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Baptists. Vermont. Vermont Association, 1812.

Minutes ... at Monkton, October.

Rutland, Vt., Fay, 1812. 10 pp.

NRAB copy.

~~1812-1813~~  
**MINUTES**

OF THE

*207*

**Vermont Baptist Association,**

**HELD AT THE**

**BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE IN**

**MONKTON,**

**OCTOBER 7 & 8, 1812.**

**WITH THE**

**CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING**

**LETTER.**

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**RUTLAND—PRINTED BY W. FAY,**

**1812.**

## MINUTES, &c.

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 1812.

1st. At ten o'clock, Eld. Sylvanus Haynes, according to appointment, delivered the introductory discourse, from Romans xi, 20, *be not high minded but fear.*

2d. Chose Eld. Haynes Moderator, and Elder C. Kendrick, Clerk, then adjourned one hour.

3d. Met at one o'clock P. M. pursuant to adjournment, and after Prayer by Eld. Green, proceeded to read the Letters from the Churches, and the following account of their alterations the year past and their present numbers.

N. B. The names of **O**rdained Ministers are in small CAPITALS, Licentiates in *Italics*, Ministers with this mark \* were not present, from Churches marked thus, † we had no information, vacant Churches marked thus ‡

| CHURCHES.   | MESSENGERS.            | Added, | Dismissed, | Excluded, | Died, | Total, | Money Cts Paid, Dis. |
|-------------|------------------------|--------|------------|-----------|-------|--------|----------------------|
| Salem,      | <i>Samuel M Plumb,</i> | 2      | 12         | 2         | 1     | 83     | 50                   |
| †Hubbarton, | _____                  |        |            |           |       | 48     |                      |
| ‡Brandon,   | Fredrick Schofield,    | 2      | 2          | 1         | 3     | 65     | 50                   |
| ‡Whiting,   | { Jonas Hubbard,       | 3      | 1          |           |       | 54     | 37                   |
|             | { Alanson Peck,        |        |            |           |       |        |                      |
| Pittsford,  | WM. HERENTON,          |        | 10         | 3         | 1     | 127    | 1,00                 |
| Poultney,   | CLARK KENDRICK,        |        | 4          |           | 2     | 90     | 1,00                 |
| ‡Monkton,   | { John Stearns,        |        |            |           |       |        |                      |
|             | { Robinson Mumford,    |        | 5          |           | 1     | 54     | 87                   |
|             | { Benjamin Carpenter,  |        |            |           |       |        |                      |

|              |                           |    |   |   |     |      |
|--------------|---------------------------|----|---|---|-----|------|
| Rupert,      | <i>Peter W. Reynolds,</i> | 3  | 1 | 1 | 72  | 90   |
| ‡Newhaven,   | { Lemuel Phelps,          | 1  | 1 |   | 28  | 52   |
|              | { Isaae Doud,             |    |   |   |     |      |
| Middletown,  | SYLVANUS HAYNES,          | 6  | 2 | 2 | 206 |      |
| Bridport,    | { ELISHA STARKWEATHER,    | 2  | 2 |   | 55  | 90   |
|              | { Levi Baldwin,           |    |   |   |     |      |
|              | { HENRY GREEN,            |    |   |   |     |      |
| Cornwall,    | { John Douglass,          | 10 | 2 | 2 | 152 | 1,00 |
|              | { Ransom Robinson,        |    |   |   |     |      |
| ‡Bristol,    | Jonathan Eastman,         | 1  | 2 | 1 | 69  | 50   |
| †Charlotte,  |                           |    |   |   | 43  | 50   |
| Grenville,   | SAMUEL ROWLEY,            | 6  | 4 |   | 143 | 50   |
| 1st †Dorset, |                           |    |   |   | 15  |      |
|              | { Itthiel Peck,*          | 2  | 5 | 2 | 2   | 65   |
| Orwell,      | { Deve Royce,             |    |   |   |     |      |
|              | { Peter Hall,             |    |   |   |     |      |
| ‡Hinesburgh, | Asa Moon,                 | 2  | 2 |   | 24  | 39   |
| Middlebury,  | { NATH KENNERICK,*        | 9  | 2 |   | 46  | 50   |
|              | { Abiel Fisher,           |    |   |   |     |      |
| Benson,      | { <i>Jerome H. Dwyre,</i> | 3  | 2 | 4 | 1   | 56   |
|              | { Levi Wilkinson,         |    |   |   |     | 59   |
| †Ira,        |                           |    |   |   | 267 |      |
| Panton,      | { ABEL WOOD,              | 3  | 5 | 2 | 2   | 81   |
|              | { Oliver Alfred,          |    |   |   |     | 50   |
|              | { Jesse Grandey.          |    |   |   |     |      |

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4th. Messengers from Corresponding Associations, were invited to a seat.

5th. Eld'rs. Warren, Green, and I. Sawyer, were appointed a Committee to prepare a Circular and Corresponding Letter.

6th. Heard the report of the Missionary Committee of which the following is an Extract.

We have employed Eld. Dana as a Missionary for the term of 8 weeks in the north part of the State of VT. and in L. C. for which we paid him 40 dollars; also employed Eld. Starkweather for the same term in the north part of the State of New-York, and have paid him 40 dollars.

There was in the hands of the Treasurer last year 85 dollars 61 cents, paid 80 dollars to Dana and Starkweather, leaves 5 dollars 61 cents. Also a bill of 4 dollars on the Coos bank, is in the treasury. Mr. Dana received in contribution 3 dollars 15 cents, Mr. Stark-

weather received 12 dollars. Received Oct. last, in Charlotte by Contribution 8 dollars 60 cents. Total balance in the treasury 33 dollars 36. As Eld. Dana is providentially absent, the Committee are not prepared to report on his tour. Eld. Starkweather's report is acceptable to the Committee.

WM. HERENTEN, *President.*

S. ROWLEY, *Secretary.*

Monkton, Oct. 7, 1812.

6th. Approved the doings of the Missionary Board.

7th. Read the Letters from Corresponding Associations.—From the Warren Association.—Woodstock, Minutes by Eld. Warren.—Shaftsbury, Minutes by their Messenger Eld. Warren.—Richmond now called, Fairfield Association, (divided in consequence of the war, as part belongs to Canada,) Minutes by Eld. Sawyer, and voted to open a Correspondence with the same.—Essex — Saratoga Minutes.—Minutes from the Black River Association by Br. Robinson.—Minutes from the Boston Association, with a request for Correspondence.

8th. Eld. Warren reported that he attended the Woodstock Association, and that agreeably to his instructions, as appears in our last Minutes page 7th. He enquired into the disposition of the Association relative to an erroneous sentiment held by some of the Ministers of that body, concerning the character of Jesus Christ; that the Association treated the subject with candour, and appointed a Committee to look into the matter and report to their next session.

9th. Appointed Messengers to sister Associations.—To the Warren, minutes are to be forwarded—Boston do.—Woodstock Elders Herenten and Haynes.—Shaftsbury, Br. Plumb, and Eld. Rowley—5 Leyden—Fairfield Eld. Starkweather and Green, Saratoga, C. Kendrick and S. Rowley, Otsego—Black River, Voted to send them our minutes—to the Essex, Eld. Starkweather and Chamberlain.

10th. Appointed Elders Warren, Green, and Herenten a Committee, to prepare an answer to certain Sister

Churches, on the Holland Purchase, State of N. Y. In their Communications to us, in which they seek for such information, as we are able to give, relative to the propriety, or impropriety, of their improving Mr. Samuel Webster as a Public Preacher.

11th. Appointed Eld. Green to write the Circular and Corresponding Letter, for next year.

12th. Adjourned til tomorrow morning 9 o'clock.

*Thursday Morning, October 8.*

MET according to adjournment, opened by Prayer.

13th. The Circular and Corresponding letter, prepared by the forementioned Committee was read, and approved.

14th. The Committee, who were to prepare an answer to our Brethren on the Holland Purchase, read their doings, in which they consider Mr. Webster, by a wicked course of conduct, and impenitence, disqualified for a Preacher of the Gospel—Approved.

15th. Whereas Joshua Young, late Pastor of the Church in Brandon, has been convicted, before an Ecclesiastical Council, of unlawful connection, with another Man's wife, and of attempts to seduce another woman, also of prevarication, and falsehood, for which said Church have excluded him, since which, he has left his family, and gone to parts unknown. We hereby warn our Churches, and the public to beware of him, as a base, ungodly Man.

N. B. Considering the great probability, that his name, rather than his heart, will be changed—He is a Man of refined talents, rather draws his words, somewhat corpulent, very round shouldered, and his neck projects from his body, almost in a horizontal direction.

16th. Voted, That our next Association be holden at the Baptist Meetinghouse in Cornwall, the first Wednesday in October next, at 10 o'clock A. M. Eld. C. Kendrick to Preach the Introductory Sermon, in case of failure Eld. Rowley.

The solemnities were closed by a discourse from Eld. Warren from 1st Corinthians xv, 13.

Contributions for Missionary purposes, Pittsford—7 dollars 7 cents, Pantton 4 dollars, Poultney 5 dollars.

At the Association, the Brethren agreed that when they returned, they would call on their several Churches for a contribution, and forward the same to the Editor, who is appointed treasurer.

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### OBITUARY.

Died, on the 10th day of August, 1812, at Burlington, Penns. in the 73d year of his age, Eld. Elisha Rich, Member of the Baptist Church of Christ in Pittsford, Vt.—He was born in Sutton, Mass. and entered the work of the Ministry, when about 21, and by reason of age and infirmity, retired from the work at about 71, and closed a Ministry of 50 years.—He was exemplary in his life, sound in faith, solemn and pointed in his preaching, and died in peace with God.

## CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The Vermont Baptist Association convened at Monkton, October 7th and 8th, to the Churches they represent, and to corresponding Associations, sendeth greeting :*

BELOVED BRETHREN,

OUR lot has fallen to us in eventful times. God is shaking both earth and Heaven ; yet it is a matter of inexpressible satisfaction, that he will take care of his chosen people ; and that the things which cannot be shaken by earth and hell, will remain. We have great cause to admire the distinguishing goodness of God to the inhabitants of this country, who have been for a long time so highly favored, that while the nations of Europe have been involved in the horrors of war, and almost every species of oppression is exercised towards many millions of our fellow creatures in that devoted part of the world ; yet we enjoy a large share of civil and religious liberty. We are favored with the word and ordinances of Christ ; and are permitted to worship God, both in private and in public, agreeably to the dictates of our own consciences, and none to make us afraid.

But, at the same time, we have to lament the prevalence of vice and immorality. Sins prevail, which would be a reproach to any people, even pagans not excepted : and how much more to a nation like ours, which is so highly favored of the Lord, where the mercies of God have been poured forth in the richest profusion. And it is much to be lamented, that such a murmuring is heard among most all classes of people, at the dispensations of Divine Providence. And although our nation is visited with the calamity of war, yet these are times of small adversity, compared with what we deserve. And it affords cause of deep humiliation, that a spirit of discontent, discord, envy and malice ; bitterness and cruelty is fomented to such a degree, as to endanger all social order, and which may provoke a Holy God by terrible things in righteousness, to deprive us of favors



which we have so criminally abused. Should this spirit be suffered to infest the minds of the professed followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, and this deadly leprosy spread in the Churches of Christ, how lamentable would be our circumstances!—Then, alas! the Church would more resemble an ancient Synagogue, than a peaceful habitation of God, through the spirit. And instead of being the light of the world, and salt of the earth, we should be good for nothing but to be cast out, and trodden under foot of men.

We have serious apprehensions that the fellowship of some of our Churches may be disturbed by these things, and their prosperity, and increase in grace be obstructed. Yet, brethren, through the tender mercy of our God, we hope better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. And we earnestly recommend to all our brethren to avoid being turned from the spirit and simplicity of the gospel, by that spirit of worldly policy, which governs the hearts of the children of disobedience. Let us strive to imitate our blessed Redeemer in meekness, patience, forbearance, condescension and forgiveness; and to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace. When the saints thus walk with God, they shew forth the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness, into his marvelous light; and put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

Christ's Kingdom is not of this world; how then can those who are his subjects, maintain the character of christians, if they conform to the spirit of the world? Do they appear like a bride adorned for her husband, and looking for the coming of the bride-groom, whilst they are anxiously seeking the empty honors of this vain world; and with a bitter spirit, striving to obtain an ascendancy one above another? Does their conduct bespeak them to be the children of one family, even the sons of God, and heirs of a better country, when they have bitter envyings one against another? We earnestly beseech all our brethren to follow things that

make for peace, and things whereby one may edify another ; and not wholly to maintain a form of godliness, but to have their hearts governed by its power, living soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world ; that ye may be the sons of God without rebuke, looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesús Christ. May the Lord direct all your and our hearts into the love of God, and the patient waiting of the Redeemer's Kingdom : to him be glory forever, Amen.

We have enjoyed a peculiarly agreeable session, and some tokens of the divine presence. We were edified with the communications from sister associations, and wish for the continuance of their fellowship, and correspondence.

Signed by order of the Association;  
SYLVANUS HAYNES, *Moderator.*  
CLARK KENDRICK, *Clerk.*