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Baptists. Massachusetts. Sturbridge Association,  
1810.

Minutes of the ... in Sutton, September.  
Sutton, Goodridge, 1810. 11 pp.

MWA copy.

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**M I N U T E S**

OF THE

Sturbridge Association,

CONVENED AT THE

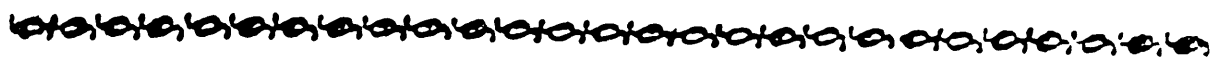
First Baptist Meeting-House

IN

S U T T O N,

SEPTEMBER 26 and 27,

1810.



S U T T O N, (MASS.)

PRINTED BY SEWALL GOODRIDGE.

1810.



# MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, September 25, 1810.

1. AT 10 o'clock A. M. a sermon was delivered by brother Ebenezer Burt, from Jeremiah l. 45. "Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out." After which was a contribution for the widows of ministers deceased.

2. Chose brother Samuel Waters, *Moderator*, and brother Zenas L. Leonard, *Scribe*.

3. Read the letters from the Churches, and took the following minutes.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS. Licensed preachers in *Italics*. Churches from whom we received no information are distinguished by this mark.† Ministers not present by an *asterisk*.\* Vacant Churches with a dash.——

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders &amp; Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Surton,	SAMUEL WATERS, Moses Putnam, Solomon Marble, Jonah Goulding, Nathaniel Whitmore, Stephen Bartlett, Isaac Dwinell.	72	0	1	0	152
Leicester,	PETER ROGERS, Samuel Denny, James Sprague, David Parker, Samuel Britton.	23	0	0	0	75

<i>Cources.</i>	<i>Elders &amp; Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Disin.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Disd.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Charlton,	JAMES BOOMER.					99
1st Woodstock,	*BIEL LEDOYT.	2	5			74
2d Woodstock,	AMOS WELLS,	8	8			137
	Win. H. Manning,					
	Henry Wells,					
	Augustus Bolles.					
S. Brimfield,	ELIJAH CODDING,	0	0	0	0	124
	John Munger,					
	Simcon Munger.					
Belchertown,	DAVID PEASE,	20	0	1	0	105
	Ebenezer Green,					
	Ebenezer Hanks.					
Starbridge,	ZENAS L. LEONARD,	12	0	0	2	98
	Simcon Fiske,					
	Joshua Fiske,					
	Silas Fiske.					
† 2d Ashford,	_____					75
3d Ashford,	_____	0	0	0	0	30
	William Palmer,					
	Ephraim Howard,					
	Abraham Holman.					
Shutesbury,	JOSEPH SMALLIDGE	42	4	0	0	149
	Lyscom Brigham,					
	Joseph Haskins,					
	Nahum Wedge.					
Wilbraham,	ALVIN BENNETT,	2	0	0	0	108
	Ezekiel Terry.					
Hardwick,	EBENEZER BURT,	64	1	0	0	118
	David Bates,					
	Elisha Sturtevant,					
	Henry Higgins.					
Thompson,	PARSON CROSBY,	11	2	0	0	123
	James Brown,					
	Silas Smith,					
	Joseph Town.					
1 W. Springfield,	JESSE WIGHTMAN,	3	0	0	3	56
	Daniel Munger.					
2 W. Springfield,	THOMAS RAND,	3	0	0	0	53
	William Strong.					78
† Westfield,	_____					
Pomfret,	JAMES GROW,	1	4	0	3	66
	Artemas Bruce.					

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders &amp; Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Disin.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Enfield and Longmeadow,	GEORGE ATWELL, Simeon Alden.	4	2	0	0	116
Killingly,	CALVIN COOPER, Jona. Harrington, Oliver Bowen.	7	2	3	0	115
Tolland,	*ASA NILES, Aaron Chapman, Jeduthan Cobb, Ichabod Hinckley.	11	30	0	0	54
1st Stafford,	————— Amos Burrows, Joel Fuller.	0	1	0	0	40
2d Stafford,	SAMUEL BLOSS, Abisha Washburn.					34
<i>Total,</i>		292	61	9	11	2061

N. B. *The last church was added this year.*

4. Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Preaching in the evening in various parts of the town.

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THURSDAY, September 27, 1810.

Met according to adjournment.

5. Received Minutes and Messengers from our sister Associations, viz : brethren Grafton, Andrews, Read, Bently and Paul, from the *Warren* ; brethren Palmer and Cole, from the *Stonington* ; brother S. King from the *Leyden* ; brethren Babcock and Wightman from the *Danbury*.

6. Read and approved the Circular letter prepared by brother Leonard, and the Corresponding by brother Wightman.

7. Appointed Messengers to Corresponding Associations: To the *Warren*, brethren Bloss and Crosby. To the *Stonington*, brethren Palmer and Cooper. To the *Leyden*, brethren

Bates, Smallidge and Bart. To the Danbury, brethren Palmer, Bloss and Pease. To the Shaftsbury, brother Pease.

8. Appointed brother Crosby to write the Circular Letter for next year ; and brother Bloss the Corresponding.

9. Voted, that agreeable to the request of the 1st and 2d Churches of West-Springfield, and also the Church at Westfield, they be dismissed from this Association, in order to join a new Association which is in contemplation to be formed in their vicinity, in case it should be formed. Appointed brethren Wells, Leonard, Atwell, Pease and Bennett a committee to meet with the brethren in conference at Westfield, on the last Wednesday in August 1811, to inquire into the expediency of forming this proposed Association.

10. Voted to recommend to the individual brethren of this vicinity to form a Missionary Society.

11. Voted, that our Association next year meet at Killingly on the last Wednesday of September, at 10 o'clock A. M. Brother Waters to preach the sermon ; in case of failure, brother Bloss.

12. Voted, that brother Waters superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes.

13. Voted to continue the concert of prayer on the first Tuesdays of October, January, April and July.

*NOTE. Whereas a man by the name of ELIJAH WILLIAMS, now residing in Sutton, has travelled in different parts of the country, under the character of a preacher ; this is, therefore, to certify, that it can be proved that he is an abandoned character, now living in adultery.*

# CIRCULAR LETTER.

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*The* **MINISTERS** *and* **MESSENGERS** *of the* **STUR-  
BRIDGE ASSOCIATION,** *to the several* **CHURCHES**  
*they represent, send Christian salutation.*

**DEAR BRETHREN,**

**PERMIT** us for a few moments to address you on the ne-  
cessity, the value and the excellency of the Scriptures of truth.

A slight survey of the character and condition of man will convince every reflecting mind of the indispensable necessity of divine revelation. As in the mass of creatureship all mankind are on a level, and no one man, or set of men, is born to rule and govern the rest; so on the moral scale, all are found on a level, and no one man, or select number of men, is born with ability and wisdom sufficient to guide others in the way to heavenly bliss. All are dead in trespasses and sins, and there is none that doeth good, no not one. By nature mankind are ignorant of the character of God, and also of themselves. Who then of Adam's ruined progeny is found able to guide either himself, or others in the way of salvation? Moreover the character of God could be revealed only by himself. Neither angels nor men were capable of doing this. Therefore it was necessary that a revelation of God, of eternal realities, and of man's destination, should be produced by more than mortal agency. Then it was the day-star arose in the east on our benighted world. Jesus, the Mediator of the new covenant, was brought forth to instruct, and ordained to rule. This wonderful Counsellor possessed, without measure, the spirit of wisdom, of counsel and might. He is the light of the world and the day-spring from on high. The holy scriptures are but the reflected and refracted rays of light which prima-

ly sprang from Him who is emphatically called the morning Star, and Sun of righteousness. No doubt it was Christ himself who appeared first to our apostate ancestors in the garden, called Adam from the bower, and bade mercy descend as on the evening Zephyr. It was his spirit which dictated every part of divine revelation. "Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." That part of truth which the prophets were inspired to write in former times, and also that which the Apostles were inspired to write in later times, all correspond with what Jesus delivered in person while he tabernacled here in flesh. All must and does harmonize, because it was dictated by the Lord of hosts, the God of eternal truth, who changes not.

In revelation are delineated the character of God, and the character of man. Here the way of peace and pardon to dying man is perspicuously made known. Here is solved that great point, how God can be just, and yet justify the repenting sinner. The scriptures are a light to the believer's feet, and a lamp to his path. They constitute one stream of that river, which makes glad the city of our God. They are an uncontaminated fountain of truth in every age. Error may assume what guise it pleases, and transform itself into ten thousand shapes, yet the word of God is able to detect it. Here is instruction for every creature, let his character, or condition be what it may. But it is the humble soul, who delights to hear this instruction, and cheerfully yields obedience to the truth. Here he discovers a golden mine of immense value. The more it is explored the more its worth is known. He receives grace for grace, and he is never deceived with counterfeits. Indeed, here unnumbered blessings flow to ruined men. Here is food for the hungry; water, wine and milk for the thirsty; white raiment for the naked; balsam for the wounded; balm for the sick; and an eternal carminative



for souls who are pained with sin, in every age and every clime. Whosoever will, is invited to come and partake without money and without price.

In this holy book, the humble believer finds the glorious promises of his blessed Redeemer set in fair order, like the tree of life on either side of the crystal river, seen by the inspired John, in his heavenly vision. They are like apples of gold in pictures of silver. In the midst of poverty, they afford to his soul durable riches in righteousness; and indeed they afford joy in adversity, health in sickness, consolation in sorrow, and life in death. By the aid of these promises, his soul rises as on eagles' wings, and through faith surveys the glories of the unseen world.

In the scriptures, Jesus has marked out for his people a humble blessed way. The path of duty is made plain before them. The word and spirit, if followed, will guide into all necessary truth. Let us then, beloved brethren, search the scriptures diligently for instruction, and wherever they point out the way, thither let us bend our course. Fearless of the world's despising, let us endeavor to follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. While assemblies, and councils, synods and conclaves seek to impose their dictums and their creeds on the world of mankind, let us regard them, in comparison with the scriptures, as dross and chaff, while we hear a voice from heaven, saying, "Cease ye from man; call no man master on the earth, for one is your master even Christ." To conclude, let us ever keep in mind the words of the blessed Redeemer; "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you. If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed. Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

## CORRESPONDING LETTER.

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*The ELDERS and BRETHREN, composing the STUR-BRIDGE ASSOCIATION, convened at SUTTON, the last Wednesday in September 1810, to the ASSOCIATIONS with whom they correspond, send Christian salutation.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

IT is one of the peculiar excellencies of the gospel to display the glorious perfection of Deity. For though God was possessed of all possible perfection in himself antecedent to creation—before angels or men were formed—yet in the formation of angels and men and heaven and earth the glory of his creating power and wisdom was made manifest ; the morning-stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy. Here these holy intelligents beheld his glory, they were filled with wonder, rapture and devotion. In the government of divine providence, new glories were brought to view, when they cried holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty : But in the wonderful condescension of the Mediator in coming into our world to obey that law which we had broken, and suffer that penalty, we had deserved, God's glory is brought to view in its fullness.

The angels cried, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men. Here inflexible justice, incomprehensible mercy, inviolable truth and infinite wisdom were brought to view in their full glory. In the dispensation of divine grace, when he brings the stranger home and turns the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, when

He brings the haughtiness of man down, and lays his loftiness low even in the dust, the same divine end is pursued, that God in all things may be glorified. The employment of angels is subservient to the same purpose, and their songs tend to the same end. The Elders are casting their crowns at his feet, and giving honor and glory to Him that sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb forever and ever.

**DEAR BRETHREN,**

Let us join with them in this important work in our associated capacity. Let us not like the disciples of old contend who shall be greatest. But let us unitedly engage in advancing the glory of the great Creator. Let ministers not preach themselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and themselves as servants for Jesus' sake. Herein is our heavenly Father glorified in that we bear much fruit. Let us all endeavor to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. And may the great Head of the Church that was brought again from the dead through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in all things, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, to whom be glory forever.—AMEN.

**BELOVED BRETHREN,**

God has favored us with one more agreeable interview. The wonders God has wrought, by reviving and carrying on his work in a number of our Churches and Congregations the year past, has been pleasing to our ears, and animating to our hearts.

**SAMUEL WATERS, Moderator.**  
**ZENAS L. LEONARD, Scribe.**