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Baptists. New York. Warwick Association, 1792.

Minutes ... at Peek-Kill, May 31, and June 1, 1792.

Goshen, Wescott, [1792]. 6 pp.

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M I N U T E S

OF THE

WARWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT PEESS-KILL, MAY 31, AND JUNE 1, 1892.

TUESDAY, TWO O'CLOCK, P.M. MAY 31, 1892.

BROTHER *John Dodge* preached by appointment, from 1 Cor. xvi. 13. *Stand fast in the faith.*

2. Brother *John Caton* was chosen Moderator, and Brother *Thomas Montanye*, Clerk. Letters from thirteen Churches were read.

N. B. Ministers names in *Italics*. Those marked with an *, were not present. From the Churches marked †, we received no intelligence. Dashes denote no stated minister.

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Baptized.	By letter.	Received.	Discontinued.	Members.	Worshippers.
Warwick.	<i>Thomas Montanye,</i> <i>James Burt.</i>	3	0	3	0	2	181
York-Town.	<i>Reuben Garrison,</i> <i>Amos Lane.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	53
North-Castle.	<i>Oliver Sherwood,</i> <i>Ezra Fountain.</i>	4	2	0	0	0	43
Wantage.	<i>Silas Southworth,*</i> <i>Humphrey Martin.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	70
New-Cornwall.	<i>John Caton,</i> <i>James Canfield,</i> <i>Isaiah Smith.</i>	13	1	0	0	0	100
† Newburgh.	<i>William Brundige.*</i>	0	0	0	0	0	27
Stanford.	<i>Ebenezer Ferris,</i> <i>Isaac Jones,</i> <i>Ebenezer Howe.</i>	0	0	3	0	1	33
Bridge.	<i>Elias Lee.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	26
		20	3	6	0	3	498

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Baptized.	Received by letter.	Dismissed by letter.	Restored.	Excommunicated.	Deceased.	Total.
	Brought forward,	20	3	6	0	3	2	468
Clinton-Town.	{ John Dodge, Joseph Lawrence.	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Cross River.	{ Nathaniel Reynolds, Enoch Ferris,	0	1	4	0	1	0	13
Fredericks-Town.	{ Benjamin Pelton, Asaph King, Robert Wixom.	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
Bedford.	{ John Higgins, Silvanus Reynolds.	0	0	3	0	0	0	17
Fishkill.	{ James Phillips, John Townsend.	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
New-York.	{ Benjamin Montanye, Thomas Garniss, John Gilmore.	0	0	1	0	7	0	29
Brookfield.	{ Lubeus Lothrop,* Ebenezer Cole, Isaac Rhoads, Daniel Hall, Gilbert Drake, Joshua Horton, Phenemon Smith, James Youmans.	0	0	0	0	0	0	81
Chemung.		2	0	1	0	2	1	16
		0	0	0	0	0	0	20
	Total,	22	4	15	0	13	3	864

3. After reading our plan and sentiments. Voted, that such brethren present, who are agreed with us, are welcome to take a seat in this association.

4. The circular letter (prepared by Brother John Caton) being read, it was moved, that a committee be appointed to examine it, and bring it forward to-morrow morning for a second reading. Therefore appointed Elders, Ebenezer Ferris, John Dodge, Elias Lee, John Caton, and Thomas Montanye.—Adjourned till to-morrow, eight o'clock, A. M.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.
Met according to adjournment.

Sermon this morning by Brother Thomas Montanye, from Rom. 5. 10.

1. The committee appointed to examine the circular letter reported: that they judge it expedient, to postpone the letter of Brother Caton, (not on account of defensions, nor that we reject it) but from a conviction, of the expediency of our publishing the manner of forming this association, and to shew the churches the regularity of our proceedings.

in the reception of the second Church of New-York. Which being laid before the Association, met their approbation, and the statement entered as our Circular Letter.

2. The Church of Cross River, warn us to beware of Joshua Reynolds, whom they had appointed for the Ministry; but now having excommunicated for falsifying his word, and deceiving by lying in a wicked manner; we deem it duty to inform the Churches, that they may discountenance him, in his pretences, and be guarded against his deceitful conduct.

3. Supplies for destitute churches.

Cross-River.	{	3	Lord's Day in June,	Brother <i>Oliver Sherwood.</i>
		4	Lord's Day in June,	----- <i>Ebenezer Ferris.</i>
		1	do. do. in July,	----- <i>Enoch Ferris.</i>
		2	do. in do.	----- <i>Reuben Garrison.</i>
		3	do. in do.	----- <i>James Phillips.</i>
		1	do. in Aug.	----- <i>Nathan Cole.</i>
Bedford.	{	2	do. in do.	----- <i>Elias Lee.</i>
		1	do. in Oct.	----- <i>Benj. Montanye.</i>
		3	Lord's Day in June,	----- <i>Ebenezer Ferris.</i>
		2	do. in July,	----- <i>Oliver Sherwood.</i>
		4	do. in do.	----- <i>James Phillips.</i>
		2	do. in Aug.	----- <i>Nathan Cole.</i>
		3	do. in do.	----- <i>Reuben Garrison.</i>
		1	do. in Sep.	----- <i>Enoch Ferris.</i>
		2	do. in do.	----- <i>Elias Lee.</i>

4. The letter prepared by Brother *John Dodge*, to the Philadelphian Association, being read, was approved; and Brother's *John Caton*, *Thomas Montanye*, and *Benjamin Pelton*, were appointed messengers.

5. The letter prepared by Brother *John Caton*, may be expected in our next Association Minutes.

6. Voted, that our next Association be held at Warwick, the third Tuesday in October, 1792. Introductory sermon to be preached at two o'clock, P. M. by Brother *Elias Lee*; and in case of failure, by brother *John Caton*.

7. Brother *Thomas Montanye*, is appointed to superintend the printing of the Minutes, and to forward them to the churches.

Sermon in the afternoon by brother *Lee*.

(CIRCULAR LETTER.)

The Elders and Messengers of the several churches, met in Association in Peeks-Kill, May 31, 1792. To the Churches in Ulster with this Association, send Greeting.

DEARLY BELOVED,

The following is a narrative of the measures taken by the members of this Association, for the accomplishing of it; and their proceeding since it was formed, particularly with respect to their certifying in their Minutes, that the second Baptist Church of New-York, had joined this body; and also, the transactions of the convention at Mount-Pleasant, respecting said church, previous to their being received by this Association; all which, was done openly, candidly, without partiality, or hypocrisy; and the opposition against said measures, both before its establishment and since.

The occasion of this publication, is in consequence of the late Association formed in New-York, certifying in their minutes that the said second Baptist Church by the names of

Francis Vandike, and Joseph Stout, had joined them; this Association therefore thinks it proper, to publish the particular facts, as follows:

At the setting of the Philadelphia Association at New-York, October 5, 1790, it was judged no way expedient to form a new Association in New-York, not more than two churches manifesting a desire for it. At which time the church of Stamford manifested that they had some expectation that an Association would be formed in the country, to the Northward of New-York in that State, and if it should take place they expected to join it; therefore wished liberty from the Association. The messenger from the Warwick church, from the King Street Church, and from the second Church in New-York, wished the same; which liberty was granted them. The first Church of New-York, and the church of Staten Island requested liberty to join some other Association, it was also granted.

November 12. A council being called at Mount-Pleasant to constitute that Church, the subject of a new Association was considered, and unanimously advised; soon after a number of brethren at the Ordination of Mr. Lee of Ridge-Field, cordially agreed to forward the same, in the following manner: appointed a committee to send letters to the several churches, that had not yet joined any Association; and also, to those who had obtained liberty to join another, for the said churches, to send Messengers to meet at Mount-Pleasant, the 31 of May following, in order to form an Association if thought proper; also appointed a person to form a plan of an Association, containing such doctrinal sentiments, as stood opposed to the errors spreading in our land, to produce said plan at the meeting appointed for the consideration of the convention, and approbation of such as should form.

January 4, 1791. The committee met, wrote the letters; and sent them to the churches.

Upon the reception of the letter, by the first Baptist Church in New-York, in a very contemptuous manner disapproved the measures, of having an Association in the country; and counteracted the appointment, of meeting at Mount-Pleasant, by appointing another meeting of the Churches in New-York, prior to it. In order to effect their purpose, and overthrow our meeting, sent letters to the very churches that were to meet at Mount-Pleasant May 31, to meet in New-York, April the 12th. in order to form an Association.

Before the convention met in New-York, a difficulty arose in the second church of said place, respecting the method of exercising church government; a separation took place; the church were now in two parties. Those who formed themselves the major part, as much as two to one, wishing to have the matter settled, sent a request to some other churches for advice and assistance, and notwithstanding there were messengers came from the churches sent to: those who sent for them were refused any assistance from them, and the same persons that refused, received the minor part, as the church in the convention: and acted with them on the 12th. of April. Upon which those who were the majority of said church before mentioned, two to one, desirous of informing said convention of the irregularity of those which they had received, were refused by the convention, being neither heard, nor notice taken of them.

The conclusion of this New-York convention, was to print the plan of their association, and appoint the 19th of October following to form, with the names of those persons who acted with them; also appointed a committee, to meet the convention at Mount Pleasant, the 31st of May, 1791. This committee included Francis Vandike, of the minor party, of the second church of New-York, who had rejected the body of the church, assuming the key of the Meeting-house where the church met, locked the door against all, but such as would follow him; and claiming the authority of the keys of the kingdom, excommunicated at his pleasure: the other part of the committee were, *William Van Horn,* *Reuben Runyon,* *Benjamin Foster,* and *Ezekiah Holmes.*

Mount-Pleasant May 31, 1791. The convention being met according to appointment, Moderator and Clerk chosen, and the letters from the churches read. The letter from the church of New-York being read, with the names, of three messengers who were present. Mr. Holmes one of the committee from New-York convention, objected to the letter and messengers as representing said church: which he said he was able to prove.

The messengers mentioned in said letter replied, that they could satisfy this convention, that they were sent by the church, as they had every particular circumstance of the church with them, sufficient to satisfy any person. Upon this several of the committee from New-York convention, objected against the present convention having any thing to do in the case—was answered, that as said church, had been requested to attend for the purpose now met; also, had been from the first engaged in its formation; and having now come as far as we knew regular as any, it was no more than right they should act in the business, unless what had been asserted could be made to appear.

Accordingly the convention to be satisfied in the case, not willing to be imposed upon, as the church neglected, appointed a committee, namely: *Phiips, Cole, Lee, Caton, and Pelton*, to attend to the objection, and report next morning, whether said church was duly represented or not? upon which the committee notified the objectors, and the messengers in said letter to attend with them. Next morning our committee reported that they, after due investigation of all apparent matter, relating thereunto, are of opinion, that said church is duly represented. No farther objection being made, the messengers took their place. It was then observed that as there were two associations about forming, and the messengers from the churches no doubt settled in their minds, which of the churches they represented, would wish to join: therefore requested, that no debate or contention might arise, but for each one to act freely as they were best suited.

The plan and sentiments prepared, being produced and read, was approved. Then moved and seconded; that such messengers present authorized to act for the Churches, who appeared, and their names and sentiments now read, and who were desirous of forming an association, called the Warwick Association: to meet alternately, the east and west of Hudson's river, and to be forward and give in their names. Accordingly the messengers from fourteen churches appeared, formed in an association: including the second Church in New-York. This being done, the committee from the New-York Convention manifested their dissatisfaction; and abruptly left the room.

This Association conscious, of the simplicity of their intention; the uprightness of their proceedings; wishing that every case might appear in its true light—truth shine, and iniquity fall, appointed a committee namely, *Enoch Ferris, John Caton, Elias Lee, Brothers, Robert Edmonds, and Benjamin Pelton*, to wait upon and confer with said withdrawn committee, respecting their dissatisfaction.

Our committee proceeded, and after conferring with, reported, that their dissatisfaction arose on account of this Association receiving the second Baptist Church in New-York, by the letter and messengers which they had objected to.

Our committee farther reported; that they informed the said committee, that this Association did not wish to encourage any in the wrong, but that right take place; therefore were desirous that a mutual agreement might exist between the Association in New-York, and the Warwick Association, respecting said Church.

Accordingly proposed to the New-York committee, the following plan, hoping it would prove effectual. Namely, to recommend to each of the parties in said Church, to agree

and call a council from other churches, to look into the case; including all matters that they might lay before them, and for said council to report which of the said parties were the Church, and that this Association, and the convention in New-York, (proposing to form an Association) to abide and act according to the report of said council; and that if either of said parties pertaining to said Church, should refuse to call a council and have this matter determined this way, and the other party should manifest a willingness to comply, that the part so refusing, should not be considered the Church: and that the other should.

This plan being proposed by this Association's committee, to the other, was jointly agreed to, each of the committee pledging their word to each other, to abide by this agreement.

The report being made to the Association, by their committee was cordially agreed to; and altho they were satisfied the committee had formed a just judgment in the case, yet that those persons of the New-York Convention might be satisfied, were entirely willing to unite in the present plan, and postpone the printing of the minutes, till the case might be determined according to said agreement: which was to be done in six weeks.

That if it should appear against those which we have received, not to mention them in our minutes. The other promising that if it should be against them, that they had received, that they should not be inserted in their future minutes. There being Francis Vandike, of the part that joined the Convention in New-York, and Benjamin Montanye, Thomas Garrison and John Gilmore, of that part that had joined the Warwick Association; they all agreed to said advice, chose the council and place, (New-York) where it should be decided.

After all this the Council was prevented sitting, by Francis Vandike, and his party; who utterly refused to have any thing to do with a Council, or that any Council, should have any thing to do in the case. While the other part of the Church, were desirous to have all things understood, and fairly investigated. Here are our reasons, and this the ground of our minutes containing the second Baptist Church of New-York, as a member of this Association. Who are still confident, that they have done in every circumstance as they would be willing to be done by; having an eye to that, which appeared justifiable in the sight of God. And can freely say, that the brethren which we have received, by all the opportunity we have had with them; appear orthodox in faith, and desirous of good order; and ever ready to comply with any advice, respecting their difficulties, if reasonable. Elder Dodge their Pastor being present, at the time that the Association was formed, hearing of their proceedings, (as he had been from them for a time) approved of their conduct, and jointly agreed in their union, with the Warwick Association.

Yet notwithstanding all this, we find in the last association Minutes of New-York, the names of those very persons who refused to hear the council, inserted as the second Baptist Church of New-York; the grounds of such proceedings; to us is inexplicable. Thus, dear Brethern, you have a candid statement of our conduct, which we hope may ever be circumspect; and we prove ourselves your servants, for Jesus Sake.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Association,

JOHN CATON, Moderator.

THOMAS MONTANYE, Clerk.