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Minutes ... in Middletown, Oct. 4 and 5, 1809.
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MINUTES

OF THE

VERMONT

Baptist Association,

HELD AT THE

BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE,

IN

MIDDLETOWN,

OCTOBER 4 AND 5, 1809 ;

TOGETHER WITH THEIR

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING

LETTER.

RUTLAND :

PRINTED BY WILLIAM FAY.

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1809.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1809.

1. **A**T 10 o'clock, agreeably to appointment, Elder Henry Green delivered the introductory sermon from 1. Timothy, 6. 6. "*But Godliness with contentment is great gain.*"

2. A Moderator and Clerk were chosen.

3. After prayer by Elder Sawyer, proceeded to read the letters from the churches, and the following list taken of their alterations and present numbers.

N. B. Ordained minister's names in *italics*, vacant churches marked thus †, from those with this mark * no information this session.

CHURCHES. MESSENGERS.	Added.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.	Money paid. Cts. Dol.
Salem, { <i>Obed Warren,</i> <i>Ephraim Wheeler,</i> <i>Peter Warren,</i>	64	11	1	1	140	1 00
† Hubbardton, { <i>Silas Hall,</i> <i>Ezana Wood,</i>	12			1	48	0 50
Brandon, { <i>Joshua Young,</i> <i>Joseph Dagget,</i>	8	4	1		77	0 50
† Whiting, { <i>Deac. Ezana Allen,</i> <i>Jonas Hubbard,</i> <i>Melton Needham,</i>		2		1	21	0 50
Pittsford, { <i>Wm. Harrington,</i> <i>Thomas Hammond,</i> <i>Edward Defford,</i>	11	4		1	129	1 25
Poultney, { <i>Clark Kendrick,</i> <i>Deac. Wm. Ward,</i> <i>Calvin Mallary,</i>	21	2			104	1 00
Monkton, { <i>Isaac Sawyer,</i> <i>Deac. John Beach,</i> <i>John Sterns,</i>	12	3	1		93	0 80

†Newhaven, Deac. Jabez Rogers,			1	43	0 50	
†Rupert, {	Deac. Asa Nurse,	8	5	1	75	1 00
	Deac. Daniel Waldo, Job Matteson,					
Middletown, {	Sylvanus Haynes,	112	2		235	1 00
Bridport, {	Deac. Dan'l Ford,	5		1	45	0 50
	Henry Chamberlain,					
	Caleb Smith, Jeremiah Turner,	15	1	1	97	1 00
Cornwall, {	Henry Green,					
	Benj. Stevens, Jared Farnum,					
*Bristol,				33		
Charlotte, Daniel Horsford,		4		1	50	1 00
Granville, {	Samuel Rowley,	9	2		156	0 75
	Cyrus Andrews, Job Leonard,					
	Abel Woods,	7		1	114	0 50
Shoreham, {	Hopkins Rowley,					
1st in Dorset, {	John Williams,	6			20	0 32
	Deac. Isaac Grey,					
†2d. do. {	Nichols French, Nath'l M'Entire,	3			19	0 20
*Westfield,					125	
Orwell, {	Ithiel Peck,				60	0 25
	James Noble,					

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N. B. The last mentioned church received this session, likewise Clarendon and Westhaven churches have for the present dropped connection with the association.

4. Read the letters from the corresponding associations. From Warren, letter and minutes, by brother Jonathan Going, a licentiate. From Woodstock, letter and minutes, by brother Going. Leyden, no information. Shaftsbury; letter and minutes. Richmond, letter and minutes, by brother Elisha Starkweather. Essex, letter and minutes, by Elder Solomon Brown and Ithiel Peck. From Saratoga, letter and minutes by Elder Amasa Brown and Calvin Swain. From the Otsego, letter & minutes.

5. Visiting brethren from sister associations invited to a seat with us.

6. Proceeded to hear the report of the committee, or directors of missionary affairs.

Extract—"Your committee entrusted with mission-

ry affairs report—That they employed Elder Solomon Brown as a missionary, on the western side of lake Champlain, in the northern part of the state of New-York, for the term of eight weeks, for which we paid him 40 dollars. He received contributions for our fund, 3 dols. 21 cts.

Also, employed Elder Isaac Sawyer, 7 1-2 weeks, to travel and preach in the northern part of this state, for which we gave him 37 dols. 50 cts. He received in contribution for the fund 12 dols. 18 cts. Both were gladly received by the people—bro't back pleasing accounts of their mission, and served to the full acceptance of your committee. The balance now remaining in the treasury is 15 dols. 60 cts.

WM. HARRINGTON, Chairman.
SAM'L ROWLEY, Clerk."

7. Voted, That we approve the doings of our committee.

8. Chose a committee to conduct our missionary affairs for the ensuing year, viz.—Elders Warren, Harrington, Green, Kendrick, Young and Sawyer; and brethren Needham, Deac. Skinner, Everts, Hammond, Deac. Nurse and Caleb Smith.

9. Heard the circular and corresponding letter, prepared by Elder Haynes, and referred it for examination to the missionary committee, who were to arrange the remaining business for to-morrow.

10. Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. The concluding prayer by the Moderator, and sermon in the evening by Elder Solomon Brown.

THURSDAY MORNING, OCT. 5.

11. Met according to adjournment.—Prayer, introductory to business, by brother Going.

12. Voted to receive the letter referred without alteration.

13. Voted, That our circular and corresponding letter for the future be shorter than heretofore.

14. Appointed the following messengers to corresponding associations, viz.—To the Warren, Elder Calvin Chamberlain—to the Woodstock, Elder Harrington—to the Leyden, Elder Warren—to the Shaftsbury, Elders Warren and Harrington—to the Richmond, Elder Henry Chamberlain—to the Essex, Elders Green, Henry Chamberlain and Woods—to the Saratoga, Elders Kendrick and Rowley—to the Otsego, Elder Henry Chamberlain and brother Williams.

15. Chose the following brethren as a committee to visit Whiting church, and to give them advice in some matters, in which they wish for assistance, viz.—Elders Green, Harrington and Sawyer; and brothers Hammond and Caleb Smith.

16. Query from Cornwall church :—“ Does this association in receiving a church with a candidate, by that act give fellowship to that candidate, as a preacher ? ”—Answer. In receiving a church, we neither approve nor disapprove the candidate as such.

17. As it appeared from our last minutes that Samuel Webster was a member of a church in fellowship with this body, we herein state that he is excluded from said church, and is not in fellowship with this association, nor any regular gospel church whatsoever.

18. Appointed Elders Harrington, Haynes and Woods a committee to visit Rutland church, as they are in a feeble, destitute situation; and to give them such advice as they shall think proper.

19. Appointed Elder Kendrick an agent to hold all the papers for and during the pleasure of the association.

20. Appointed Elder Peck to write the next circular and corresponding letter.

21. Voted, That our next session be holden at the baptist meeting house in Pittsford, (a few miles north of Rutland) the first Wednesday in October next, at 10 o'clock A. M. (the missionary committee to meet the day previous, at the same place, at 1 o'clock P. M.) Elder Warren to preach the introductory sermon; in case of failure, Elder Kendrick.

22. Supplies for 2d church in Dorset—Elder Warren the 4th Sabbath in April; Elder Calvin Chamberlain the 4th in August.

23. Supplies for Middlebury—Elder Green 3d Sabbath in November; Elder Sawyer the 3d in December; Elder Harrington the 3d in January; Elder Warren the 3d in February; Elder Kendrick the 3d in March; Elder Woods the 3d in April; Elder Rowley the 3d in May; Elder Haynes the 3d in June.

24. As we live in an eventful period, and a righteous God threatening us with sword and famine, and impiety prevailing—

Resolved unanimously, That we recommend to our churches in this body, and to all our sister churches wherever, who may know of this resolve, to improve in a humble and solemn manner, the last Thursday in December next as a day of fasting and prayer; that God would cut short those days of tribulation where wars and the work of death prevails; that he would enlighten and reform the nations; that he would avert the judgements that hang over our land, perpetuate our civil rights, reform us as a people, convert our youth, pour out his spirit upon our churches, inspire ministers with humility and faithfulness; that he would cause every yoke to be broken and the oppressed to go free; that he would succeed missionary endeavors, &c. &c. must, we think, be felt as things of importance on that day in approaching a throne of grace; and we feel great satisfaction in believing that our views will be cordially met by our brethren in general, and that on said day our prayers and employ will be the same.

This joyful and happy session was closed by a solemn and pathetic address by the moderator, which was followed by fervent exhortations by Elders Warren, Green and Haynes. Nothing transpired to interrupt our harmony, but love and affection mingled thro' all the room.

After a short intermission, the people met again at 2 o'clock, at which time br. Sawyer delivered a discourse

From Ephesians 4. 3. sitting forth the importance of our keeping the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

25. Account of the monies contributed at this association to the missionary fund.

CHURCHES.		PRIVATE DONATIONS.	
	D. C.		D. C.
Salem,	6 54	Jacob Smith,	0 50
Whiting,	1 25	Caleb Smith,	0 50
Monkton,	7 00	Jeremiah Turner	0 50
Granville,	6 42	Levi Walker,	9 13
Cornwall,	6 00	Lemuel Hutchinson,	0 50
Shoreham,	5 00		
Brandon,	3 05	All the monies	2 25
Pittsford,	7 90	we have raised this	51 70
Public contributions		year for missiona-	
at the association		ry purposes is	53 95
which includes			
Middletown ch.	8 54		
	<hr/>		
	51 70		

And from the united exertions of our churches and societies, at this day, both in England and America, to promote missions amongst the poor outcasts of the wilderness, and vacant places, and from the well known happy effects of the same, the associations are pleased in anticipating the ensuing year, a more able and general contribution from all the churches and societies - than ever yet experienced.

“ But to do good, and to communicate forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

CIRCULAR & CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Elders and other messengers of the churches of the Vermont Baptist Association to the churches they represent, and to the corresponding association, send Christian salutation.

BELOVED IN THE LORD,

LAST year we addressed you on the subject of LOVE; we hope you have read with approbation, and practiced with pleasure, for love makes all the peace and fellowship there is on earth, and all the transporting felicity there is in heaven. Agreeably to appointment last year, we are now to address you on the importance of contributing for the encouragement of missionary institutions. The design of missions is, to send the gospel into new and destitute settlements.— This is an object which we presume every christian will most cordially approve, for their prayers have often devoutly and fervently ascended to the Father of all mercies, that he would graciously visit those destitute and benighted regions with the gospel of his dear son. But how do we expect that God will send the gospel into those places? Will he dispatch angels from heaven upon this important errand, or will he send preachers of our brethren from more enlightened parts of the land to bear to them the joyful tidings of salvation? The latter most certainly. But the query still arises, Who will go, and who will bear their charges? “ O (say some) let some good men go, and the Lord reward them at the great day.” But will those who make this observation go on such terms as these? Will they leave their family, their business, and spend their time, strength & property, several months in distant regions for the reward they propose for others to accept? We apprehend such person would

be the last to undertake missions in this way. Every reasonable man knows that it is not consistent for men to go such a warfare at their own charges. These charges cannot be borne but by liberal contributions. But many will omit contributing, saying, "I am willing to do my part." This is but an evasion dictated by covetousness: for they cannot be ignorant that it is impossible to assign every man or christian in America his proportional part of what *ought* to be done for the encouragement of missionary institutions. And we all know that many who in justice ought to do much, will never give a cent for such purposes. Others when called upon for contributions, will say, I will give if others will, and not else.— This is no better than saying, I will be liberal if others will; and if they be coveteous, I will be so too. Will the consciences of such be satisfied while they *knowingly* rank themselves with the coveteous who are idolators? Others will object to contributing by saying that many pious where we send missionaries are as well able to hire preaching as we be. To which we reply, that in many places it is far otherwise. Missionaries inform us that in many places they find the people not only destitute of gospel privileges, but also as destitute of advantages to obtain them. They realise the benighted situation of themselves, their families and neighbors. They rehearse their tale of woes, and beg the missionary to tarry, at least a few days longer. They pray him to come again or send some other minister. When the moment arrives when he must depart from them, they all join and pray, and weep together; and as the last memorial they hand him a packet of letters, to bear to the missionary society, expressing a thousand thanks for their favors, and praying for further missionary labors; and if possible, that a permanent mission may be established in their vicinity. The minister goes away with a heavy heart, and flowing tears; and were it not for his family and society at home, he would be willing to sacrifice all the privileges of former connections, and spend his days in those needy places.

Pressing calls for missionary labors are so numerous, and gospel laborers are so few, and our fund so small, that missionary societies are often at a loss to know where to send the small help they can afford. And if destitute societies have it in their power to obtain preaching, and yet have no inclination to do it, their case is still more deplorable. In this case some missionary labors might be happily instrumental of much good to them. Many churches in new settlements owe their existence to the instrumentality of missionary labors. O then be willing to bestow a little out of your abundance for the promotion of so good a cause. Yes, give, and give cheerfully, for the Lord loveth the cheerful giver.

You often pray Almighty God to send the gospel into such vacant places, and we hope your prayers have been as incense, and the lifting up your hands as acceptable as the evening sacrifice. But when you thus pray, pause a moment & reflect, whether you are willing to prove the sincerity of your prayers by giving a few cents to reward a missionary? If not, how can you hold up your head before God, and pray for the spread of the gospel in those benighted shades? When the writer of these lines once called for a contribution for such purposes, a young brother replied that he would give something, for he wanted the privilege of praying for the spread of the gospel.— Remember that the sums which are contributed from time to time are appropriated to no other purposes, and are very frugally used, and are one blessed means of spreading the gospel, and enlarging the bounds of the Redeemer's kingdom.

Bear it solemnly in mind, that many souls date their happy conversion to God from missionary labors. Others have been aroused, strengthened, comforted, established and assisted on their way to heaven by the same means. So that *your bountifulness and dispersing abroad causeth, thro' missionaries, thanksgiving to God,* and their prayers will rise to heaven that blessings may rest upon you. You would do well to remember that

when you withhold your might from so good a purpose, you withhold it from Christ; from his church, and from perishing souls; but when you bestow it, you give it to the Saviour, to his bride, and to lost sinners. Who would not contribute a little in such a cause as this? We are told that it is more blessed to *give* than to receive. And if he that hath pity on the poor lendeth to the Lord, and shall be repaid; how much more blessed is the case of those who freely and conscientiously give for the purpose of promoting the kingdom of Jesus, and the spiritual welfare of our benighted fellow men.

To this we add, that when the day of judgment shall come, Christ will kindly notice every mite that has been thus devoted to him, and will say to you in presence of assembled worlds, *In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.* And do you think that you shall then regret that you offered a little of your mammon to Christ in this way, while you dwelt on earth? Will it not then sufficiently reward this little service, not only to hear Christ publicly approving your conduct; but also to hear multitudes of heaven born souls blessing and praying God, that ever they saw the face, and heard the voice of a missionary? And you may then reflect that thro' grace you have been instrumental by your contributions of sending some of those missionaries. Remember that all these blessed and glorious things are connected with only giving a few cents for missionary purposes.

Your messengers and minutes, have been joyfully received, and God grant that our correspondence may continue with increasing delight, with these expressions, bearing the sentiments and affections of our hearts, we beg leave to subscribe ourselves your brethren in the gospel of Christ.

In behalf of the Association,

WM. HARRINGTON, *Moderator.*

CLARK KENDRICK, *Clerk.*