—The declension of Religion, and prevalence of Iniquity, in various parts of our Land, calls for Mourning. The powerful assaults of the Enemy, should remind us of the Necessity of giving heed to the Direction of the Captain of our Salvation, who, both by his Example and Command, hath taught us to *Watch and pray that we enter not into Temptation.*

Is it possible that those who have enlisted under JESUS ; who love his Person, possess his Temper, and feel the Power of his Divine Religion, should ever live uninfluenced by his Examples and Commands ? Can the real Saint, who is the object of eternal Love, and the subject of marvellous Grace, be indifferent to the service of his great Benefactor ? We hope, Brethren, that we are all sentimentally agreed, touching the Word of God as a rule of our Faith and Practice. *I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ : for it is the Power of God unto Salvation, was the declaration of the great Apostle Paul.* The Truths of the Gospel, the Hopes it inspires, and the Prospects it opens, demand our diligent Attention. Are there Heresies, which are in their nature and general tendency Destructive, and shall we not be anxious to discover and avoid them ? Are there those who hold the Truth in Unrighteousness, believe a Lie, and receive the Gospel of the  
Grace

Grace of God in vain, and shall not we take heed to ourselves lest we should fall into so awful a Condemnation? Is not the Enemy busy sowing Tares? And shall we sleep? Shall we be less zealous in sowing good Seed? Surely it is high Time for us all, Ministers and People, to awake out of Sleep, to contend earnestly for the Faith once delivered to the Saints—to hold fast the Form of sound Words, and to put on the whole Armour of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil. Would not a thousand Lives spent in the Service of God, and a thousand Deaths suffered in his Cause, be but a small Testimony of Gratitude and Love for his undeserved and matchless Grace in the eternal Salvation of one poor Sinner, bound to unutterable Woe? Are there any of you, Brethren, either with respect to Principle or Practice sinking into Lukewarmness and Indifference? Suffer us to sound an Alarm amongst you. How long halt ye betwixt two Opinions? If the Lord be God follow Him, but if Baal, follow him.

*Behold, I come quickly; saith he that is Holy—hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy Crown.*

We unitedly pray to Almighty God, that Light and Truth may spread far and wide, and that the true Knowledge and Glory of God may cover the Earth as the Waters fill the Sea. We rejoice that although Heresies and delusions are spreading far and wide in our Land, yet the glorious God hath, and ever will support his Cause and People through all Opposition of every Kind.

Suffer us, dear Brethren, to exhort you to the performance of your Duty in a few Particulars.—Do good unto all Men, as you have Opportunity, especially to them who are of the household of Faith.—Forfake not the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is: but continue in the apostles Doctrine, in Fellowship, in breaking of Bread and in Prayers.

Encourage Family-Government and Order, and neglect not the duties of family and secret Prayer.—Be at Peace among yourselves.—Love as Brethren.—Abstain from all appearance of Evil.—Prove all Things: hold fast that which is good. Finally, Brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the Power of his Might. And may the kind Lord confirm your Minds in the Truth—support you in the day of Trial—increase your Graces—establish your Hopes—and in the End, render your Conquest and Triumph complete over all your spiritual and powerful Enemies.

Now unto God and our Father be Glory for ever and ever.  
AMEN.

Signed in behalf of the Association,  
ISAAC BACKUS, Moderator,  
VALENTINE W. RATHBUN, Clerk.