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Minutes . . . at Mansfield . . . October 18 & 19, 1814.  
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# **MINUTES**

**OF THE**

**STONINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**HELD AT**

**MANSFIELD, (CONNECTICUT,)**

**OCTOBER 18 & 19, 1814.**

**COLCHESTER:**

**PRINTED BY THOMAS M. SKINNER & CO.**

**1814.**

# MINUTES, &c.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18.

1. THE Elders and Brethren being assembled at 10 o'clock, A. M. Brother John G. Wightman preached the introductory sermon, from Isaiah lx. 7.

2. Chose Brother John G. Wightman, Moderator; and Brother William Palmer, Clerk.

3. After prayer by Brother Samuel West, proceeded to read the Letters from the Churches, and took the following account of the number added, dismissed, excluded, died, and the present number in each Church.

N. B. The names of ordained Ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS; those to which (\*) is affixed were not present; from Churches marked thus (†) we received no information; vacant Churches distinguished by a (—)

CHURCHES:	MESSENGERS.	Added	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Total
1st. N. Stonington	JONATHAN MINER	56	7			1185
	Dea. Nathan Chapman					
	Elias S. Palmer					
2nd. N. Stonington	*SIMEON BROWN	88		1		5389
	*ASHER MINER					
	Thomas Wells					
	Amos Main					
	Luke Reynolds					
Groton . . .	JOHN G. WIGHTMAN	64	5			2288
	Dea. Samuel Lamb					
	Dea. Sands Fish					
1st. Saybrook .	SAMUEL WEST	4	1	1	3	87
	Dea. Michael Spencer					
	Reynolds Webb					
Exeter . . .	GERSHOM PALMER	41		3		2384
	Samuel Clark					
1st. Richmond	*PHINEAS PALMER					100
W. Greenwich	STAFFORD GREEN	19		2		7117
	JOSEPH TILLINGHAST					
	Dea. Pardon Tillinghast					
1st. Colchester	WILLIAM PALMER	16	1	1		3116
	Asa Randall					
	Abial Lathrop					
	Hezekiah Abel					

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Added .	Dismissed	Excluded	Did .	Total .
<i>2nd. Richmond</i>	William Browning	1		1		65
<i>2nd. Colchester</i>	WILLIAM WITTER	42	1		1	126
	Dea. Eliphalet Hilliard					
	Abel Gates					
<i>Hampton . . .</i>	Stephen Webb	15	2		2	97
	Frederick Curtis					
	Gurdon Robinson					
<i>Montville . . .</i>	REUBEN PALMER	4		1	6	140
	Reuben Palmer, jun.					
<i>Chatham &amp; Haddam</i>	SOLOMON WHEAT	3	1	1	2	100
	Dea. Constant Welch					
	David Warner					
	Dudley Brainard					
<i>Waterford . . .</i>	*ZADOCK DARROW	10	4	2	3	186
	FRANCIS DARROW					
	Thomas Manwaring					
	David Beckwith					
<i>East Haddam</i>	*†SIMEON DICKINSON					40
<i>Plainfield . . .</i>	NATHANIEL COLE	1	1	3	2	70
	James Henry					
	Alexander Dorrance					
	John Stranahan					
<i>S. Kingston . . .</i>	ENOCH STEDMAN	22			2	103
	Gideon Lillibridge					
<i>Stonington Borough</i>	*†ELIHU CHEESBROUGH Let'	6		9	1	75
<i>New London</i>	†					85
<i>Lebanon . . .</i>	*NEHEMIAH DODGE	2			2	80
	Dea. John Hayward					
	Elisha Hutchinson					
	Zechariah Waldo					
<i>Mansfield . . .</i>	JONATHAN GOODWIN	14		1	2	91
	Dea. William Bennet					
	Asa Bennet					
	Oliver Bingham					
<i>2nd. Saybrook</i>	OLIVER WILSON	2			1	66
	Sala Post					
<i>3d. Colchester</i>	†					24
		438	23	36	45	907

4. Received communications from Corresponding Associations, viz.

<i>Associations.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Letters.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>
Warren	_____	_____	_____
Hartford	{ Elder Asahel Morse, — Rufus Babcock, — Eliada Blakely, — Elisha Cushman, }	do.	do.
Groton Union Conference	_____	_____	_____
Renssellaerville	_____	do.	do.
Sturbridge	{ Elder James Grow, — Augustus Bolles, — Alvin Bennet, — Ezekiel Terry, }	_____	do.
Otsego	_____	_____	_____
N. York	_____	do.	do.
Westfield	Asahel Morse	do.	do.
Boston	_____	do.	do.
Shaftsbury	Asahel Morse	do.	do.

5. Appointed Brethren William Witter, Samuel West, John G. Wightman, together with the authors, to examine the circular and corresponding Letters.

6. Voted to adjourn our meeting until tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Closed with prayer by Elder Alvin Bennet.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 19.

Met according to adjournment; prayer introductory to business by Brother Darrow.

7. The Circular and Corresponding Letters were read and accepted.

8. Appointed Messengers to Corresponding Associations, viz. to

Warren,	William Palmer.		
Hartford,	William Witter, Asa Bennet, William Palmer.		
Groton Union Conference,	Samuel West, William Witter, William Palmer.		
Sturbridge,	Jonathan Goodwin, — Putnam.		
Shaftsbury,	Oliver Wilson.		
N. York,	Sala Post,	forward	Minutes.
Philadelphia,	do.	do.	do.
Warwick,	do.	do.	do.
Leyden,	Oliver Wilson,	do.	do.
Boston,	Br. — Putnam, William Palmer.		
Renssellaerville,	William Palmer,	forward	Minutes.
Otsego,	do.	do.	do.
Westfield,	Oliver Wilson,	do.	do.

9. Appointed Br. William Witter to write the Circular, and Br. William Palmer the Corresponding Letter for next year.

And it being a day of trouble and calamity, wars and fightings, and a day in which the Lord is pouring out his judgments on our land and nation,

10. Voted, That the Messengers recommend to the several Churches which they represent, to observe the last Friday of October, as a day of fasting and prayer. Corresponding Associations have recommended the same.

11. Upon a communication addressed by Elder Luther Rice to this Association, it was voted unanimously to recommend to our several Churches, to have an annual contribution for the purposes of foreign missions, and that Br. Jonathan Goodwin be a committee to forward our minutes to Dr. Staughton, and hold correspondence with him in our behalf.

12. Voted to hold our next Association with the first Baptist Church in N. Stonington.

13. Voted, That Br. Samuel West preach the introductory sermon; in case of failure, Br. William Palmer.

14. Voted, That Br. William Palmer superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes.

### CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Elders and Brethren of the Stonington Baptist Association to the several Churches which they represent, send Christian salutation.*

**DEAR BRETHREN,**

IN addressing you at this period, let us take the exhortation of Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, "to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints."—There is a faith, a grace which has for its object the Lord Jesus, as he is revealed in his word. Faith is a grace whereby we close with all divine revelation; assent to the truth of it in our understanding, and are made partakers of the sweetness of the same in our hearts. That which we are exhorted to contend for in the text, is the doctrine of faith. Our lives and every thing dear to us must not stand in competition with the vindication of those saving truths revealed in the holy scriptures. There are two energetic reasons to induce the people of God to engage in the contest. First, the excellency of truth; second, the opposition that it meets with from its enemies. Of these we shall take particular notice. 1st. The excellency of truth. It came from God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; and it cost his Son his blood in order to reveal the way to heaven unto his people.—Truth is that

which makes us free, and leads us in the road to glory in the kingdom of our heavenly Father. It is peculiarly comforting to Christians, because it reveals an inheritance of infinite worth; an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for them. 2nd. The mighty opposition which is made against the truth. Satan, his angels, and wicked men are unitedly engaged against it. Satan used his utmost exertions, to overturn the plan of salvation in the temptations he brought before our Saviour; and since the way of salvation was completed, Satan with all the host of enemies, has been engaged in propagating false doctrine, to overturn the truth. False teachers are neither discouraged by defeats, nor contented with advantages; but are like raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. But blessed be God, who hath awakened the zeal of so many of the faithful servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, in all parts of his kingdom, to give testimony to his truth; let us therefore resolve to spend and be spent in the glorious cause of our blessed Redeemer. And here, dear brethren, permit us to suggest the propriety of arming ourselves with such a temper of mind, as is calculated to give us success. Unless we ourselves are governed by the Spirit of truth, we are utterly unqualified to act in its defence. All our arguments in behalf of God's word will lose their force, unless we practise according to its direction. By living regardless of our own characters, we are greatly exposed to the severe reproof of the apostle: "Thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?" But in defending the truth it is important that we avoid a spirit of hardness. The wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

The direction of the apostle is here of great importance: "In meekness instructing those who oppose themselves, if peradventure God may give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth." By observing these rules, we shall imitate the blessed Jesus, and promote the honour of his gospel; we shall be successful at present, and finally obtain the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The Stonington Baptist Association convened at Mansfield,  
October 13th and 19th, 1814, to the several Associa-  
tions with whom we correspond.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

NEVER was there a time when God's people were more loudly called upon to "come up to the help of the Lord

against the mighty." Never, perhaps, was there a day when the united efforts of God's people met with greater tokens of Divine approbation. Never had the meek, humble and faithful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ greater reason to lift up their heads and rejoice, (viewing their salvation drawing nigh) than at this all important and eventful period, notwithstanding the unpromising and disastrous appearance of the present state of the world. The glory of the Lord is rising upon Zion;—"mountains and hills are breaking forth into singing, and the trees of the field are clapping their hands; Zion's sons are coming from far and her daughters she is nursing at her side." Dear Brethren, notwithstanding our former coldness and want of zeal, we now feel to say, "for Zion's sake we will not hold our peace, and for Jerusalem's sake we will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth." We feel strengthened in view of revivals of religion among the Churches; of the increase of their numbers; of their union; and of their united efforts to spread the word of life. We feel encouraged in view of the opening prospect for the rapid and extensive spread of the gospel among the poor benighted pagans.—Dear Brethren, let us ever be united in labouring for the good of souls, and the upbuilding of the great Redeemer's kingdom; always endeavouring to let our love be without dissimulation, both towards God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and towards one another. Let us ever avoid those little divisions which are greatly disturbing the peace of Christians, and rending asunder so many of the Churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, Brethren, be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Our meeting hath been pleasant, and our hearts have burned (we trust) with sacred love, while we have had the opportunity once more of worshipping our God together, and of hearing from so many of the dear disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The accounts we have received from the Churches of our particular body, you will learn (for substance) by our Minutes which accompany this Letter.

JOHN G. WIGHTMAN, *Moderator*  
WILLIAM PALMER, *Clerk*.