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Baptists . Vermont . Leyden Association .

Minutes ... at Wendell, Mass . October 13
and 14, 1819 .

Greenfield, [Mass .], Denio & Phelps, 1819 . 12 pp .

MWA copy .

MINUTES

OF THE

Leyden Baptist Association,

HOLDEN AT WENDELL, MASS.

OCTOBER 13 AND 14, 1819,

TOGETHER WITH THEIR

**CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING
LETTERS.**



GREENFIELD.

PRINTED BY DENIO & PHELPS.

1819.

WENDELL, OCT. 13, 1819.

1. AT one o'clock, P. M. Elder ELISHA ANDREWS delivered the Introductory Sermon, from I. John v. 10.

2. After public worship, made choice of Elder ANDREWS, as Moderator, and Elder WITHBRELL, Clerk.

3. Proceeded to read the letters from the churches, and took the following account of the numbers added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the year past, and the present number of each church.

The names of ordained ministers are in small CAPITALS, and licentiates in *Italics*; ministers not present are distinguished by this mark (*); churches marked thus (†) we received no information from this session; vacant churches distinguished by a dash (—); the numbers of churches not present given as last year.

Churches.	Names	Added.					Total.
		By.	Let.	Ex.	Dis.	Died.	
Leyden,	{ ASA HEBARD, Benjamin Kelton.	0	0	0	0	3	53
Leverett and Montague,	{ ELIJAH MONTAGUE,*	1	1	0	3	0	217
	{ DAVID PEASE,						
	{ Deac. Silas Hosmer,						
	{ Jesse Whitmore, Isaac Woodbury.						
1st Guilford,	{ ——— ——— Deac. William Holmes, Philip Barns.	0	0	1	0	0	110
Dover and Somerset,	{ JAMES MANN,* Deac. Daniel Leonard.	1	0	0	0	1	31
Putney,	{ ASAHEL WOOD, Asahel Newcomb.	3	0	0	2	4	76
Halifax†	{ PAUL HIMES.*	0	0	0	0	0	204
Marlboro't & Newfane,	{ ——— ———	0	0	0	0	0	110
3d Guilford,	{ BENJAMIN BUCKLIN* Samuel Fish, Jr.	0	0	0	0	0	47
1st Dummerston,	{ LEVI DUNHAM,	4	2	2	67	1	111
	{ Deac. Jesse Bennet,						
	{ Jonathan Burnet,						
	{ Cyrus Butterfield.						

Churches.	Names.	Added.					Total.
		Bp.	Let.	Ex.	Dis.	Died.	
1st Colrain,	{ GEORGE WITHERELL, Deac. David Purinton, Calvin Smith, Ira Call.	1	0	5	1	2	151
Charlemont,	{ NATHANIEL RICE, James Hoxie, Loring Blood.	6	1	1	3	1	50
Wendell,	{ DAVID GODDARD, John Shepardson, Joseph M. Graves, Deac. Samuel Parks, Joseph Osgood.	2	2	1	0	0	84
Guilford united church,	{ Amherst Lamb, Deac. Peter Briggs.	0	0	1	3	1	98
Royalston and Warwick,	{ ————— Deac. Enos Metcalf, Jabez Pratt.	1	0	0	3	1	105
Brooklin,	{ ISAAC WELLMAN,* Deac. Daniel Bixby, Samuel Fleming.	0	3	1	1	1	174
Heath,	{ STEPHEN BARKER, Deac. Vernon Gleason, Sullivan Taft,	0	0	0	0	0	25
Newsalem,	{ CALVIN ORCUTT, Tristan Aldrich, David Hunt, David Walker.	0	5	4	0	0	83
Wilmington,	{ MANSFIELD BRUCE, Deac. Josiah Stearns, Nathaniel Adams, Freeman Walker.	6	6	1	0	0	108
Hinsdale,	{ JEREMY PACKER, Benjamin Stone, Abner Leonard.	0	0	1	0	0	52
Whitingham,	{ LINUS AUSTIN, James Carpenter,	1	0	0	3	0	91
Wardsboro'	{ ————— John Greenwood.	0	1	1	2	1	99
Bernardston,	{ Deac. Joseph Carey, Woodbridge Green, Samuel Wright.	0	0	2	4	1	102
Dover	{ Calvin Pratt.*	0	0	0	0	0	40
2d Colrain,	{ EDWARD DAVENPORT, Arad Hall,	0	1	0	0	0	54

Churches.	Names.	Added.					Total.
		Bp.	Let.	Ex.	Dis.	Died.	
Athol,	{ ELISHA ANDREWS, NATHAN VAUGHAN, Deac. Isaac Briggs, Levi Briggs.	5	0	0	0	0	39
Rowe,	{ SAMUEL CARPENTER,* Deac. Ebenezer Rice, Stephen L. Carpenter.	0	0	8	0	0	37
2d Dummerston,	{ JONATHAN HUNTLEY, Deac. Jesse Manley, Deac. William Hill, Joel Chandler.	0	0	0	0	0	72
Total,		31	22	29	97	17	269 242

The last mentioned church joined this session.

4. Appointed Elders Hebard, Going and Pease a committee to examine and revise the circular letter prepared by Elder Goddard, and the corresponding letter by Elder Wood.

5. Voted, that the above named committee take into consideration a query from Charlemont church, and report to-morrow.

6. Voted, to adjourn until nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, OCT. 14, 1819.

Met according to adjournment—opened by prayer.

1. Received communications from corresponding associations.

<i>Associations.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>
Woodstock, Sturbridge,	Br. Spalding, Elder Marshall, and Br. Cutler,	Minutes. do.
Boston, Shaftsbury, Westfield, Warren, Saratoga, Dublin, Vermont,	Elder Kimball, _____ Br. Hubbard, Elder Going, _____ Elder Bolles, _____	do. do. do. do. do. do.

2. The circular and corresponding letters being presented by the committee were read and ordered to be printed with the minutes.

3. The committee also presented an answer to the query from Charlemont church.

Query. Is it consistent with the gospel, that religious societies be incorporated by law?

Answer. Though Christ's kingdom is not of this world, yet parishes or religious societies have many things in common with all other societies, and christian men have a right to the protection of the laws of the land; and as such incorporations are designed exclusively to protect men in the enjoyment of their religious rights; they are not inconsistent with the gospel, but should be left solely to the discretion of those concerned.

4. On request of the Manchester Association, voted to open correspondence with them.

5. Appointed Messengers to Corresponding Associations, viz. Shaftsbury, Elders Witherell and Pease; Dublin, Br. *Hall*, Elders Wood, Dunham and Andrews; Sturbridge, Elders Pease, Witherell and Dunham; Boston, Elders Witherell and Rice; Woodstock, Elders Wood and Pease; Saratoga, Elders Austin and Witherell; Vermont, ———; Warren, Br. David Walker; Westfield, Elders Pease, Witherell and Austin; Manchester, Elder Andrews.

6. Appointed Elder Andrews to write the circular and Elder Pease the corresponding letter, for next year.

7. Voted, to hold our next session in Wilmington, Vermont.

8. Appointed Elder Witherell to preach the introductory sermon, and in case of failure, Elder Pease.

9. Appointed the Clerk to superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes.

10. At eleven o'clock, Elder Cushman, from Hartford, preached from Psalms cxix. 100. at the close of which, \$22.62 were contributed, and divided equally

between the Missionary Society and the Education Society.

11. Voted, to adjourn until the second Wednesday in October next, then to meet at the Baptist meeting house in Wilmington, at one o'clock, P. M.

We announce to the churches the death of Elder LEVI HODGE, pastor of the Baptist church in Royalston and Warwick. He was faithful in his charge, unspotted in his life, and beloved by his flock. We trust he sweetly fell asleep in Jesus.

“ The memory of the just is blessed.”

MISSIONARY CONCERNS.

Treasurer's Report for last year.

In the hands of Elder Elijah Montague, Treasurer for last year, at the commencement of this session, \$50 43

Received this session.

Paid in by the members of the Society,	12 00
Female Society in Wendell,	5 40
do. do. Colrain,	11 97
do. do. Wilmington,	3 37
do. do. Montague and Leverett,	10 00
Donation by Widow Metcalf,	1 00
do. by Br. John Blandin,	50
do. by a friend to missions,	25
do. by Jeremiah Jackson,	50
do. from the second church in Dummerston,	1 50
do. by Caty Sprague	1 00
do. by female friends,	1 77
do. by a female friend for Indian Mission,	50
do. by a friend to Missions,	50
Contribution from the first Baptist church and society of Colrain,	8 70 $\frac{1}{2}$
Public contribution at the close of the Association,	11 31 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gold ring by Betsy Benson,	
Total,	120 71

Board of Trustees.

Elders Montague, Bruce, Austin, Davenport, Witherell and Rice; Deacons Purinton, Puffer, Briggs and Chapin; Brethren Woodbury and Taft.

* *The Clerk takes the liberty to make the above statement without any direction from the Association, concluding it was forgotten by them. As he does not know the age of Elder Hodge, the number of years he had been in the ministry, or the month on which he died, he cannot be particular.*

The Society meets in the Baptist meeting house in Wilmington, the second Wednesday in October, 1820, at 9 o'clock, A M.

By order and in behalf of the Society,

GEORGE WITHERELL, *Secretary.*

CONCERNS OF THE EDUCATION SOCIETY.

Colrain, Oct. 11, 1819.

Treasurer's Report for the last year.

Received by the hand of the Secretary, Nov. 16, 1818,	\$9 50
do. by the hand of Elder David Pease, Dec. 15, 1818,	10 00
Interest on the above,	1 00

20 50

CALVIN SMITH, *Treasurer.*

October 14, 1819.

Paid in by the members,	\$13 50
Donation by Diana Hathaway,	50
do. by Daniel Davis, Putney,	1 00
Contribution at Putney,	1 38
Donation,	20
do. by friends in Montague and Sunderland,	4 00
Public contribution,	11 31½

\$31 89½

Paid out forty eight cents for an account book for the use of the Society,	48
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Which leaves,	\$31 41½
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Whole amount in the hand of the Treasurer,	\$51 91½
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By order of the Society,

GEORGE WITHERELL, *Secretary.*

Executive Committee.

Elders Elijah Montague, Elisha Andrews, David Pease, Linus Austin, Nathaniel Rice.

The Society meets the Tuesday before the second Wednesday in October next, at Capt. Lincoln's, in Wilmington, at 6 o'clock, P M.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and Brethren of the Leyden Association, to the Churches we represent, send Christian salutation,

BELOVED IN THE LORD,

PERMIT us in this epistle, with tenderness and Christian affection, to stir up your pure minds, by way of remembrance, by bringing forward and setting before you some of the important duties,

devolving upon the followers of the Lamb, whilst here in this militant state.

We hope you will never forget, that every disciple of Jesus is called into his vineyard, not to loiter, but to labour ; not to speculate, but to be diligent in every good work. In erecting that spacious temple at Jerusalem, which was a lively emblem of the gospel Church, many thousands found sufficient employ for a considerable period of time, even till the completion of that magnificent structure. Various indeed were the occupations and employments of those engaged in this arduous work, under the superintendence of him, who evidently typified the great Builder of the Gospel Church. Various also are the callings and labours of those whom the Lord hath set apart for himself. Of this number, some are separated from their Brethren, and set for the defence of the Gospel ; to feed the Sheep and Lambs of Christ ; and watch for Souls as they that must give an account. Solemn indeed is their responsibility to God ! Called to deliver the messages of truth, to saints and sinners, whether they will hear or whether they will forbear ; to preach the word ; be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and doctrine. In view of this responsibility, and the magnitude of the work, are we not, Brethren, ready to exclaim, " Who is sufficient for these things ! "

But would we indeed be workers together with God, in advancing the kingdom of his dear Son ; it is doubtless of the last importance, that we hold daily intercourse with heaven, that without ceasing we bow the knee before the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ; humbly beseeching him to replenish our hearts abundantly with his grace, to strengthen us with might in the inward man, and enable us in the spirit of meekness, to warn and to teach every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

The ambassadors of Christ are exhorted to be ensamples to the flock, whilst they feed them with the sincere milk of the word ; that they may in sincerity say in the language of Paul to the Phillipians, Brethren be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so, as ye have us for an ensample. We have indeed but little reason to expect our preaching (however sound and evangelical) will have any salutary effect on the hearts of our people, unless impressed and enforced by a corresponding example. Otherwise we shall be guilty of holding the truth in unrighteousness, and practically teaching licentious doctrines. But happy, thrice happy those servants in the vineyard of Christ, who are able with the apostle to appeal to their people, " Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily, and justly, and unblamably, we behaved ourselves among you that believe ; as ye know how we exhorted and comforted, and charged every one of you as a father doth his children, that ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

But the usefulness, and success of the Minister of Christ, in the discharge of his various functions, greatly depend on the co-operation of the people among whom he is called to labour in word and doctrine. If they neglect to pray for him, his hands become weak. Did the great Apostle of the gentiles often crave the prayers of his Brethren? How much more does the ordinary preacher of the gospel need the daily, fervent and effectual prayers of his people.

But, dear Brethren, does he not need more? Is it not their incumbent duty to minister to him of their substance. If the good of souls lies near his heart, he will be ardently desirous to promote their spiritual interest; and to shew himself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But if necessitated to procure a daily subsistence, by manual labour, how will his profiting appear to ail? How can he bring forth out of the treasure things new and old; and be ready to every good ministerial work? Would not many of the churches of Christ derive far greater benefit from the labours of those who are over them in the Lord, were they more liberal in administering of their carnal things to those from whom they receive spiritual things? He that soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully. In proportion as this duty is neglected, the energy of the minister is weakened, and his usefulness curtailed, which often leads the people to complain of a sameness in the preaching. Did God make such ample provision for the maintenance and support of the priests, under the Mosaic dispensation, and has he been less mindful of those called to minister in holy things under the gospel dispensation? That this was not the case appears manifest from I. Cor. ix. 7—12. Gal. vi. 6. and various other texts that might be cited.

Finally, Brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Leyden Baptist Association, to Corresponding Associations,
send Christian love.

DEAR BRETHREN,

WITH pleasure we present you another Corresponding Epistle. We hope you will receive it and our Messengers with the same grateful emotions that we do yours.

It gives us satisfaction to hear of the prosperity of Zion; and so it does every truly pious soul. The more we examine her walls and her palaces—the more information we have concerning her situation and condition, the more shall we know of her prosperity.

Our fathers were not favoured with such advantages and privileges. These things were reserved for us. Prophets and kings desired to see the days which the primitive christians beheld, but

saw them not. And, undoubtedly, our fathers would have been glad to have seen and heard the things, the wonderful things which have come to pass in these days; and to have been indulged the privilege of this generation. But they laboured and we have entered into their labours. Surely the blessings, which have fallen in this our day, should stimulate us to action; to holy boldness and vigorous exercise in the cause of Christ. When we see the christian world awake and in motion, shall we slumber? No, dear Brethren, let us unite with them and honour God with our hearts, our hands and our substance. Whatsoever our hands find to do, let us do it with all our might. The cause of Christ is precious. And he is carrying on his work marvelously. But he works by means. And he uses men as instruments to effect his purpose. And shall not we desire, and do our utmost to be *workers together with him*? This honour have all his saints: if we refuse, he will send out quickly to others, and sweetly draw them to the work, and crown them with peculiar dignity. For he is rolling on with great rapidity the glorious millennium. What has already transpired indicates its approach. What laudable, and perhaps, unprecedented exertions for evangelizing the world! How many societies have come into existence, and combine their energies for the accomplishment of this important object? All these societies are more or less engaged for the suppression of vice, and the spread of the gospel. What heart does not dilate with joy at the thought? Whose arm can remain unnerved in such a cause—a cause which has every inducement to animated and persevering exertions—a cause which the arm of the Almighty is stretched out to support and move forward? However discouraging other things may appear, this alone is sufficient encouragement to influence us to the work.—*The heathen will be given to Christ for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession—the isles shall not only wait for, but receive his law.* Do you ask, how can these things be? Lift up your eyes and see all these gather themselves together; yes, they meet in companies to devise and carry into effect means calculated to bring about the event. And they act consistently; for they not only devise, but do liberal things. And God has really crowned their liberality with his blessing. For his blessings descend upon those who, not with a covetous but liberal hand, aid his cause. How many mercy-drops, as a reward of grace, have fallen on America for the aid afforded in the cause of missions is unknown. But the churches have been greatly refreshed since they have gone forward in this precious cause; and their evangelic zeal has been owned of God. Glorious things are still spoken concerning the city of our God. And if we believe we shall see greater things than we have seen.

Although showers of blessings have not descended upon us the past year as heretofore, yet we rejoice that they have fallen upon

other parts of Zion. You will learn the state of our churches by our minutes. We solicit a continuance of our correspondence.

Our present session has been harmonious, and we think we can say we enjoyed the Divine Presence in our meeting, and sat together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Yours, in a precious Saviour,

ELISHA ANDREWS, *Moderator.*

GEORGE WITHERELL, *Clerk.*