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Baptists. Rhode Island. Warren Association, 1812.  
Minutes . . . in Warren, Sept. 8th and 9th.  
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# MINUTES

OF THE

WARREN ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT THE

*Baptist Meeting-House*

IN

Warren,

SEPT. 8th and 9th,

1812.

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Providence :

PRINTED BY JONES & WHEELER,

No. 7, MARKET-SQUARE.

*William Palmers No 50 112*

# MINUTES, &c.

Tuesday, September 8, 1812.\*

1. **A**T two o'clock, Brother ASA MESSER, President of Brown University, according to appointment, delivered the introductory discourse, from I Peter v, 1—4; after which, collected for the widows of deceased ministers.

2. Chose Brother Stephen Gano, Moderator, and Brother David Benedict, Clerk.

3. After prayer by Brother Gibson, proceeded to read the letters from the Churches, and took the following account of the members added, dismissed, excluded, and deceased, the year past, and the present number in each Church.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in **SMALL CAPITALS**; licensed preachers in *italics*. Those ministers with this mark (\*) were not present. Churches marked thus (+) we had no information from this session. Vacant Churches are distinguished by a dash —.

Churches.	Elders and Messengers.	Added.	Dismiss.	Exclud.	Died.	Total.
1st Boston 1668	----- Charles H. Jones Marston Allen	3	5	2	6	223
Warren 1764	LUTHER BAKER Stephen Davol John T. Child	4	1	1	1	157
1st Middleboro' 1756	SAMUEL ABBOTT Asahel Shaw Joshua Washburn		2		2	112
2d Middleboro' 1757	SIMEON COOMBS* William Canedy Elnathan Coombs William Ashley		1	2	2	123
3d Middleboro' 1761	SAMUEL NELSON Elisha Clark Martin Keith				3	145

\* At 10 o'clock, A. M. Brother Henry Kendall, from the District of Maine, delivered a very interesting discourse from Eph. 2, 6.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Wrentham 1769	WILLIAM WILLIAMS William Brown Samuel Hasel Samuel Guild				1	64
Attleborough 1769	JAMES READ William Blackington William Everet	1	1	2	1	110
Barnstable 1771	BARNABAS BATES Seth Ewer	33		1	2	226
Medfield 1776	WILLIAM GAMMELL* Abjah Fisher	12		1		66
Harwich 1757	JAMES BARNABY	78		1	3	184
1st Providence 1639	STEPHEN GANO Asa MESSER Samuel Eddy	104			6	409
Templeton 1782	ELISHA ANDREWS*					132
Bridgewater 1785	<hr/> Silas Hall Thomas Pratt Stephen Leach			1		102
Randolph 1780	JOEL BRIGGS William Blanchard Nathaniel Spear	77			2	143
Carver 1791	<hr/> Samuel Lucas		26		2	66
Marshfield 1788	THOMAS CONANT*	8	2	1		60
2d Sutton 1702	WILLIAM BATCHELDER Benjamin Peck					39
2d Tiverton 1781	JOB BORDEN Enoch French Abraham Sanford	1		1	4	95
Marshpee	<hr/>	9		2	1	42
Newport 1756	JOHN B GIBSON Samuel Barker William W. Vernon Oliver Hopkins Eleazar Trevett Benjamin Pitman Joshua Sayer	4		1	2	256
Seekonk, for- merly Rehoboth,	JOHN PITMAN Caleb Mason Joseph Bucklin	1			1	2 53

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Adm'd.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Grafton	————— Enoch Batchelder Ambrose Chase	16		1		105
Taunton 1761	————— <i>James Farley</i> Caleb Atherton	3	2		1	101
Somerset 1803	————— Joseph Marble Jacob Frieze	1	1	1	1	39
4th Middleboro'	EBENEZER BRIGGS Joseph Dunham Samuel Perkins	2				43
2d Providence 1805	JOSEPH CORNELL William Ham Benjamin C. Grafton	19		1	1	123
Pawtucket 1805	DAVID BENEDICT Jonathan Smith Ichabod Taber William Chaffee	13	2	1		73
Kingston 1805	SAMUEL GLOVER	1	2	1	1	95
Hanover 1806	JOHN BUTLER John Callamore Thomas Brooks	13	16	1	1	81
Warwick and Coventry 1805	DAVID CURTIS John Allen	33				99
Holden 1807	<i>Amasa Smith</i> <i>Thomas Marshall</i> John Abbot	4	3		1	93
3d Tiverton 1808	WILLIAM BENTLEY William Humphrey Elisha Brown William Norton	14				73
Plymouth† 1809	—————					41
Northbridge 1780	————— <i>Otis Cooper</i>				3	39
Pawtucket 1806	BELA JACOBS William Holdridge	5		1	1	59
Bristol 1811	————— Thomas Nelson Royal Thresh Lemuel W. Briggs	9				32
Pembroke 1812	————— Joseph Torrey					44

**N. B.** The last mentioned church was received the present session. Twenty-four of the churches which were on the Minutes last year, have been dismissed to form the Boston Association.

Adjourned until 8 o'clock to-morrow morning. Brother Samuel Nelson concluded by prayer. Sermon in the evening by Brother Grafton of Newton, from Rom. 7, 9.

It is desired by the writer of these Minutes, that the 4th church of Middleborough and the church of Grafton would specify in their next letters to the Association, the year in which they were constituted.

*Wednesday, September 2.*

Met according to adjournment. Prayer introductory to business by brother James Read.

1. The Circular Letter prepared by Brother Samuel Glover, was read and referred to brethren Baldwin, Messer and Pitman, as a Committee to revise it. The Corresponding Letter, prepared by Brother Luther Baker, was read and accepted.

Received communications from sister Associations, as follows, viz.

<i>Associations.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Letters.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>
Charleston		Letter	Minutes
Philadelphia	Br. WM. ROGERS.	do.	do.
New-York			
Stonington		do.	do.
Danbury			
Shaftsbury	Br. Silas Carl, <i>Heroy Jenckes.</i>	do.	do.
Sturbridge	Brethren BLOOMER & BLOSS.	do.	do.
Groton U. Conference	Br. NORTHUP.		
Bowdoinham	Br. KENDALL.	do.	do.
Leyden	Br. MONTAGUE.	do.	do.
Vermont			
Cumberland	Br. TRIPP,	do.	do.
Boston Brethren	BALDWIN & WILLIAMS.		

These two last are new Associations: the Cumberland is in the District of Maine, and was formed lately by a division of the Bowdoinham. The Boston is a daughter of the Warren; or rather we esteem her as an affectionate sister, a helpful ally, with whom we are anxious to maintain an indissoluble friendship.

2. Appointed the following Messengers to Corresponding Associations. To the

New-York	Brethren BATES & BENEDICT.
Stonington	Br. CORNELL.
Woodstock	Br. Nathan Robinson.
N. Hampshire	Br. ABBOT.
Shaftsbury	Brethren BENTLEY & BATES.
Sturbridge	Brethren <i>Marshal &amp; Smith.</i>
Groton U Con.	Brethren CORNELL, GANO & BAKER.
Leyden	Brethren BENTLEY & SMITH.
Boston	Brethren PITMAN, MESSER & EDDY.

3. The Committee appointed to revise the Circular Letter, reported, that they had not had sufficient time to make those alterations, which in their judgment would be proper, and advised that it should be submitted to a Committee of Brethren, in and near Providence, who should be authorized to revise it, and prepare it for the Ministers, after the rising of the Association. Brethren Pitman, Gano, Messer, Eddy & Benedict, with the author, were appointed the Committee.

4. Brethren Pitman, Messer & Eddy, having been appointed to take into consideration the queries which were found in some of the letters, now brought forward the answers which they had prepared.

*Query*—From the 1st Middleborough.

“Is it consistent with the Gospel of Christ, for Churches and Religious Societies to be incorporated by civil law?”

*Answer*—“That though the Kingdom of Christ is not of this world, we see no reason why the disciples of Christ may not, like other men, have the benefit of civil law, either for the protection of property, or for the fulfilment of voluntary obligations.”\*

*Query*—From the Grafton Church.

“Is it in conformity to the rules of the Association, or agreeable to the word of God, for one Elder to constitute a church, where a branch is voted to be set apart by a Council, as a separate Church?”

*Answer*—“We know of no rule for such a case. A Church is constituted, not by an Elder, but by its members.”

*Query*—From the Church in Barnstable.

“We should be pleased, dear brethren, if you will give us your opinion respecting John xiii, 13. If the washing of feet was given as an example by our Divine Redeemer, how can we justify ourselves in not imitating that example?”

*Answer*—We do not think that the example suggested, can, like baptism, or the Lord's supper, be a standing ordinance in the house of God.

The Committee who framed this answer were requested to give their reasons for it at the next association.

5. *Education Fund and Missionary Society.*—The Trustees of the Education Fund are, by an article in the act of Incorporation, to be appointed by the Warren Association. This Association has also for a number of years, made very laudable and successful exertions to collect funds for the Missionary Society, established within its bounds. Last year, when it was about to be divided, it became a question how the division would, or ought to affect these two important establishments, and “brethren Baldwin, Messer, Gano, Grafton and Williams were appointed a committee, to consider what

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\* Our brethren in other States will doubtless wonder why any here should have any question about incorporation—they ought to be informed, that such are the religious laws of some of the N. E. States, that when a Society becomes incorporated, it is involved in certain obligations, and liable to certain embarrassments which they know nothing of, which many of our brethren who have so often been fleeced for ministerial taxes, magnify unnecessarily, which the limits of this note forbid us fully to explain; but which the writer of these Minutes intends to exhibit in a clear point of view, in the history he is preparing to publish, and which it is hoped will be ready to go to the press in the course of a few months.

measures were necessary to be taken with respect to them, and to make their report at the next meeting of the two Associations"—They now report to the Warren Association, that they saw no necessity for any division whatever—but recommended that the two Institutions remain in their present form, and be managed as they have heretofore been; and exhorted their brethren to united and vigorous exertions to forward their highly important objects. And as three of the seats in the Trusteeship of the Education Fund had become vacant—Messrs. Lucius Bolles of Salem, Herman Lincoln of Boston, and Samuel Eddy of Providence, were by a vote of the Association, appointed to fill them.

The Treasurer of the Missionary Society being absent, Dr. Baldwin, the President, proposed to receive whatever monies the friends of the Institution were ready to contribute.

Received from the Church and Society in

Attleborough, - - - - -	\$ 13 20
From Mite Society in ditto, - - - - -	17 09
From F. M. Society, Middleborough, - - - - -	12 45
From do. do. do. Holden, - - - - -	13 00
From do. do. do. Pawtucket, - - - - -	21 23
From Mr. Abijah Fisher, - - - - -	1 00
From Samuel Pickins, Esq. Middleboro, - - - - -	2 00
From the Sisters of the Church in Randolph, - - - - -	20 38
From the Church and Society in Pawtucket, - - - - -	13 00
From the Female Mite Society in Seekonk, - - - - -	26 20
From the do. do. do. in Newport, - - - - -	42 68

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6. *From the Minutes of the Association last year.*—"Voted, to appoint brethren Messer, Grafton and Gano, a committee to procure and present at our next meeting, the former articles of this Association; or in case those cannot be procured, to prepare others as nearly similar as may be." By this committee the following Articles were prepared and presented to the Association.

Article 1st. No church may send to the Association more than three Messengers; (viz.) the Elder and two judicious brethren.

2d. The Messengers shall be members of the church which sends them, and able, from their actually residing among the brethren, to represent them.

3d. No church shall be admitted into this Association, which has not the fellowship of any church already admitted.

4th. In case of differences between two or more churches, the Association will appoint brethren to examine and settle them; but if, after suitable labor, one church cannot be made to give to the other the hand of fellowship, that church which will not hearken to the counsel of their brethren, shall lose its place in this connection.

5th. If one church in this Association shall admit into its bosom an excommunicated member of another, or if one church shall uphold and employ an elder or preacher who has lost the fellowship of another, the Association will appoint brethren to examine the cases; and that church which, in either, shall persist in the wrong, shall lose its place in this connection.

6th. The Association will annually appoint a committee to canvass and digest the questions proposed to the Association; to nominate the person to preach the Association Sermon, and also the person to write the Circular Letter; to propose the place the most suitable for holding the succeeding Association; to examine and make



ready for the Association the grievances or difficulties which during the year may exist in any of the churches, and to transact whatever other business may be fitted to promote their mutual edification in the faith of the gospel.

A number of the above articles were received without opposition, but as some of them were objected to, it was voted that they be printed in the Minutes, and submitted to the consideration of the churches; who are requested to express their views of them in their letters to the next Association.

7. Voted, that brother Charles Wheeler be appointed to write the Circular, and brother Samuel Eddy the Corresponding Letter for the next year.

8. Voted, that the next Association be held at Kingston, which is in the county of Plymouth, 30 miles south of Boston, about 45 east of Providence, and within 4 miles of the Rock on which the fathers of New-England landed.

9. Voted, that the Association sermon be preached at 10 o'clock in the morning instead of 2 in the afternoon, and that Brother John Pitman be appointed to preach it, and in case of failure, Brother Samuel Abbot.

10. Voted, that the churches be requested to distinguish, in their next letters, between those members who have been received by baptism, and those who have joined by letter.

11. Voted, that the Clerk of the Association be appointed to get the Minutes printed, and to distribute them to the churches.

12. At about 1 o'clock, the usual business of the Association being finished, the Moderator, with his accustomed solemnity, called the attention of the assembly to a valedictory address, which he delivered in a very affectionate and impressive manner, and then concluded by a well adapted prayer.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Dr. Baldwin delivered a very interesting discourse, from 1 Corinth. 15, 58; and although many of the members of the Association had gone off, yet of those who remained, and of the inhabitants of the town, there was a very crowded and attentive assembly. Dr. Baldwin spoke with much affection on the long and happy connection which he had enjoyed with this Association. Mr. Grafton spoke to the same effect the evening before; and both of these venerable Elders, who have now become fathers in the churches, evinced to their remaining brethren, that although they had, by the late division of the old body, fallen in with a new establishment, yet that their friendship and cordial affection for the Association with which both of them have stood connected for between twenty and thirty years, remained unimpaired.

During the whole session of the Association, the assembly was uncommonly large and attentive. The business was conducted with much decorum and facility, the preaching was peculiarly sensible and solemn, and the whole scene was by the united voice of all, one of the most interesting which has lately been witnessed.

The inhabitants of Warren merit the thanks of the Association for the hospitality which they manifested to such a numerous collection of brethren and friends, consisting as is believed of upwards of 500 persons.

**Corresponding Letter.**

The **WARREN ASSOCIATION** convened in Warren, R. I. September 8th, and 9th, 1812, to the several Associations with which they correspond, sendeth Christian Salutation.

DEAR BRETHREN,

UNDER pleasing sensations we address you, with a view to perpetuate that fellowship which has for a course of years subsisted between us, while we trust we have the same glorious objects in view, and while we would accomplish the same important ends. The glory of God and the good of souls, happily engage the hearts of the friends of Jesus, and promote an ardent zeal in the cause of truth. United exertions of the followers of the Lamb are eminently calculated to give success in our holy religion; and our communications have hitherto contributed to our mutual encouragement in the good work of the Lord. Under these impressions we feel a satisfaction in addressing you, while we take a view of what has been already done, the which, instead of limiting us to more narrow bounds, opens a more extensive field for gospel labor, and furnishes a happy prospect of a more abundant harvest.

We look forward to a day of more general diffusion of christian knowledge, and confidently believe our common Lord will honor his servants in their exertions in his blessed cause.

Union of heart in the truth of the gospel we believe to be happily calculated to promote united exertion, and to strengthen the hands of the friends of Zion. Indeed, we consider all union which has not the truth for its foundation, as having a direct tendency to disseminate erroneous opinions, and to divert the attention from the plain commands of the Redeemer.

Wishing as we do, the continuation of all that fellowship we have hitherto enjoyed, and an increasing zeal in our mutual exertions for the spiritual and eternal welfare of our fellow men, we hope to be found solemnly engaged to have all our sentiments formed and our practices guided by the unerring word of God; that we may contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the Saints.

Our interview has been both solemn and delightful. From a number of the churches we hear of great additions, attended with most pleasing effects in enlivening the minds of those of long standing in our holy profession. Dear brethren, pray for us, that with grateful hearts we may acknowledge the goodness of our God, and that our time, our talents, our all, may be devoted to our gracious Lord; that we may shew forth the praises of him who hath called us to his eternal kingdom and Glory by Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Circular Letter.**

THE Committee appointed to revise this letter, paid early attention to the business, but found it difficult to make such a revision as would both satisfy them and Br. Glover, the author; they therefore, with Br. Glover's consent, concluded not to publish it; and not being empowered to form a new one, there was no alternative but to publish the Minutes without any.

STEPHEN GANO, *Moderator.*  
DAVID BENEDICT, *Clerk.*