

**31241**

**Baptists. Connecticut. Stonington Association, 1796.  
Minutes ... at Groton, October 18th and 19th, 1796.  
New London, 1796.**

**BM copy.**

# MINUTES

OF THE

## Stonington Association,

Convened at Groton, October 18th and 19th,  
1796.

Tuesday, October 18th.

THE Elders and Brethren, Messengers of the Churches, met at Elder Timothy Wightman's Meeting House, and

1. Brother Stephen Ousford delivered a discourse from 1. John, iii. 2.—“Beloved, now are we the sons of God.”

2. After worship proceeded to business. Chose brother Abel Palmer, Moderator, and brother Asa Spalding, Clerk.

3. Letters from the Churches were read.

N. B. Ministers' names in capitals. Licensed preachers in italics. Those to whose names an \* is affixed, were not present. From churches marked thus †, we had no letters. Dashes ——— denote the settled minister.

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Added.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Dead.	Number.
s. Stonington,	—————, * Peleg Randall, Jehish Gallup, Henry Hewitt,		1		4	138
ed. Stonington,	SIMEON BROWN, Asa Spalding, Daniel Main, Aber Miner,			3		209
ed. Stonington,	VALENT. W. RATHBUN, Elnathan Fellows, David Minor, jun.	1	2			43
Groton,	TIMO. WIGHTMAN, (a) Peter Avery,	1			5	178

(a) This venerable minister, departed this life, Nov. 14, 1796, in the 64th year of his age, and 42d of his ministry.

“Sleep, Lord, for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fall from among the children of men.”

“My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof.”

David.  
Elisha.

		Added.	Dismiss.	Exclud.	Dead.	Numb.
Saybrook,	Benadum Gallup, jun. Samuel Lamb, • ELIPHALET LESTER, Israel Douglass, Benjamin Watrous,					30
Exeter,	_____	10	3		4	239
	<i>Pardon Tillinghast,</i> <i>Joseph Tisdale,</i> Jonathan Dean,					
+ Church formerly of South Kington, now of Richmond.	• BENJAMIN BARBER, (b)					67
+ West Greenwich,	• ELISHA GREEN,					49
1st. Colchester,	• CHRISTOPHER PALMER, Abram Randal, Asa Randal,	2	3		1	60
2d. Colchester,	_____			1		57
	John Carty, Alpheus Rogers, James Rogers,					
Richmond,	_____				1	24
	Sands Perkins, Gideon Babcock,					
Hampton,	ABEL PALMER, William Eliott, Thomas Grow.			1		67
Montville,	REUBEN PALMER, Jehiel Rogers,	1		2	1	50
1st. Chatham,	_____				1	60
	Caleb Tenant, Ebenezer Harris,					
2d. Woodstock,	AMOS WELLS, Isaiah Lyon,					69
3d. Chatham,	_____	12	9	7		65
	Squire Goff, Samuel Arnold,					
New-London,	ZADOCK DARRGW, Lemuel Darrow, Nehemiah Dodge, Charles Brown, jun.	5		4	3	271
+ 2d. Ashford,	• JOHN RATHBUN,					52
+ 3d. Ashford,	_____					32
	• David Bolles.					
East-Haddam,	SIMEON DICKINSON, Josiah Hungerford,	1				42



(b) This pious and useful brother in the ministry, died October 19, 1796, in the 331 year of his age.

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."  
Revelation.

Mainfield,

NATHANIEL COLE,

Jesse Mason,  
Peter Kindel,

Killingly,

PETER ROGERS,

Jonathan Herrington,

Added	D. Inv.	Exclud.	Read.	Numb.
	6	7		82
				62
32	28	24	20	1976

N. B. The last church was received the present session.

4. Read the letters from sister associations. From the Philadelphian we received no intelligence. From the Shaftsbury, we received a letter and minutes, by their messenger, brother Stephen Olmsted. A letter, but no minutes, from the Warren, by their messenger, brother Robert Stanton. From the Danbury, a letter, but no minutes, by their messenger, brother Jonathan Smith. A letter and minutes, but no messenger, from the New-York. These messengers, with other brethren present, were invited to sit in council with us.

5. The circular letter, prepared by Brother Abel Palmer; and the corresponding letter, drawn by brother Amos Wells; were read and referred to a committee.

6. Appointed brother Simeon Dickinson to write the circular letter for next year, and brother Peter Rogers the letter of correspondence.

7. Chose the following brethren our messengers to our sister associations. To the Danbury, brethren Warrons and Arnold. To the Shaftsbury, brethren Pardon Tillinghast and Sands Perkins. To the New-York, brethren Valentine W. Rathbun and Simeon Dickinson. To the Warren, brethren Valentine W. Rathbun and Robert Stanton.

8. The clerk is requested to forward our minutes to the Philadelphian association.

Adjourned until nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

Public worship this evening in various parts of the vicinity.

Wednesday, October 19th.

Met according to adjournment, and

1. Sermon by brother Simeon Dickinson, from 2 Cor. iv. 5 "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

2. The circular and corresponding letters, as revised by our committee, were read and accepted. Voted, that they be printed with our minutes.

3. Agreed to the following supplies:—

2d. COLCHESTER.

Brother Peter Rogers, the first Lord's Day in April.

RICHMOND.

Brother Simeon Brown, fourth in Nov. and fourth in April.

— Zadock Darrow, fourth in May.

— Valentine W. Rathbun, third in July.

— Simeon Dickinson, fourth in August.

— Amos Wells, fourth in September.

Brother Simon Brown, first in December.

— Zaddock Darrow, first in June.

— Peter Rogers, first in July.

4. A query from the church at Hampton—“Whether, a person immersed in water, in the name of the *Father, Son and Holy Ghost*, by a man that hath not been ordained by laying on of hands in apostolic order, neither giveth evidence of a dispensation of the gospel being committed unto him, ought to be received as a baptized person?” Voted, to defer this query to our next annual convention.

5. Brother Valentine W. Rathbun is requested to superintend the printing of the minutes.

6. Voted to hold our next association at brother Darrow's meeting-house, in New-London, the third Tuesday in October, 1797.

Business being finished, brother Simon Brown concluded by prayer.

### CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Elders and Messengers of the Stonington Association, met at Groton, on the 18th and 19th days of October, 1796.*

*To the Churches they represent.*

BELoved BRETHREN, BY the protection and smiles of heaven, we have been preserved one year more; and have now enjoyed another comfortable anniversary interview. We have had tidings from the several churches; and have received letters from some of our sister associations. We have received some agreeable intelligence from abroad, notwithstanding the enor, raging in many places, who, yet “goeth about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” Altho’ “no weapon that is formed against Zion shall prosper;” the enemy is unwearied, in forming schemes, and executing plans, “to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.” In the former ages of the church, the devil was disposed to use the scriptures, to answer his purposes, and to say, “it is written;” he appeared in the character of an angel of light, and so deceived souls, and a flood of errors (consequently) was breached—The air was darkened—The churches were poisoned—The sons of Zion were wounded, and divisions, and subdivisions, took place, to the grief of the sincere followers of the *Lamb*.

Sometimes, Satan attempted to set aside one part of the scriptures, and sometimes another; but the time is now come, when he presumes (daringly) to cast contempt on all the sacred volume: and the dividing line will be drawn, (not between the several denominations of christians; but) between christians and infidels, for the *Bible* is the contempt and jest of many: even some leading characters in town and state, treat it with neglect, disregard and contempt.

Will not these things, serve (as a mean) to unite real christians, of all denominations, (however they may disagree in some lesser matters of the law) and influence them to engage in the war, to “contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints?” The *holy scriptures*—how precious is that sacred volume! As it is the invention of the *Holy Ghost*, it is full of infinite wisdom and eloquence, even the wisdom and eloquence of the great author: it is the counsellor and

