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Warren Association of Baptists, 1779.

Minutes of the Warren Association in their Meeting at  
Attleborough, September 7th and 8th, 1779.

[ Boston? 1779. ] 7 pp.

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# MINUTES of the Warren Association,

in their Meeting at Middleborough, September 7th and 8th, 1779

THE elders and brethren from our respective churches being met according to appointment, at Middleborough, Sept. 7, 1779 Elder Ledyer preached a suitable sermon from Matt. 11. 25. After which the Moderator and Clerk were chosen, and the letters from the churches were read, from whence the following list was taken, with the account of the numbers that have been added, dismissed, died, or excluded from each church since our former accounts from them; and also their present number. Ministers with this mark [†] were not present. Churches with this mark [\*] we had no new account from.

Churches.	Messengers.	Ad	dis	died	excl	No.
2 Boston,	S SKILLMAN, John Waite, Benj Callender,	4			1	147
2 Boston,	† SKILLMAN,					42
Bellingham,	NOAH ALDEN, Samuel Darling,	2			1	43
Haverhill,	† HEZ SMITH,	4		1		170
• Warren,	† C. THOMPSON,					84
2 Middleboro'	† I. BACKUS, Nathaniel Shaw, Seth Howard,	12				71
2 Middleboro'	† EBEN. HINDS, Ebenezer Briggs, Benjamin Reed,		23	4	1	47
3 Middleboro'	† ASA HUNT, Abigail Tinkham,	1	2	3		86
Charlton,	† NATH. GREEN, Daniel Bacon,			1		49
Wilbraham,	† SETH CLARK, Jonathan Warren,	51		1		133
• Enfield,	† J MECHAM					30
Ashfield,	† EBEN SMITH, Elnathan Tobey,	2		1	7	52
Montague,	† Ebenezer Curtis,	7				37
• Sutton,						45
Royalston,	W. JACOBS, Jacob Efy,	4			1	81
Richmond,	† M. BELEAU,					79
Wrentham,	† W. WILLIAMS, Ebenezer Guild,	1				23

		Ad	dif.	died	excl.	No
<i>Attleboro*</i>	Abner Haskall, J. SEAMANS, Joshua Everett, John Sprague,	3			1	63
<i>S. Brimfield,</i>	E. CODDING, Jehiel Munger,	34				57
• <i>Starbridge, Woodstock, Chelmsford,</i>	BIEL LEDOYT, Samuel Fletcher, Amos Fletcher,	12		3	1 6	24 49 81
<i>Barnstable, New-Salem,</i>	S. BIGELOW,    W. ERVING,	1				21 23
<i>Grafton, Leicester,</i>	T. USTICK, BENJ FOSTER, Samuel Cheever, Isaac Choate,	1 14			1	26 56
<i>Freetown, Medfield,</i>	ABNER LEWIS, THOMAS GAIR, Asa Mason,	6 9	16	1 1		44 62
<i>Harwich, Killingfjy,</i>	Seth Clark, G. ROBINSON, Ezra Baxter, Joseph Smith, John P. Jones,	3 16				47 55
<i>Deddy, Farmington.</i>	J. MERRIMAN				1	21 8
		197	41	18	20	1876

Adjourned to eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

Sept. 8 Met according to adjournment, and, 1. Elder Backus was appointed to write a letter to our sister church of Eastfield, desiring them to inform us why they have so long neglected to meet with us.

2. Elder Jacobs and elder Williams were appointed to write a letter to the church of Starbridge, for the same purpose.

3. The church of Weare, having heretofore been wrote to, and

\* Besides the above accounts, we received a letter from elder Warden of New Providence, in the county of Berkshire, informing us, that he baptized twenty nine persons in a day, at Shaftsbury last June; and also that a powerful work of the Divine Spirit is now going on in New Providence, where about sixty have lately been baptized. And that a measure of the same work prevails in several adjacent towns.

having no return therefrom, it was concluded that they are no longer to be considered as of this body.

4. Enquiry was made, concerning the journeyings and labours of our elders, Jacobs, Ledoyr, Seamons, and Ransom, who were last year desired to visit the nothern parts of our country. And very agreeable accounts were received of their free reception in many places, and some instances of very remarkable and glorious effects of the gospel. Upon which this association voted them their hearty approbation and thanks for those services.

5. The following collections from our churches were given to said ministers. viz.

1 Boston,	-	-	-	£	12	0	0
1 Middleborough,	-	-	-		8	12	6
3 Middleborough,	-	-	-		4	12	6
Royalstone,	-	-	-		6	0	0
South Brimfield.	-	-	-		3	0	0
Chelmsford,	-	-	-		4	7	8
Grafton,	-	-	-		6		0
Leicester,	-	-	-		7	10	0
Medfield,	-	-	-		10	10	0
Hardwich,	-	-	-		6	0	0
Killingley,	-	-	-		6	0	0
Dudley,	-	-	-		5	8	0
Caleb Blood,	-	-	-		1	8	0
				£	81	10	2

6. Collected the following sums for our Agent.

1 Boston,	-	-	-	£	6	0	0
3 Middleborough,	-	-	-		6	13	10
Ashfield,	-	-	-		3	14	0
Royalstone,	-	-	-		3	12	0
Attleborough,	-	-	-		12	11	0
South Brimfield	-	-	-		3	0	0
Chelmsford,	-	-	-		4	7	8
Grafton,	-	-	-		3	1	6
Leicester,	-	-	-		7	10	0
Medfield,	-	-	-		3	0	0
Harwich,	-	-	-		6	0	0
Killingley,	-	-	-		3	0	0
Dudley,	-	-	-		5	8	0
				£	67	18	0

7. Our Elders Jacobs and Hunt, were desired and appointed, to travel and labour in our Northern towns this fall; and the Elders Alden and Fletcher in the Spring.

8. Agreed upon the following supplies for destitute societies. viz.

- Haverhill,** Elder Seamans, the second Lord's day in *October*.  
Elder Williams, the fourth in *October*.
- Montague,** Elder Clark, the second in *December*.  
Elder Jacobs, the first in *February*.
- Hendwich,** Elder Lewis, the second in *October*, and second in *June*.  
Elder Backus, the first in *December*.  
Elder Seamans, the fourth in *May*.
- Barnstable,** Elder Lewis, the second in *November*.  
Elder Backus, the last in *November*.  
Elder Seamans, the third in *May*.
- Sutton,** Mr. Fletcher, the third in *October*.  
Elder Foster, the second in *December*.  
Elder Blood, the third in *May*.  
Elder Ledoyt, the fourth in *May*.
- Framingham,** Elder Williams, the third in *May*.
- Dudley,** Elder Foster, the fourth in *November*.  
Elder Ledoyt, the second in *December*.  
Elder Blood, the second in *January* and fourth in *May*.  
Elder Robinson, the third in *May*.  
Elder Coddington, the third in *June*.
- Providence,** Elder Seamans, the third in *September*.  
Elder Robinson, the fourth in *September*.  
Elder Ustick, the first in *October*.  
Elder Ledoyt, the second in *October*.
- Andover,** Elder Coddington, the third in *October*.  
Elder Ebenezer Smith, the fourth in *October*.  
Elder Bealeau, the first in *November*.

8 Advice being asked, by the church in Charlton, about the opinion of some who hold to universal salvation, or that all the human race will finally be saved by Jesus Christ : We look upon it to be a *damnable heresy*. 1st. Because our Lord and Saviour, in his description of the future judgment, gives a plain and as express declaration of everlasting punishment to the wicked, as of eternal life to the righteous ; and we have as good reason to conclude that some of the human race are included in the first of these sentences, as that any of them are in the other. Mat. 25 31—46. 2d. What our Lord says concerning the two gates and ways, the one of which leadeth to destruction, the other to life, Mat. 7. 13, 14. plainly confirms this truth, and so does the whole doctrine of Christ. Therefore 3d. Those who declare the contrary evidently deny our Lord and Saviour, and carry the plain marks of those who do so ; such as *feeding themselves without fear ; beguiling unstable souls ; speaking great swelling words of vanity,* &c. 2. Peter, 2, chap. juoc 4, 12. For as the Devil, when he drew our first parents into sin, said, *Ye shall not surely die,* so those who teach this doctrine, declare the same thing in the nature of it ; which tends to take away fear of punishment for any sin, which most certainly is *damnable heresy* :

9. The association, upon hearing from elder Backus, an account of his Agency the year past, do fully approve of his conduct therein, and return him their hearty thanks for his faithful discharge of that trust reposed in him ; and also their thanks to our Committee for their assistance therein : And the same Agent and Committee are re chosen for the year ensuing.

10 We recommend it to the churches to continue the contributions for our Agent, and for the travelling ministers, and to send the same to our next annual meeting.

11 Agreed that our next association be held at Athol, the Tuesday after the first Wednesday in September next, at 2 o'clock afternoon. Elder Stillman to preach the sermon, and in case of failure Elder Foster.

To conclude: The Elders and Brethren present, to our several churches, send christian salutations.

*Dearlly Beloved,*

**T**HROUGH the tender mercy of God we met and continued together in peace and love ; and we trust the Lord hath been with us, strengthening us in his service. What we have done, the foregoing minutes will shew. We have abundant reason to be thankful, that in those troublesome times the Lord hath been pleased to revive his work, as appears by the very agreeable accounts we have received from a number of our churches, more especially to the Westward and Northern frontier settlements of our country ; where God's people have been quickened and built up in their most holy faith, and many careless sinners awakened and turned to God in the year past, and more especially of late, and that the work still goes on. O may it spread through the world, till the knowledge of God shall fill the whole earth ! Permit us, dear brethren, earnestly to exhort you to live in love, and to promote the same one among another. Endeavor to maintain gospel discipline in your churches. Watch against error. Be much in prayer to God. Labour to maintain the life of reli-

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tion in your own souls. Be diligent in every good word and work. And may the great shepherd of Israel lead you in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake ; which is the earnest prayer of yours in gospel bonds.

*By order of the Association,*

SAMUEL STILLMAN, *Moderator,*

THOMAS USTICK, *Clerk.*