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**Baptists. Connecticut. Stonington Association, 1807  
Minutes at Groton, October 20th and 21st, 1807.  
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**MINUTES**  
OF THE  
**STONINGTON**  
**BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,**

**HELD AT**

**GROTON,**

**OCTOBER 20th and 21st, 1807**

**WITH THEIR**

**CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING**  
**LETTERS.**

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**NEW-LONDON,**

**PRINTED BY AVERY AND SPOONER.**

# MINUTES,

&c.



1. THE Elders and Messengers being met, Elder BRADLEY, of Mansfield, preached the introductory sermon, from John xxi. 5.
2. Chose Elder ABEL PALMER, Moderator, and Elder JOHN G. WIGHTMAN, Clerk.
3. Read Letters from the Churches.

N. B. The names of Ministers are in small capitals ; those with this mark (†) were not present ; from churches marked thus (\*) we had no letter ; vacant churches distinguished by a dash —

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers &amp; Messengers. ad. ds. ex. dd.</i>				<i>N<sup>o</sup>.</i>
1st N. Stonington,	PELEG RANDAL, Elias S. Palmer, Amos Brown, Jabish Gallup, Charles Babcock.	4			199
2d N. Stonington,	SIMEON BROWN,† ASA SPALDING, JEDEDIAH RANDAL, ASHER MINER, John Stanton, Thomas Wells, Prentice Frink.	13	1	1	177
1st Groton,	JOHN G. WIGHTMAN, Benadam Gallup, Samuel Lamb, Joseph Culver.	4		3	175
Saybrook,	Michael Spencer, Noah Platts.			2	111
Exeter,	GERSHOM PALMER, Jer'h G. Northyp, George Sisson.	48	1	3	252

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers &amp; Messengers.</i>	<i>ad.</i>	<i>ds.</i>	<i>ex.</i>	<i>dd.</i>	<i>No.</i>
<i>Richmond,</i>	{ PHIN'S PALMER, Silas Moore, Caleb Barber.	31	2	2	4	96
<i>W. Greenwich,</i>	{ Joseph Tillinghast,	19		1	1	110
<i>1st Colchester,</i>	{ ELIADA BLAKESLY, Thomas Smith, James Lamb.	6	5		2	128
<i>2d Richmond,*</i>	-----					83
<i>2d Colchester,</i>	{ ASA WILLCOX,† Alpheus Rogers, Ebenezer Rogers, Samuel Morgan, Eliphalet Hillyard.	54			2	96
<i>Hampton,</i>	{ ABEL PALMER, Stephen Webb, Nathaniel Bennett, Asa Bennett, William Palmer, Alvin Bennett.	6	2		3	94
<i>Montville,</i>	{ REUBEN PALMER, Joseph Allyn, Ebenezer Dart, Samuel Fox.	5	1		1	186
<i>Chatham,</i>	{ George Gates, Dudley Brainard, William Bolles,	1		1		112
<i>Waterford,</i>	{ ZADOCK DARROW,† Jethro Beebe, Eben'r Maynard, Tho's Manwaring.	1	9	1	3	185
<i>East-Haddam,</i>	{ S. DICKINSON,† John Bigelow, Josiah Hungerford	6	2			83
<i>Plainfield,</i>	{ NAPHTALI COLE, John Bennet, James Henry, John Stranahan.	1	2			79
<i>Killingly,</i>	{ CALVIN COOPER, Samson Covel, Miller Bowen.					98
<i>S. Kingston,*</i>	-----					52
<i>Stonington,</i>	{ Einathan Fellows, E. Cheesebrough, Joseph Palmer.	1	2			55

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers &amp; Messengers.</i>	<i>ad.</i>	<i>ds.</i>	<i>ex.</i>	<i>dd.</i>	<i>No.</i>
<i>New-London,</i>	SAMUEL WEST,					
	Henry Harris,					
	John Lewis,	12			2	102
	Jonathan Sizer, Joseph Anable.					
<i>Lebanon,</i>	NEHEM'H DODGE,†					
	Abel Goodwin,	12			1	83
	Henry Brown.					
	<b>TOTAL,</b>	224	27	14	23	2536

4. Received a letter and minutes from the Warren Association; from the Danbury Association, their messenger brother Hezekiah West, but no minutes; from the Groton Conference a letter and minutes, by their messengers Elders STERRY and R. BURROWS; from the Rensselaerville, no minutes; from Sturbridge, a letter and minutes, by their messengers, WRIGHTMAN and HANKS; from Otsego, no messenger nor minutes; from Shaftsbury, a letter and minutes; from Leyden, none; from New-York, no minutes; from Philadelphia, none.

5. Appointed Elders Joshua Bradley, Samuel West, Peleg Randal, and Jedediah Randal, a committee to examine the circular and corresponding letters.

6. Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21.

7. Brother A. Palmer opened our meeting by prayer.

8. Read and approved the circular and corresponding letters.

9. Appointed Elder Reuben Palmer to write the circular letter, and Elder Eliada Blakesly the corresponding letter, for the next year.

10. Appointed brethren Blakesly and George Gates, our messengers to the Danbury Association; Gershom Palmer and Joseph Tillinghast, to the Warren; Peleg Randal, Benadam Gallup, Asher Miner, and John G. Wightman, to the Groton conference; Samuel West, Jeremiah Tinker, Henry Harris, to New-York; Samuel West, to forward our minutes to Philadelphia; Abel Palmer, Stephen Webb, Nathaniel Cole, and Reuben Palmer, our messengers to the Sturbridge, Alvia Bennett to the Leyden Association; Elias S. Palmer and Jedediah Randal, our messengers to Otsego; Jesse Wightman and Nehemiah Dodge, to Shaftsbury.

11. As the church at South Kingston have not been represented for three years past: appointed brethren Peleg Randal and Gershom Palmer, a committee to visit that church and make report to our next association.

12. Voted, That brethren John G. Wightman and Samuel West, superintend the printing of our minutes.

13. Voted, That our next association be held with the church at Exeter, the third Tuesday in October next.

14. Voted, To discontinue our petition for redress of grievances, and brother David Bolles from being our agent to the General Assembly.

15. At the request of the church at Killingly, they were dismissed from this, to join the Sturbridge Association.



## CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The STONINGTON ASSOCIATION, to the CHURCHES composing the same.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

We have received new manifestations of divine goodness, and have been refreshed with agreeable tidings, from several places; and we trust our souls have been refreshed with the dew of heavenly grace. It has been usual on these occasions, to address the churches on some important subject; we know of none more useful, than God's over-ruling evil for the good of Zion.

Although it is, and ever has been the design of the enemies of God, to disturb the happiness of his people, yet the Lord in infinite wisdom and goodness hath ever over-ruled all the purposes of the wicked for his own glory, and the best good of his church. Witness Pharaoh's conduct towards Israel—Saul's toward David—Haman's toward Mordecai—and more especially of the Jews towards our Glorious Redeemer, on whom all our hopes depend, both for the enjoyment of grace here, and glory hereafter. For he was delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, yet crucified with wicked hands; and being made perfect through suffering, became the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him. And through his atonement our souls have hope of pardon, justification, and acceptance with God. Through which we have the communication of the Gospel, manifestation of grace, and the work of sanctification on our souls, by the Holy Spirit.

If we further consider the effect of persecution on the gospel church, in which some have sealed their testimony with their blood, and given ample proof of the efficacy and power of the Christian religion, whereby others were persuaded to embrace it at the risk of their lives; thus persecution has ever been made subservient to the spread of the Gospel, for many have been driven from place to place, preaching the word every where.

These reflections may administer consolation to our souls, and strengthen us to go through many trials and sufferings, with an heavenly fortitude. For Zion's sake we bring forth these things to comfort her in her warfare, and say unto her, thy God reigneth; for she is compared to a cottage in a vineyard, or a city besieged, not with a Roman artillery, but a Judas like band, with swords and staves from the high priests and ecclesiastical rulers, who smite Jesus the corner stone, and rise like a hurricane, swelling a flood of indignation and persecution, to beat vehemently upon the city of our God. Should these increase with infidel boldness, and rise with hypocritical loftiness to the clouds, we have nothing to fear from their combined greatness; for God is in the midst of us, and we shall not be moved; for he will help us, and that right early. He will be soon known in all the earth, in breaking like a potter's vessel all the establishments formed against his church, for he will fall upon them with his rod of strength and grind them to powder. Let us therefore lift up our heads and rejoice, for our salvation is nearer than when we believed; and the vast dominion of evil, and every kind of wickedness, is falling under Immanuel's feet. Let us therefore stand fast, in one mind, striving together for the faith of the Gospel; and in nothing terrified by our adversaries, which is to them an evident token of perdition: but to us of salvation and that of God.

Finally, brethren, let us put on the whole armour of God; and having done all to stand, let us stand with our loins girt about with truth, and our lamps burning, and be as those that are waiting for the coming of our Lord: to whom be glory forever. AMEN.

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## CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The ELDERS and MESSENGERS composing the STONINGTON ASSOCIATION, to the several ASSOCIATIONS with whom they correspond, send Christian salutation.*

**DEARLY BELOVED IN THE LORD,**

It is with peculiar satisfaction we have opportunity of seeing so many of our brethren, and hearing from different parts of Zion in our land. It is truly pleasing to see and hear of the increase of truth in our day. God is evidently building up his cause in the world, in spite of all the opposition from earth and hell. Darkness is fleeing before light; error is falling before truth; the traditions of men are crumbling, and the pure doctrine of Christ as revealed in the New Testament, more fully

understood and practiced, than it hath been for ages past, by which it appears that the church is coming up out of the wilderness. Through the influence of the Divine Spirit, converts are multiplied in many places; while some of our seaports and cities are rejoicing in free and abounding grace, the wilderness is blossoming as the rose, and springs are breaking forth in the desert. While we view the harvest plenteous, we rejoice that God is raising up and sending forth such a goodly number of young men, who are willing to forsake all for Christ and his cause; to preach the gospel, and feed his sheep and lambs; men who appear to have the cause of truth and the good of souls lie near their hearts.

Dear Brethren, While we view these pleasing scenes, we also behold those storms that are trying the building, whether it stands on the rock of God's word, or on the sandy foundation of human invention and tradition of men, which is falling at the present day, whilst that only which cannot be shaken, will remain. How important then for all those who love Jesus, to keep his commands, and evidence by a life corresponding with the Scriptures; that they are his disciples, and that love to God and man is the spring of all their actions; that others seeing the excellency of true religion, may fall in love with its author, and so glorify our Father which is in heaven; and Jesus be crowned Lord of all; and there be one Lord, one faith, and one baptism; and the Stone from the mountain fill the whole earth.

We close by cordially assuring you, that we are comforted in the reception of your letters and messengers, and wish this satisfactory correspondence and fellowship to continue. And subscribe ourselves, yours in the Lord,

ABEL PALMER, MODERATOR.  
JOHN C. WIGHTMAN, CLERK.