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Baptists. Massachusetts. Sturbridge Association, 1811.
Minutes of the ... in Killingly, September 25 & 26,
1811.

Sutton, Goodridge, 1811. 10 pp.

MWA copy.

M I N U T E S

OF THE

Sturbridge Association,

CONVENED AT THE

Baptist Meeting-House

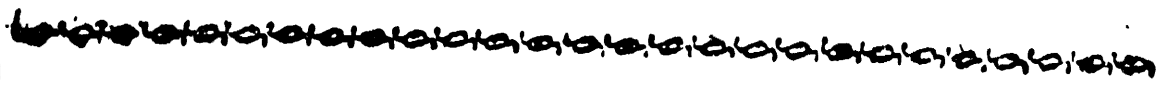
IN

KILLINGLY,

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26,

1811.

Woodstock



SUTTON, (MASS.)

PRINTED BY SEWALL GOODRIDGE,



1811.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, September 25, 1811.

1. AT 10 o'clock A. M. a sermon was delivered by brother Samuel Waters, from 2 Cor. iv. 5. "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus sake."

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 distinguished by this mark.† Ministers not present by an *asterisk*.* Vacant Churches with a dash.-----

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders & Messengers.</i>	Added.	Dismiss.	Exclud.	Died.	Total.
Sutton,	SAMUEL WATERS, Moses Putnam, Solomon Marble, John Burden, <i>Isaac Davinnet.</i>	6	3	4	2	150
Leicester,	PETER ROGERS, James Sprague, David Brvant, Benjamin Bond, Luke Chase.	4	0	0	2	78
Chariton,	JAMES BOOMEZ, Daniel Bacon, Daniel Bacon, JUN.	3	1	0	3	95

Churches.	Elders & Messengers.	Added.	Dismiss.	Exclud.	Died.	Total.
1st. Woodstock,	BIEL LEDOYT, John Clark.	0	4	7	1	68
2d. Woodstock,	AMOS WELLS, James Wheaton, Henry Wells, Augustus Bolles.	3	0	0	1	139
S. Brimfield,	*ELIJAH CODDING, John Munger, Dexter Munger.	0	1	38	3	82
Belchertown,	DAVID PEASE, Ebenezer Green, Thomas Barrett.	8	1	1	1	110
Starbridge,	ZENAS L. LEONARD, John Phillips, Joshua Fisk.	21	0	0	1	170
2d. Ashford,	----- Russell Brown, Stephen Chapman, Oliver Barrett.	1	1	1	3	71
3d. Ashford,	----- Ephraim Heyward, Thomas Chapman.	1	0	1	1	30
Shutebury, †	*JOSEPH SMALLIDGE					149
Wilbraham,	ALVIN BENNETT, Israel Bennett.	2	0	0	1	109
Hardwick,	EBENEZER BURT, Frank Brown, Masha Newland.	2	1	1	0	119
Thompson,	PARSON CROSEY, Thomas Day, Charles Curtis, Joseph Town, Silas Smith, John Keith, Peter Stockwell.	3	0	3	1	122
Pouffret,	JAMES GROW, Jeremiah Field, Elihu Sabin.	0	1	2	1	65
Enfield and Lonsmeadow,	*GEORGE TWILL, Ezekiel Terry.	4	0	0	1	119
Killingly,	CALVIN COOPER, Samuel Cozuel, Edward Bartlett.	1	2	0	1	109

Churches.	Elders & Messengers.	Added.	Dismissed.	Exclud.	Dead.	Total.
Tolland,	*WILLIAM HUBBARD, Jeduthun Cobb, Ira West.	7	—	—	—	61
St. Stafford,	————— Jonathan Park, Samuel Cutler.	5	1	0	1	45
St. Stafford,	SAMUEL BLOSS, Jacob Leonard, James Gladding.	5	0	0	0	32
	Total,	76	17	59	25	1870

4. Received Minutes and Messengers from our sister Associations, viz: brethren Cornell, Bolles, Benedict and Cushman, from the *Warren*, with the minutes; brother Cole, from the *Stonington*; minutes only from the *Danbury*; brethren Todd and Jackson, from the *Shafisbury*, with minutes.

5. Appointed Messengers to Corresponding Associations. To the *Warren*, brethren Boomer and Bloss. To the *Stonington*, brethren Wells and Bolles. To the *Leyden*, brethren Burt and Pease. To the *Danbury*, brother Atwell. To the *Shafisbury*, brethren Bloss and Pease.

6. Voted, to request a Correspondence with the *Boston* Association, and chose brethren Leonard and Bolles to prepare a letter and attend as messengers.

7. Read and approved the Circular Letter prepared by brother Crosby and the Corresponding by brother Bloss.

8. Voted, that brother Wells write the Circular Letter, and brother Bennett the Corresponding, for the next year.

9. Voted, that our Association meet next year at Hardwick, on the last Wednesday in September, at 10 o'clock A. M. Brother Smallidge to preach the introductory sermon; in case of failure, brother Boomer.

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

11. Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock. Preaching in the evening in several parts of the town.

THURSDAY, September 26, 1811.

Met according to adjournment. After prayer by brother Todd, and having made the necessary arrangements with respect to the contributions for Missionary purposes, a pertinent Sermon was preached by brother Todd, from Mark xvi. 15. "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." After prayer another Sermon was preached by brother Cornell, from 2 Cor. xiii. 11. "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." Then this solemn, pleasing, and profitable interview was closed with prayer by brother Jackson.

(The Missionary Society formed within the vicinity of this Association last October, in addition to what they were able to raise themselves, the following is a list of the respective sums received from several Mite Societies.)

The Cent Society in Sutton,	-	-	8	87
Female Mite Society in Thompson,	-	-	17	19
Female Mite Society in Sutton	-	-	11	40
Female Mite Society in Charlton	-	-	2	68
Contributed at the Association meeting	-	-	11	86
Contributed by two friends of Missions	-	-	2	50
			<hr/>	
			\$ 53	90

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The MESSENGERS, comprising the STURBRIDGE ASSOCIATION, to the CHURCHES they represent, sends Greetings.

BELOVED IN THE LORD,

AS the increase and glory of the Kingdom of Christ in the world is of the greatest importance, and affords the most real pleasure to every believing heart; we therefore invite your attention to the delightful subject. A few moments of time would fail us to enumerate all those great and precious promises which foretel the glory and prosperity of the Church of Christ in the latter day. Such as that Jesus shall reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet--of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end--that the Mountain of the Lord's house shall be exalted above the top of the Mountains, and the Nations flow to it and be saved--and that the Redeemer shall possess the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. For he shall not fail nor be discouraged till he have set judgment in the earth, and the Isles shall wait for his law. And as these and such like promises are evidently fulfilling in the world, and it must appear to every observer, that missionary efforts are one particular means owned and blessed of God for the accomplishment of those glorious things spoken concerning Zion;-- Therefore, Brethren, we beseech and exhort you, as you desire the glory of Christ and the salvation of your fellow men, that you unite heartily with those who are engaged in this good work. It is with astonishment we look on past ages, and see how little has been done to spread

the Gospel among the benighted ;—and as truly wonderful to see the exertions of thousands, who feel for their fellow mortals in darkness, and in the regions of the shadow of death.

That this glorious work is of God, take for evidence the following things.—*First*, the remarkable union and agreement there is among the otherwise differing denominations of professing christians, but all agreed to spread the precious Gospel—agreed in their feeling views and operations if possible, to spread the light of the gospel to earth's remotest bounds.—*Secondly*, what numbers the Lord hath raised up to go forth into this gospel harvest, whose minds are deeply impressed with a sense of the condition of poor benighted perishing sinners—ready to bear the glad tidings of salvation to the dark regions of superstition, heathenism and ignorance.—*Thirdly*, the blessing which has attended their labours—many have been turned from darkness to light—Churches have been formed, and large numbers have through their instrumentality been brought to rejoice in redeeming love. Under these considerations, ought we not, Brethren, to engage decidedly in the Redeemer's cause, and pray fervently as our Lord hath taught us ; “ Thy Kingdom come ? ”—and communicate liberally for the support of those who are gospel runners, to increase the knowledge of the precious Saviour ?

DEAR BRETHERN,

Let us all be exhorted to unite our efforts in this best of causes, and labour to spread the knowledge of the Divine Redeemer, till the earth shall be full of the glory of the Lord, and all flesh see of his salvation—when all the children of Zion shall be taught of God, and great shall be their peace.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The STURBRIDGE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, met in KILLINGLY, Connecticut, September 25 and 26, 1811, to the SISTER ASSOCIATIONS, with whom we correspond, sendeth Christian salutation..

BELOVED IN THE LORD,

THE rising glory of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ affords consolation to every humble heart. The government of this kingdom is on the shoulder of Immanuel; and there it must remain. The necessity of a divine Legislator for this Kingdom arises from the consideration that it is not of this world; consequently a spiritual one. If so, how can men of this world legislate in it? It is out of their jurisdiction. It devolves on a divine Saviour. If Jesus Christ be a mere man then he is also inadequate to the undertaking. For how can a mere man explore the mental regions; mark all our secret thoughts, and weigh every motive to action; or bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil? He plainly declared himself Judge of all men when on earth, saith he *The Father judgeth no man but hath committed all judgment to the Son.* He weighs the actions of men; searches their hearts, and tries their reins. In fine, the glorious King in Zion is omnipresent, beholding the evil and the good. The Lord Jesus is Lawgiver and Judge over his people.

Devils and wicked men have been engaged to remove the sceptre from his hand, but in vain. In vain did they attack his person when on earth; for by his death he destroyed the power of the prince of darkness. In vain has the Pope, with all his Legates, Prelates, Cardinals and Friars, confronted the

Messiah to remove regal dignity from him. All they have effected is to hurry themselves, and instrumentally guide others to the pit of despair; while the Saviour has marched on his way triumphantly dragging them at his chariot wheels, for destruction. *No weapon formed against thee, saith the Lord to his servants, shall prosper*; for the foundation of this city is permanent, her walls are impregnable, and her King immutable, invincible and eternal.

Are we, Brethren, called to be subjects of King Jesus? Then let us walk worthy of our high vocation. Let us never lean upon human power to direct us in worshipping God. Neither let us cast away our confidence in the Lord; but trusting in the merits of Christ's blood for justification before God, and the word of his grace for direction in righteousness; let us persevere in holiness, pressing toward the mark of perfection in Christ Jesus, until we arrive beyond the vale of tears to dwell with our immortal King.

Our meeting has been attended with tokens of divine approbation. For the present standing of our Churches, we refer you to our Minutes. And our prayer is to the Great Head of the Church, that in future we may experience more and larger additions to our Churches than we have in the year past.

We solicit a continuance of your correspondence for your letters are interesting to us, and refreshing to our hearts as cold water to a thirsty soul.

SAMUEL WATERS, *Moderator.*

ZENAS L. LEONARD, *Scribe.*