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Baptists. Rhode Island. Warren Association, 1813.  
Minutes ... in Kingston, ( Mass. ) Sept. 7th and  
8th, 1813.

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MINUTES

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OF THE

Warren Association,

HELD AT

The Baptist Meeting-House

IN

KINGSTON, (Mass.)

SEPT. 7th and 8th,

1813.

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BOSTON:

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# MINUTES, &c.

Tuesday, September 7, 1813.

1. **A**T ten o'clock, Brother Stephen Gano delivered the introductory discourse, from Jeremiah i. 17; after which, collected for the widows of deceased ministers.

2. Chose brother Stephen Gano, Moderator, and brother David Benedict, Clerk, and brother George H. Hough, Assistant Clerk.

3. After prayer by brother Jacobs, proceeded to read the letters from the Churches, and took the following account of the members added by Baptism and by Letter, dismissed, excluded, and deceased in 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Ad by bap</i>	<i>Ad by let</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Deid.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1st Boston 1668	_____ James Loring John Sullivan			1	7	6	209
Warren 1764	LUTHER BAKER* Stephen Davol Allen Munro Paschal Allen	68	4			2	229
1st Middleboro' 1756	SAMUEL ABBOT Solomon Thompson Asahel Shaw	2	1			3	112
2d Middleboro' 1757	SIMEON COOMBS Barnabas Clark				2	1	120
3d Middleboro' 1761	SAMUEL NELSON Elisha Clark Martin Keith	1					146
Wrentham 1769	WILLIAM WILLIAMS*						64
Attleborough 1769	JAMES READ	3		2		2	109
Barnstable 1771	BARNABAS BATES Benjamin Hallet	17			3	4	235
Medfield 1776	WILLIAM GAMMELL Warren Allen	10	1			3	74

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Ad. by bap.</i>	<i>Ad. by let.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Dead.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Harwich 1757	JAMES BARNABY Samuel Tripp	16		1	7	2	190
1st Providence 1639	STEPHEN GANO ASA MESSER Oliver Angell	22	5	5	1	5	425
Bridgwater 1785	James Perkins Nathan Alden	7		2	3		104
Randolph 1780	JOEL BRIGGS William Blanchard Samuel Spear	5			2	3	143
Carver 1791	Joseph Robbins Alden Faunce					1	66
Marshfield 1788	THOMAS CONANT Gerthom Ewel Ebenezer Sherman WM. BATCHELDER*	4					64
†2d Sutton 1782							39
2d Tiverton 1781	JOB BORDEN* Enoch French Perry Davis	2		1	1		96
Marshpee Newport 1756	JOHN B. GIBSON Benjamin H. Pitman	3		2	2	5	42 250
Seekhonk	JOHN PITMAN* Caleb Mason Samuel Brown John Medbury	1				1	53
Grafton	Enoch Batchelder	3		3			77
Taunton 1761	Caleb Atherton					1	100
Somerfet 1803	Joseph Marbel					1	2 37
4th Middleboro'	Joseph Dunham Samuel Pickens			1			42
2d Providence 1805	JOSEPH CORNELL Benjamin C. Grafton	2		2	4		119
Pawtucket 1805	DAVID BENEDICT Jonathan Smith George H. Hough Remember Kent, jun.	4	3		1	2	76
Kingston 1805	SAMUEL GLOVER Jabez Weston	6	1		4	2	96

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Ad. by bap.</i>	<i>Ad. by let.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Total</i>
Hanover 1806	JOHN BUTLER Curtis Brooks John Collamore	2		1	2		80
Warwick and Coventry 1805	DAVID CURTIS John Allen	10			2	1	106
Holden 1807	-----	22	1		2		112
3d Tiverton 1808	JASON LIVERMORE	1		30			46
Plymouth 1809	----- Charles Whiting	1	1	2	5	2	29
†Northbridge 1780	-----						39
Pawtuxet 1806	BELA JACOBS Philip Bump	1	1				61
Bristol 1811	JAMES M. WINCHELL Thomas Nelson Jonathan West	17	8			1	56
Pembroke 1812	----- <i>Joseph Torrey, jun.</i> Micah Foster	9				1	52
Worcester 1812	WILLIAM BENTLEY						61
New-Bedford 1813	----- Charles F. Thatcher						20
		239	26	81	51	49	3988

*N. B.* The two last churches were received the present session.

4. Called for the Messengers and Minutes from Corresponding Associations, and received as follows :

<i>Associations.</i>		<i>Messengers.</i>
Charleston	Letter and Minutes.	
Philadelphia	Letter and Minutes.	
New-York	Letter and Minutes.	
Stonington	do. do.	
Danbury	do. do.	
Shaftsbury	Letter and Minutes.	
Sturbridge	Letter and Minutes.	
Groton Union Conference	Letter and Minutes.	
New-Hampshire	Letter and Minutes.	
Woodstock	Letter and Minutes.	
Bowdoinham	do. do.	Isaac Cafe.
Leyden	do. do.	
Vermont	Letter and Minutes.	James Hooper
Cumberland	Letter and Minutes.	Thomas Baldwin
Boston	Letter and Minutes.	
New-Jersey	Letter and Minutes.	

5. Appointed the following Messengers to Corresponding Associations, viz. to the

Stonington	Brethren Cornell, and Benedict.
Shaftsbury	Brethren Cornell, Bentley, Barnaby & Bates.
Sturbridge	Brethren Cornell, Bentley, and Gammell.
Groton U. Conference	Brethren Lovell, and Jacobs.
New-Hampshire	Brethren Lovell, and Hough.
Bowdoinham	Brother Robinson.
Boston	Brother Barnaby.

6. The Circular Letter having failed, brother James M. Winchell was appointed in the early part of the Association to prepare one, and brother William Gammell was appointed to prepare a Corresponding Letter, which had also failed.

7. The 1st Church in Middleborough, by their letter, requested the Association to give a more explicit answer to their query, which was printed in the last year's Minutes, respecting "Churches and religious Societies being incorporated by civil law." After some discussion, it was proposed and voted to suspend any further observations, until the query is presented in a more explicit form.

8. Voted, that a new committee be appointed to revise the Articles for the Association, printed in the Minutes of last year, or prepare others, which may be more generally acceptable to the churches; and that brethren John Pitman, Luther Baker, and James Loring, be the committee.

9. Voted, that the next Association be held at Providence; that brother Gammell preach the introductory sermon, and brother Coombs, in case of failure.

10. Voted, that brethren Gano, Gibson, and Glover, be a committee to distribute the money collected for the widows, &c.

11. Voted, that Dr. Messer write the Circular Letter, and brother James Reed the Corresponding Letter for next year.

12. The Treasurer of the Missionary Society being absent, Dr. Baldwin proposed to receive whatever monies should be contributed for the institution.

13. From Female Mite Society, Middleboro'	-	\$15	50
From a Sister in Providence	-	2	00
do. Middleboro'	-	1	00
From Mr. Andrew Cole, in do.	-	2	00
From Messrs. Dunham and Peckens, each 1 dol.	-	2	00
From Church in Pawtucket	-	16	00
From Mr. Joseph Torrey	-	1	00
From Church and Society in Attleborough	-	16	31
From the Female Mite Society, do.	-	18	25
Brethren at Randolph	-	10	21
Sisters do.	-	15	75
Female Mite Society, Seekhonk	-	23	19

14. The Church of Barnstable last year sent in a query respecting washing feet. The committee appointed then to answer queries, reported that they did not think it a standing ordinance in the house of God. They were requested to give their reasons for this opinion at the next Association. Dr. Messer on the part of the committee observed, that their principal reason was, that from 1 Timothy v. 10, it appears that there were some in the churches who had never washed the saints' feet.

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

Brother Case prayed.

15 At half past 7 in the evening, Dr. Baldwin preached from 1 John v. 10. "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God, hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."

*Wednesday morning, September 8.*

16. Met according to adjournment. Prayer introductory to business by brother Coombs.

17. The Circular Letter prepared by brother Winchell was read and received. The Corresponding Letter by brother Gammell was also accepted.

18. The business of the Association being finished about half after seven, it was closed with prayer by the Moderator.

The interview has been harmonious and pleasing, and all things were conducted with ease and decorum. The National Fast coming on to-morrow, has made it necessary to hurry the business more than otherwise would have been needful.

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## *Circular Letter.*

*The Ministers and Messengers of the WARREN ASSOCIATION  
to the several Churches they represent, send Christian salutation.*

BELOVED BRETHREN,

WE gladly embrace another opportunity to address you in this associated capacity. The divine goodness has followed us to the return of this anniversary, at which we are refreshed and encouraged by the extensive information communicated from the several churches. Whilst our souls are comforted with a foretaste of those joys, which are diffused through the general assembly and church of the first-born, we feel a peculiar pleasure in improving this opportunity, as a prelude to that grand association, when not a few representatives, but every individual, of the church militant shall join with the church triumphant.

By these opportunities we feel our minds enlarged, our views extended, and our desires increased, to contribute all in our power for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom. This is the object which is nearest the heart of every sincere friend of Jesus. For this we assemble together; for this we preach; for this we

pray. And blessed be God, we have the full assurance of faith, that our prayers shall not be in vain. Although clouds and darkness are round about him, yet justice and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

What though the wickedness of man may wake the sword of vengeance; what though the ruthless hand of war may tear the vitals of the republics and kingdoms of this world; the kingdom of our Redeemer can never be shaken: it stands upon that Rock, against which the powers of earth and hell combined cannot prevail. Secure upon this base, cemented with the precious blood of Jesus, it will rise and shine in all the glory of its illustrious King, whilst the nations of the earth shall be swallowed up in the vortex of revolutions.

We are happy, dear Brethren, to observe, that amidst the corruption and degeneracy of the present age, there are those who maintain a steadfastness in the faith once delivered to the saints; that whilst the enemy is diffusing abroad his poisonous sentiments, and stirring up the hearts of his emissaries to depopulate the earth by wars and fightings, there is an increasing zeal amongst the friends of Jesus for the spread of divine truth. This is manifested not only in the ordinary method of preaching the word, but also in the formation of numerous and extensive societies for the support and encouragement of missionaries, and the circulation of the holy scriptures. From such societies, both in Europe and America, great and important blessings have resulted.

Bible societies, although of considerable standing in the mother country, are of but modern date in this. As our limits will not allow of a lengthy discussion, all we shall say upon this subject at present, will be to enforce its importance, and engage your attention to aid in so laudable an undertaking.

We shall not here detain you with any observations upon the propriety of such societies; we shall take it for granted, that however unconnected the kingdom of Christ may be with the kingdoms of this world, and however little it needs the aid of human exertion for its support, still the word of divine truth may be communicated by the enemies as well as the friends of Jesus; and that the insincerity of the motive will not counteract the converting power of that word where it is communicated. But we hope and pray for sincerity of motives; and that the Lord will make use of the same means to enlighten the minds of those who communicate, that they make use of to communicate divine light to others.

To impress your minds with the importance of assisting in the diffusion of the holy Scriptures, either by becoming members of such societies, or by contributing of your property and talents to their disposal, we offer the three following considerations. The *first* is taken from the superior worth of the book to be distributed; the *second* from the important connexion it holds with the salvation of sinners; the *third* from the refined pleasure which does now or hereafter may result to the soul that has been useful in this employment.

*First*—The superior worth of the book to be distributed. This is a revelation from heaven;—the truth of God accommodated to



the understanding of his creatures.—It makes known at once the immortality of the soul; the accountability of man; and the future state of happiness and misery. These are the foundation of all true religion. Blest with this revelation, man is elevated above the brute creation, and aspires to a seat among the sons of God. It dispels the darkness of the human intellect; abolishes the worship of idols, and erects a standard for the worship of the only living and true God. It is the cement of societies; the union of families; the bond of social intercourse, and the affection of individual friendship. And shall we suffer our fellow-men to live destitute of this revelation? Shall we, who reap the benefit of its benign influence, suffer others to perish for want of it? Whilst our horizon is illuminated by the beams of celestial day, shall we refuse to break through the gloom which envelopes so many of our fellow-citizens and neighbours? Whilst we are beholding the glory of the Lord in the person of Jesus, and are changed into the same image from glory to glory, shall we suffer our brethren to behold only the glimmerings of that light, which falls so unmeritedly upon us? Whilst we hold in our hands the weapons of civilization and refinement, shall we neglect to extend them for the benefit of our perishing fellow-men?

*Secondly*—Consider the connexion of the word of truth with the salvation of the soul. That precious book in which we so much delight; that book which may be purchased for less than one day's labour; that book which reveals the immortality of the soul, is likewise the instrument of the soul's salvation. We do not say God cannot save without, but we know he ordinarily does save through the instrumentality of his word. This word reveals the blood of the Cross. The Holy Spirit, whose sword this word is, applies that blood to the souls of the guilty children of men. "Go ye and preach the gospel," was the commission of our ascended Redeemer. "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth," saith an apostle of that same Redeemer; and however it may appear to the Jews a stumbling-block and to the Greeks foolishness, yet we know that it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. Your own experience, brethren, confirms the truth of that assertion of the Psalmist, "the entrance of thy word giveth light." Cast your eyes over the nations of the earth. Where is the power of divine grace displayed? Where the gospel is, or where it is not known? Are Christians the most numerous where the bible is, or where it is not?—Why do we now possess the blessings of independence, liberty of conscience, and the joys of salvation? Why did our fathers forsake their native soil, and commit themselves to the mercy of the winds and waves, to seek a habitation in this western world? It was truth, the truth of God compelled them to it. And we have reason to fear, that many of their descendants are living year after year, not only destitute of the preached, but even of the written word of God? "How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?" Dear brethren, we confess with shame our backwardness in diffusing this gospel; in

neglecting to seek for an opportunity of placing the word of life in the hands of some of our destitute neighbours ; for we know it shall not return void. Even if it should not be necessary to their conversion ; if they should be already the friends of Jesus, it would be but the more acceptable to them. They wish to feed upon the sincere milk of the word ; to meditate upon the promise of Jesus.—They wish to be directed into duty ; upheld in the hour of danger and trial ; comforted under affliction ; guided through life, and supported in death. If such should be the effect, even then your labour would not be lost. For consider,

*Thirdly*—The pleasure that results from such acts of benevolence. For if ever that maxim is true, that virtue carries its own reward, it is in the cheerful communication of divine truth. Witness ye who labour for the salvation of the souls of your fellow-men ; ye who are the instruments in the hand of the Lord for comforting your brethren, and awakening sinners. And if the duty of feeding the hungry and clothing the naked affords pleasure to the mind of the good man, how much more so to be instrumental in communicating the bread of life and the water of salvation ! If he who gives only a cup of cold water to a disciple, in the name of disciple, shall not lose his reward, what shall he receive who delivers the cup of salvation into the hands of a perishing sinner ?—If he that loves God loves his brother also, how shall he witness this love but by acts of kindness ? And if he would rejoice to give life to the body, how would he feel to give life to the soul ? In other circumstances, party interests tend to mar the pleasures which otherwise might be enjoyed ; but here the interest of Jesus is in view, the increase of whose kingdom is the increase of our joys. Think not, brethren, that your kindness will be lost amidst the profusion of benefits. Although you may not in time be able to ascertain the particular object whom your liberality has benefited, yet the time is coming when all things will be brought to your remembrance ; when every act of Christian charity shall be made known in the presence of all the redeemed and glorified spirits ; when the offering of the widow's mite will be as publickly recognized as that of the rich man's abundance. In that great day, imagine to yourself the company of the redeemed employed in first reflecting on the scenes through which they have passed ; the time, the place, the manner in which divine life was first communicated to their benighted souls. Each seems to think his own the most distinguished instance of divine grace. Each seems to feel that all must join with him to praise the Lord. I was poor ; I was miserable and wretched ; I was blind and naked ; but grace, rich grace has brought me here. Oh, brethren, in that day it will be an honour to have been the poor of Christ's flock. They will then be distinguished as the friends of Jesus, upon whom the liberality and kindness of their brethren have been heaped. But if it will be an honour in that day to have been the representatives of Jesus here on earth, to receive the expressions of love which his disciples bear to him, how much more so to be distinguished as the person who expressed that love. What can equal the happiness which that soul will feel, who sees amongst the shining ranks of heaven, the soul converted

through his liberality? What tongue can describe the emotions of that saint, whose entrance into heaven will be welcomed by the souls whom Jesus loved? Who among us, dear brethren, can decide that such shall not be our emotions?—None but those who wilfully refuse to contribute their mite for the spread of the gospel; whilst every cent contributed for the honour of Jesus with a benevolent heart will return a hundred fold into the bosom of its donor.

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## *Corresponding Letter.*

*The WARREN ASSOCIATION, convened at Kingston, (Mass.)  
September 7th and 8th, 1813, to corresponding Associations, sendeth  
Christian salutation.*

BELOVED BRETHREN,

WE address you under sensations which are always pleasing when we reflect on the happy religious fellowship which we have so long enjoyed with you.

That this fellowship be continued, we feel it to be important that the correspondence which gives to each Association a general idea of the standing of others be uninterruptedly prosecuted.

This pleasing Christian intercourse, which in an important sense unites the numerous Churches, and the many Associations concerned in it, in the bonds of truth and love, we continue very highly to value. It makes us to be mutually acquainted with a large body of the followers of the Lamb, between different portions of whom, rivers and mountains intervene. It also gives us a pleasing and solemn idea of the acquaintance and union, which through redeeming grace we hope to form in that heavenly state where endless joy and perfect holiness will be the portion of the faithful in Christ Jesus.

We have the satisfaction to inform you, that though our churches have not so generally shared in the outpourings of the Spirit of God, as in some former years, the great Head of the Church has not forsaken us; but a number have received merciful communications, and have had considerable additions; so that on the whole we feel encouraged, while we are enabled to rejoice that the kingdom of Christ is advancing. Our churches are united in the great doctrine of the gospel, and appear to be walking in love and peace. With humble hope we look forward to a brighter day, when light and truth shall take the place of darkness and error, and the peaceful reign of the Son of God succeed the confusion and distress of the present evil times.

Our meeting has been solemn and refreshing. The goodness of our faithful God has evidently attended us and made us to rejoice. Dear brethren, pray for us, that we may be ever sensible that all our sufficiency is of God, and that having glorified Him upon the earth, we may be ripened for eternal glory, through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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

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