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Baptists . Massachusetts . Sturbridge Association, 1814.
Minutes . . . in Woodstock (Conn.) September 28th &
29th .

Hartford, Russells, 1814. 12 pp.

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MINUTES

OF THE

STURBRIDGE

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BAPTIST ASSOCIATION :

HELD AT THE

Second Baptist Meeting-House,

IN

WOODSTOCK, (CONN.)

SEPTEMBER 28th & 29th, 1814.



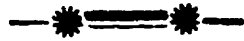
HARTFORD :

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State-Street.

1814.

MINUTES, &c.



Wednesday, September 28, 1814.

1. At 10 o'clock, a Sermon was delivered by Brother Joseph Cornell, from Coll. **Q**, 2; after which, had a collection for the widows of deceased Ministers.

2. Chose Brother Zenas L. Leonard, Moderator, and Brother Augustus Bolles, Clerk.

3. Adjourned for half an hour.

4. Met according to adjournment, and after solemn prayer by the Moderator, proceeded to read the letters from the churches, and took the following account of the members added, dismissed, excluded, and deceased the past year, 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 not heard from, are distinguished by this †; and vacant Churches by a dash —.

Churches.	Elders and Messengers.	Added,	Disn.	Excl.	Died,	Total.
Sutton,	SAMUEL WATERS,* AMASA SMITH, Solomon Marble, Rufus Bacon, Peter Sibley, Jacob Goodnough.	22		1	4	191
Leicester,	— — — <i>Buckley Waters,</i> David Bryant, Samuel Green, Jona. Cuningham.			1		66
Charleton,	JAMES BOOMER, <i>Job B. Boomer,</i> Daniel Bacon, Lemuel Green.	3			4	52

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added,</i>	<i>Dism.</i>	<i>Excl.</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1st. Woodstock, ———	Nicholas Branch, Samuel Crawford, Pennuel Corbin, Henry Howard.	1	1			62
2d. Woodstock,	GEORGE ANGEL, William H. Manning, Robert Applen, Ephraim Tucker.	12	9	3	8	114
S. Brimfield,	ELIJAH CIDDING,* Elijah Wales,				1	75
Belchertown,	DAVID PEASE, Thomas Barret.*	6	1	2	3	122
Sturbridge,	ZENAS L. LEONARD, John Miner, Joshua Fisk, Walter Lyon,	1			2	106
2d. Ashford,	————— Benjamin Converse, William Snell,				2	70
3d, Ashford,	————— Ephraim Howard.	2		1		31
Shutesbury,†	JOSEPH SMALLIDGE,					150
Wilbraham,	ALVIN BENNETT, Ebenezer Curtis.	3		1	2	100
and Monson,						
Hardwick,	EBENEZER BURT.					112
Thompson,	PEARSON CROSBY, Thomas Day, Stephen Crosby.	12				253
Pomfret,	JAMES GROW, Res. 3 Jeremiah Field, Artemas Bunce, Simeon Allen,	25			4	85
Enfield, Long- meadow, & Wilbraham,	EZEKIEL TERRY,				4	137

<i>Churches,</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Adm.</i>	<i>Disin.</i>	<i>Recd.</i>	<i>Deed.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Killingly,	CALVIN COOPER, Levi Aldrich, Silas Slater, Jr.	32				148
Tolland,	AUGUSTUS BOLLES, Ichabod Hinkley, Jeduthan Cobb.	2	1	2		60
1st. Stafford, †	— — — —					45
2d. Stafford,	SAMUEL BLOSS, Jr.* Samuel Alden.	2	1		1	38
Dana,	— — — — Ellis Peackham, Edmond Rogers.			1		50
Shrewsbury } & Boylston, }	LUTHER GODDARD.	14				55
Total, 232, 12, 24, 34, 1937						

Voted, That ministering brethren present, who are not members of the Association, be invited to take a seat, and act with us

5 Called for the Minutes and Messengers, from corresponding Associations, and received as follows:—

<i>Associations.</i>	<i>Letter & Minutes.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>
Warren,	Letter and Minutes,	Wm. Bentley.
Stonington,	do. do.	— — — —
Hartford,	do. do.	— — — —
Westfield,	do. do.	— — — —
Boston,	— — — —	— — — —
Leyden,	Letter and Minutes,	Jacob Bachelder.

6 Chose Messengers to corresponding Associations, as follows:—

To the Warren, Brethren Pease and Branch.
Stonington, Brethren Grow, Terry, Bennett, & Bolles.
Leyden, Brother Jacob Bachelder.
Westfield, Brother Terry.
Hartford, Brother Bolles.
Boston, Brother Smith, Cooper, and Putnam.

7. *Voted*, That Brother Pease be appointed to write the Circular, and Brother Angel the corresponding letter, for next year

8. *Voted*, That the next Association be held with the Church in Belchertown on the last Wednesday of September next at 10 o'clock, A.M

9 *Voted*, That Brother Angel be appointed to preach the introductory Sermon, and Brother Leonard in case of failure.

10. *Voted*, To hold prayer meetings in the several churches, on the first Tuesday of October next, and so, quarterly, through the year, at 1 o'clock, P. M. on each day.

Query, from the church in Sutton What is proper to be done, in the case of members removed to so great a distance, that we hear not from them in many years! In answer to this query it was—

11 *Voted*, That we advise the churches not to return them to the Association, as a part of their members, but still to retain their names in the roll of the church, and make a diligent search after them, to do with them as the case may require, when found out.

12. *Voted*, That Brother Bolles, Bennet, and Pease, be a committee to superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes.

13. Adjourned till tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock. Closed with prayer by Brother Goddard.—Preaching in various places, in the vicinity, this evening.

September 29th.

Met according to adjournment—Prayer introductory to business, by Brother Boomer.

14. The Circular Letter, prepared by Brother Burt, was read and accepted.

15. The Corresponding Letter, prepared by Brother Bolles, was read and accepted.

16 *Voted*, That Brethren Pease and Crawford, be a committee, to distribute money to widows of deceased ministers.

Received and read a Letter from Brother Luther Rice, on the subject of Foreign Missions : whereupon it was,

17. *Voted*. That we cordially approve of the design of the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, and with plea-

sure unite our humble efforts to promote the objects embraced in the communication of Brother Rice.

18 *Voled*, That to promote a design so exalted, as that of sending the written, and preached Word of Life to the Hea-hen, we earnestly recommend to the churches of this Association, to make an annual contribution at such time as they think proper, to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions

19 *Voled*, That Brother Augustus Bolles, be appointed to forward our Minutes, and correspond with the Secretary of said Board.

20 *Voled*, That after our next annual meeting, the time of holding our Association, be altered, to the last Wednesday in August, which will be A D. 1816, of which our Churches and Corresponding Associations, are requested to take due notice.

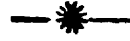
The business of the Association being closed and dismissed, a Sermon was immediately delivered by our much esteemed Brother, Joseph Cornell, after which a collection was had, and the infant missionary institution connected with this body proceeded to the annual choice of officers. &c.

We are happy to state, that, notwithstanding the embarrassments of the times, they found themselves able to send out missionaries to the amount of eighteen weeks, exclusive of \$100 voted to the Connecticut society auxiliary to the Baptist board of foreign missions. Solemnity, harmony, social love, and the manifest tokens of the blessing of God, rendered our interview peculiarly delightful.

Extract from the Minutes of Westfield Association.

‘WHEREAS there is a man, who calls himself John Johnson, travelling under the character of a Baptist preacher; we have received information from our brethren (by whom he says he is recommended) warning us against him, as a man, who fraudulently imposes himself upon the public.’ From recent experience of his conduct in one of our churches, we are induced

solemnly to reiterate the warning. The churches are also cautioned to beware of Joshua Young, late of Brandon, (Vt.) a man of refined talents, and somewhat corpulent; who, for base, ungodly conduct has been excluded from the churches in Brandon aforesaid.



CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEARLY BELOVED IN THE LORD,

WE rejoice in being favored with one more interview. A fair opportunity is presented to us, to encourage each other in the truth. How great is the consolation even in this trying day, that the government is on the shoulders of Prince Emmanuel? We are called to mourn the recent loss of a number of our worthy Brethren, who used to sit in council with us in our annual deliberations. And among the many that are gone, how sensibly do we feel the loss of our dear Brother Aitwell? Alas he is gone! the death of such a man is a public loss to the Zion of God on earth. There is one laborer less in the vineyard, one watchman less on the walls of God's Jerusalem. Our churches are no more comforted by his visits: the precious lambs of Christ will no more receive consolation by his gifts. Nor can our Association receive any further support from him, who was a pillar in Zion, and a father in our Israel. His lips are closed in a long silence, no more to cheer the hearts of the drooping saints, by his melodious songs, or his soothing instructions. Brethren, while we reflect a moment on the King of terrors, we see him fixed in his purpose. He resolves on victory over all the human race. Unweary in his attacks, he regards not the agony

of mortals, the distress of helpless infancy, the grief of paternal affection, nor the bonds of consubial love. Since this is the fate of men, how suitable the command of our Lord, 'be ye also ready.' This command was doubtless given, in allusion to the judgment day. But in order for us to be ready to meet God, we must serve him in every particular situation in life, be it what it may. If we are rich, by meekness and liberality, ready to distribute; and willing to communicate; if we are poor, we are called to honor and glorify God by contentment; if afflicted, to be patient: if bereaved, to be submissive; if comforted, to be thankful; if persecuted, to be firm and unmoved; if victorious, let us ascribe all the praise to God; if others injure us, let us be careful to forgive, and when we are tempted, let us deny ourselves, and shew our loyalty by resistance; and when weak, look to Jesus for strength. Brethren, we must dedicate ourselves to God, and present our bodies a living sacrifice. Surely it is reasonable. If parents, to worship God in our families, (alas! how many families delight themselves more in their merchandize than in their prayers) instructing our children in word and example; if children let us worship God by obedience to parents, as double duty, for by it we obey heavenly and earthly parents, both in one act.—If ministers of the word, let us be affectionate, fervent, and faithful shepherds of the flock of Christ, and if soldiers, let us put on the whole armour of the Gospel, that we may stand in the evil day. Let us all be ready like musicians, to play each man his part for God. Then shall we be like a band of heaven-born souls, promoting gospel harmony in the ears of the Angelic throng; and although the day

is marked with gloomy omens, and covered with clouds, it is a blessed time for the friends of Emanuel to distinguish themselves from the world. The day of the Lord draws nigh—blessed and happy is that servant, that is found waiting. Dear Brethren, be exhorted to hold the beginning of your confidence stedfast unto the end, that no man take your crown. And now, the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and we pray God, your whole body, soul, and spirit, be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus,—*Amen.*

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

THE STURBRIDGE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

To the Associations with whom they correspond, send greeting, wishing a multitude of spiritual blessings, and the rich grace of God in Christ to abound.

DEAR BRETHREN,

IT is observable that Christians are much in a habit of thanking God, in prayer, for what He is communicatively unto us, as well as for what he is in Himself. May we not with propriety send our cordial thanksgiving for what, of God, in his wonderful works and goodness, we may communicate to each other. These thoughts were suggested, by the recollection of pleasure and benefit, derived to us, from our past correspondence with you. With what joy have our hearts been filled, when informed of the extensive additions to your churches, and your stedfastness in 'the faith once de-

livered to the saints.' This our joy, we believe, will be rendered reciprocal, by the accounts we are enabled, through the abundant mercy of God, now to communicate to you by our ministers. To God be all the glory. The unparalleled exertions, every where making by the lovers of truth; and the great events which have of late surprised the religious world, in favor of its universal spread; all tend to inflame our zeal, and increase our gratitude. The refined delights of a Christian heart, far from being diminished, are rather increased in proportion to the breadth of seas and continents over which the news have travelled, that the gospel is yet powerful to the salvation of lost and perishing sinners. Witness the bursting joy, upon the receipts of intelligence from Carey, Marshman, and Ward, that illustrious trio of Christian fidelity and perseverance, together with their noble compeers, in the missionary field, that the heathen 'hear the word of God, and so hear, that many live,' and that waiting and destitute millions, are soon to receive the precious word of life in their own tongue. Brethren lift up your heads, for surely, 'the redemption of the purchased possession' draws near; and though wicked men, and devils, combine their efforts against the rising Empire of Christ; they strive in vain, the spread of the true light cannot be prevented, for the King of Zion is evidently engaged with opposing powers, to save the purchase of 'his own blood;' and to redeem from every nation, kindred, and tongue under the whole Heaven, those given him of the Father. With a prospect of the speedy triumph of Christianity thus brightening before us, and surrounded with suitable evidence, that the Saviour in whom we believe is indeed, 'He that

liveth, as if he was dead, and behold he is alive for evermore; what heart but must respond an eternal amen. As the subjects of his grace, we seize with avidity every opportunity to draw closer the cords of friendship, by which we are united. For this purpose we invite a continuation of your correspondence. Our present session has been rendered unusually animating, by the pleasing accounts from some of our churches, and the tokens of God's presence with us while together.

May the peace of God be on us, and the Churches universally,—*Amen.*

ZENUS L. LEONARD, *Moderator.*

AUGUSTUS BOLLES, *Clerk.*

AT the Book Store of DAVID PEASE, lately opened at Belchertown, (Ms.) may be had BOOKS, Miscellaneous and Theological; comprising the principal publications of the Baptists now extant.