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Baptists. Rhode Island. Warren Association, 1800.
Minutes ... in Providence, September 9 and 10, 1800.
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MINUTES

OF THE

WARREN ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT THE

BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE

IN

PROVIDENCE,

SEPTEMBER 9 and 10,

1800.



BOSTON:

Printed by MANNING and LORING.

MCCC.

MINUTES, &c.

TUESDAY, September 9.

1. **A**T two o'clock, P. M. Brother Elias Smith, agreeably to appointment, preached the introductory Sermon from Psalm l. 2 :—
 "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined." After which, collected for the widows and children of Ministers deceased.

2. Chose Dr. Hezekiah Smith, *Moderator*, and Brother Thomas Baldwin, *Clerk*.

3. Read letters from the churches, and took the following account.

N. B. The names of ordained Ministers are in *small capitals*. Licensed Preachers in *Italic*. Ministers with this mark * were not present. Churches thus marked † we had no information from this session. Vacant churches distinguished by a dash ———.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1st. Boston,	*SAMUEL STILLMAN, Daniel Wild, David Goodwin, Ebenezer L. Boyd.	3		1	4	262
2d. Boston,	THOMAS BALDWIN, Jacob Holland.	18	1	3	3	173
Haverhill,	HEZEKIAH SMITH.	6				179
† Warren,	*LUTHER BAKER.					52
† Bellingham,	—————					48
1st. Middleborough,	ISAAC BACKUS, Joseph Ames, Asahel Shaw.	2				86
2d. Middleborough,	EBENEZER HINDS, Peter Hoar.					29
3d. Middleborough,	*SAMUEL NELSON, Elisha Clark, Abiel Pierce, jun.	7			1	104
Charlton,	————— Daniel Bacon, David Bates.	5	2		4	99
Wrentham,	WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Joseph Millard, Joseph Guild.				1	36
† South-Brimfield,	*ELIJAH CODDING.					157
Attleborough,	————— John Cheever, William Everett, Otis Blackington.			1	1	64
† Wilbraham,	*SETH CLARK.					228
Woodstock,	ROBERT STANTON, Silas Coreen.	9	2	5		67

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Diad.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Chelmsford, Barnstable, New-Salem,	*JOHN PECKENS. ENOCH ELDRIDGE. JOSIAH ORCUTT, Nathan Vaughan.	5		2	1	94 60 38
Leicester, †Medfield, †Harwich, †Harvard, Newton,	————— *Edward Clark. *ABNER LEWIS. *GEORGE ROBINSON. JOSEPH GRAFTON, James Hovey.		1		2	55 41 77 108
†Salem (N. H.) Northbridge, Woburn,	————— *JOHN COOPER. ELIAS SMITH, Ephraim Emerson.				2	99 57 46
†Ashburnham, Providence,	————— STEPHEN GANO, JOHN PITMAN, Ephraim Wheaton, David Martin, Jacob Waistcoat.	1			2	111 57 204
Sturbridge,	ZENAS L. LEONARD, Samuel Cheever.	6		2	2	111
Templeton,	ELISHA ANDREWS, Daniel Norcross, Silas Cutler.		4	3	3	104
New-Rowley, Bridgewater,	SHUBAEL LOVELL. VALENTINE W. RATHBUN, James Perkins.	3	1	1		43 69
Weston, Randolph,	————— JOEL BRIGGS, Benjamin Mann, Jonathan Wales.	26	2		1	16 87
†Carver, †Hollis, Marshfield,	————— ————— —————					45 30 38
Hardwick,	William Curtis, jun. ————— Samuel Haskins.	5				54
Belchertown, 1st. Sutton,	SAMUEL BIGELOW. SAMUEL WATERS, SAMUEL KING, Moses Putnam, Solomon Marble.	17	3		1	23 75
2d. Sutton, Danvers,	*WM. BATCHELDER, ————— JOSHUA YOUNG, Eleazer Wallace.	15	2		1	39 61
		1		3		

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Add.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
2d. Freetown,	*JOB BORDEN, *JAMES BOOMER, JAMES REED.	1			1	36
Londonderry,	————— <i>Thomas Rand.</i>	15			1	40
†Marshpee,	*JOHN FREEMAN.					42
Total		620	19	22	32	3544

4. Voted, To adjourn until to-morrow morning; to meet at 6 o'clock, at this place, for the purpose of uniting in fervent, solemn prayer to Almighty God, on account of the afflictive state of this town with a malignant fever; and to meet at 9 o'clock for business.

Sermon in the evening by Brother Andrews, from 1 Cor. i. 18.

WEDNESDAY, September 10.

Met according to adjournment. Brother Grafton opened the meeting by prayer.

5. Appointed Messrs. Baldwin, Wild and Holland a Committee to count and apportion the money collected for the Widows, &c.

6. Received Letters and Minutes from the following Associations: From the Stonington, Minutes and Letter, by their Messenger, Brother Nathaniel Cole; from the New-York, a Letter, by their Messengers, Elder Caleb Green and Brother Ezekiel Robbins; from the New-Hampshire, Letter and Minutes, by the hand of Brother Peak, their Messenger; from the Bowdoinham, Letter and Minutes, by their Messengers, Brethren Elisna Williams and Isaac Case; from the Charleston, Letter and Minutes; from the Groton Conference, Minutes and Letter, by their Messengers, Brethren Jacob Hix and David Perry, jun. from the Shaftsbury, Letter and Minutes, by their Messengers, Brethren Ebenezer Smith* and Ebenezer Vining; from the Woodstock, Minutes and Letter, by their Messenger, Brother Thomas Rand.

7. The Circular Letter prepared by Brother Bradley, and the Corresponding Letter, by Brother Lovell, were read; and, after some small alterations, were adopted.

8. The Treasurer of the Baptist Education Society laid before the Association a brief account of the state of their Fund; by which it appears, that 309 Dolls. 60 Cts. have been contributed, in the course of the last year, from the two Churches in Boston, the Church in Providence, and the Church in Haverhill.

A Bill

* We are sorry to learn that the Baptist Church and Society at Patridgefield, under the care of Rev. Ebenezer Smith, have been and still are greatly oppressed by being taxed, to a large amount, towards building a Congregational meeting-house in that place.

Upon the representation of the above, it was motioned and voted, to have a contribution to assist our Brethren in an action commenced for the recovery of their property. — Collected for the purpose 23 Dolls. 83 Cts. Delivered the same to Mr. Smith.

A Bill of *One Hundred Dollars* was presented to the Treasurer, for the Fund, by Dr. Smith, from a Gentleman whose name he was not at liberty to mention. Upon which, Voted, That Dr. Smith be desired to present the thanks of this Association to their unknown friend, for his generous donation to their infant institution, and assure him of their best wishes that their *heavenly Father who sees in secret would reward him openly.*

9. Voted, To request the Churches which have not contributed, to have a contribution in the course of the present year, and forward their collections to the Treasurer of the Fund.

10. The Rev. Mr. Backus, by reason of his age and infirmities, requested to resign his seat as a Trustee of this institution. Voted to accept his resignation.

11. Chose Rev. Stephen Gano a Trustee of the Baptist Education Fund, in the room of Mr. Backus, resigned.

12. Appointed Brother Elias Smith to write the Circular Letter for next year, and Brother John Pitman to write the Corresponding Letter.

13. On request of the Church at Hardwick, to be dismissed to the Leyden Association, Voted, to dismiss them accordingly.

14. Voted and chose Dr. Smith, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Grafton and Mr. E. Smith a Committee, to whom persons taxed to other denominations may apply for advice.

15. Appointed the following Brethren our Messengers to our Sister Associations. To the Shaftsbury, Brethren Andrews and S. S. Nelson. To the Stonington, Brethren Rathbun and Z. L. Leonard. To the New York, Brethren John Pitman, S. S. Nelson and E. Eldridge. To the New-Hampshire, Dr. Smith and Brother Lovell. To the Bowdoinham, Brethren Baldwin, E. Nelson, Grafton and Lovell. To the Groton Conference, Brethren Elias Smith, Stephen Gano, Z. L. Leonard, James Reed and Jacob Waistcoat. To Woodstock, Brethren Baldwin, Bradley and J. Orcutt.

16. Agreed to the following supplies :

Marshfield,	{	Brother Reed, 4th Lord's Day in October.
		Brother Briggs, 1st in December.
		Brother King, 3d in November.
		Brother Lovell, 2d in May.

Weston,	{	Brother Andrews, last in April.
		Brother Briggs, 1st in October.
		Brother King, 2d in November.

Leicester,	Brother Stanton, 4th in April.
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17. Voted, To hold our next Association at the Baptist Meeting-House belonging to the first Church in Sutton, the Tuesday after the first Wednesday in September, 1801, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

18. Appointed Brother Stephen Gano to preach the introductory Sermon ; and in case of failure, Brother Hinds. The business being finished, at 1 o'clock, the meeting was concluded by prayer. A meeting was appointed for the evening, and Brother Eldridge requested to preach.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The ELDERS and MESSENGERS to the several CHURCHES met in ASSOCIATION at Providence, September 9th and 10th, 1800, send Christian Salutation.

DEAR BRETHREN,

THOUGH the beautiful city of our God begins to arise all around us, and look forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners; yet there are those who would fain persuade us, that this magnificent superstructure may be demolished, and its citizens buried in promiscuous ruin. Let us, therefore, brethren, fly to our God, and catch the living fire from his altar, and draw forth the sword of the Spirit, and walk about Zion.

Let us now reflect for a few moments upon the foundation of this glorious city of our God, and the safety of those who are built upon it.

1. This foundation was laid in Zion, or the Church: for thus saith the Lord, Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone, a sure foundation. If we wish to hear the period specified when the foundation of Zion was laid, we must roll back the pages of all time, and enter upon the registers of eternity. There we shall find that God, the great Sovereign and Almighty Cause of all beings and worlds, appointed his only begotten Son as the Lamb to be slain, and laid him for a foundation for his people before the world began. This glorious foundation is durable, incorruptible and immoveable. The broad foundations of Nineveh, Babylon, and all the magnificent cities of antiquity, have been rent to pieces, and crumbled to atoms; but the firm basis of Zion has remained incorruptible and immoveable. It was laid in the determinate counsel of God, by infinite wisdom, unbounded goodness, and eternal veracity. It has never been overwhelmed, defaced nor changed, by all the storms which have burst upon the world and buried empires in ruin.

The combined powers of earth and hell have exerted all their strength, and exhausted all their skill, to undermine this foundation, and crush the fair temples of the living God in destruction; but the experience of every age, for almost six thousand years, has demonstrated to the world, in language firm as heaven, that it cannot be overthrown. If the foundation of Zion be not sure and immoveable, then all good men, in every age of the world, have been deceived; for they have declared in prophetic diction, that this is a sure

a sure foundation. If it be not, then all our preaching is downright falsehood; nay, the finger of the Almighty hath pointed out a foundation in his word, for distressed and sinking souls to rest upon, which is no better than quicksand. The great Architect of all worlds hath not built his Church upon sliding sand; but upon a sure foundation, which will remain immutable, when the hand of the Almighty shall brush away the wide planetary world, and crumble the huge pillars of creation to atoms. Upon this sure foundation, said the immaculate Lamb of God, I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

2. Let us consider the safety of those who are built upon it. They are collected from different parts of the world, by God's omnipotent arm, redeemed by the blood of Christ, renovated by his grace, and cemented to the foundation by eternal love. God has written their names in heaven. They are recorded in the Lamb's book of life. If those names which glitter on the registers of eternity can be blotted out, then God may be deprived of his Church, and not till then. In prophetic style, she is called a city not forsaken. The all-seeing eye of Jehovah is upon her. His power, wisdom, honour, righteousness, faithfulness and mercy rise into an impregnable wall round about her, which can never be demolished. Upon this, the flaming angels and ministers of God stand with their drawn swords of truth, and the omnipotent arm itself is stretched out, ready to dash to pieces every weapon formed against her. The Almighty proclaims from his lofty throne, I the Lord do keep it: I will water it every moment, lest any hurt it. Not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed. The ministers of Christ must all be divested of their Christian armour; the tall angels of God must faint away; the purposes of the Almighty must be frustrated, and the bond of eternal love must be broken, before one, whom God hath placed upon the foundation of Zion, shall perish. Behold, ye saints of the Most High, ye ministers of the blessed Jesus, the sure foundation which God hath laid, and the safety of those who are built upon it. Here the weary soul shall be at rest, when the torrent of divine indignation shall burst and overwhelm the world. The leviathan of deism shall soon expire, and infidelity lick the dust. Then shall the city of our God arise into the heavens with resplendent magnificence, and be filled with a flood of ineffable glory.

LETTER of the WARREN ASSOCIATION, at their Annual Meeting, A. D. 1800, to the CORRESPONDING ASSOCIATIONS.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

WE joyfully embrace the opportunity, which another annual meeting affords us, of renewing our correspondence with you. We have had, on several accounts, a very agreeable interview. The news we have received, during our present session, of the outpouring of the blessed Spirit in many places, has afforded us much satisfaction and encouragement. We trust the Divine Saviour is on his way, and that, ere long, we shall see greater, far greater things than these. We believe the day is not far distant, when the gracious promises made to the Church will be fully accomplished; when the kingdom, and dominion, and greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the Saints; and when JESUS, our Divine Lord and Master, shall reign from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth.

If such are our circumstances, Brethren, and such our prospects, how strong are the motives which urge us to a fresh dedication of ourselves to the service of God! The soldier is ever animated by being made acquainted with the success of his companions in arms. We are Gospel soldiers. Jesus is our spiritual Captain. The year past, He, in conjunction with his faithful servants (though all the glory is his own) has obtained some signal trophies of his grace. And can we, Brethren, sit unconcerned spectators? No! if we love our Divine Saviour, if we love his cause, if we love the souls of our fellow-men, we can hardly fail of rousing at once from our state of supineness, of putting on anew the armour of righteousness, and rallying round the standard of our glorious Leader.

But these are not the only motives which urge us to vigorous exertions in the cause of God. Though during the year past, there have been, in several places, some special manifestations of divine power and grace; we have to lament that vice and error have still an awful prevalence. Many are saying, *Lo, here!* and, *Lo, there!* Not only in Europe, but in many parts of our own country, infidelity has spread wide its poisonous influence. Many deny the divine authority of the scriptures; while others who profess to believe, interpret them in such a manner, as entirely to destroy, or at least, greatly to mar the beauty and sublimity of their doctrines. Nor is it a less ground of lamentation, that vast multitudes who adopt a right system of truths, evince that these truths have but too little influence over their lives. Brethren! it ill becomes us to be dilatory at such a time as this. We ought to contend earnestly for the

faith delivered to the saints ; to try every article of our creed by the unerring standard of truth ; to live the religion we profess ; and clearly to manifest that Christianity is not the parent or patron of licentiousness, but eminently conducive to purity both in heart and life.

Brethren, pray for us, that our faith be not shaken. We hope it is our desire and prayer to Almighty God, that you and the whole Church on earth may be kept from the evils which are in the world, till we shall all arrive at the glorious mansions of eternal bliss. Now, unto Him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy ; to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Signed in behalf of the Association,

HEZEKIAH SMITH, Moderator.
THOMAS BALDWIN, Clerk.