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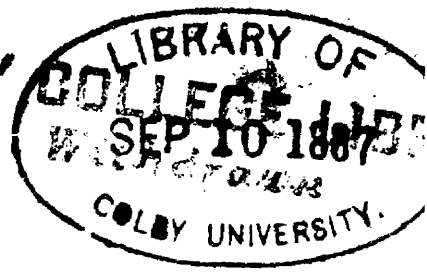
Baptists. Vermont. Vermont Association, 1816.
Minutes . . . Held in the Baptist Meeting-House,
in Ira, October 2, & 3, 1816.

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Rev. Abel Foster
Belongs to

MINUTES

COLBY



OF THE

VERMONT BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

Held

IN THE BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE, IN IRA,

October 2, & 3, 1816.

WITH THE

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTER.



L. J. REYNOLDS'S PRINT.

MINUTES.

Wednesday, Oct. 2, 1816.

1st. At 10 o'clock Br. Starkweather preached the introductory sermon, from 2 Tim. 2, 25, *In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves.*

2d. Made choice of brother Isaac Sawyer moderator, and Br. Rowley clerk.—Then adjourned till one o'clock P. M.

Met according to adjournment, and opened by prayer.

3d. Messengers from corresponding associations were invited to a seat with us.

4th. The letters from the churches were read. The following is an account of their messengers, alterations, and present numbers.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS; licentiates in *Italics*. Ministers marked thus * were not present: from churches marked † we had no information this year, and have given their number as when last represented: Vacant churches are distinguished by a —.

Churches.	Messengers.	Add. by baptism.	Add. by letter.	Dismiss.	Excluded	Died.	Total.
Salem.	Dismissed to Shaftsbury Ass.						
Hubbardton.	{ <i>Joseph W. Sawyer.</i> David Rumsey.	0	0	0	0	0	36
Brandon.	{ E. STARKWEATHER, John Conant, Jonathan Meriam.	5	2	1	1	0	92
Whiting.	{ <i>John Stearns,</i> Deacon M. Needham, Salmon Foster.	1	4	1	0	0	37
Pittsford.	{ Wm. HERINTON, Amos Weller, John Barney,	10	0	12	2	3	129
Poultney.	CLARK KENDRICK.	2	0	0	0	1	88
Monkton.	—, Nathan Douglass.	1	0	3	0	0	44

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>								
Rupert.	{ P. W. REYNOLDS,* Deacon Daniel Waldo.	1	3	0	0	0	0	100	
Middletown.	{ SYLVANUS HAYNES, Deacon Barce, Adonijah Ford.	0	0	1	1	0	0	181	
Bridport.	{ —, Wm. Brastead.	1	4	7	0	0	0	75	
Cornwall.	{ HENRY GREEN, Ezra Allen, Pain Convice.	0	1	6	0	2	0	166	
Bristol.	† —,							52	
Charlotte.	† —,							36	
Granville.	{ SAMUEL ROWLEY, Elias Dayton, Samuel Everts,	57	1	1	1	0	0	190	
Dorset.	{ —, Letter.	0	0	1	0	0	0	21	
Orwell.	{ ISAAC SAWYER, Ichabod Higgins, Myron G. Peck.	4	5	9	2	1	0	76	
Hinesburgh.	{ —, Deacon A. Moon, John Miles.	1	0	0	0	0	0	30	
Middlebury.	{ NATHANIEL KENDRICK, Warren Gibbs, Elijah Holbrook.	5	5	3	0	1	0	54	
Shoreham.	{ JOHN SPALDING, David Wilcox, Deacon James Baker.	4	9	0	1	1	0	83	
Benson.	{ John S. Carter.	7	0	4	2	0	0	65	
Ira.	{ WM. McCULLAR, Deacon H. Horton, Nathaniel Wilmoth.	2	2	6	4	2	0	141	
Panton.	{ ABEL WOODS, Deacon Squire Ferris, Herace Holcomb.	4	2	0	0	0	0	93	
West Clarenden.	{ Deacons C. Mattison, Thomas Tower, John Peck.	1	0	0	0	0	0	48	
Addison.	{ ABEL WOODS, Justin Otis.	4	2	0	1	0	0	66	
		110	40	55	15	11	0	1903	

23 Churches, 12 Ordained Ministers and 3 Licentiates.

The two last mentioned Churches added this year.

5th. The Circular and Corresponding Letter, prepared by brother Horace Griswold, was read and referred to a committee for examination.

6th. Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

There was preaching in the evening in different parts of the vicinity ; in the meeting house, by elder Nathaniel Kendrick.

Thursday morning, Oct. 3, 1816.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Br. Griswold.

7th. The Circular and Corresponding Letter, recommended by the committee, was adapted.

8th. Read and accepted the report of the committee for domestic missions. The following is an extract.

Brother Isaac Sawyer has made returns of his mission to the full satisfaction of the committee.

Brother Rowley has not performed his tour by reason of the special revival in his vicinity at the time he was to have been on his mission.

Br. Wm. Herinton gave a very satisfactory account of his labors on the mission assigned him.

Br. Mears forwarded a satisfactory account of his tour in the year 1814. For the year to come, we have appointed Br. Starkweather on a mission of six weeks to the northern parts of Vermont.

Br. Clark Kendrick, a mission of six weeks to lake George and the Schroon.

Br. Nath'l Kendrick, a mission of three weeks to Kingstown, (Vt.) and its vicinity.

Brethren Green and Sawyer, a mission of six weeks each to the St. Lawrence.

Appointed Br. Wm. Herinton to audit the accounts with the treasurer, who found

In the treasury last year	-	-	\$141	45
Rec'd, in contributions to missionaries,			24	9
Amounting in all to	-	-	165	54
Paid out to our missionaries,	-	-	75	00
Leaving a ballance of	-	-	90	54
Rec'd of the churches this year,	-		47	45
Total in the treasury,	-	-	137	99

By order, WM. HERINTON, *Prés't.*

SAMUEL ROWLEY, *Sec'ry.*

Ira, October 3, 1816.

9th. Voted to transfer the business of domestic missions to the board of directors of the Vermont Society, auxiliary to the Baptist board for foreign missions.

10th. Voted to publish an abstract of the report of the treasurer of the Vermont society for foreign missions. The abstract follows.

Oct. 4, 1815. Total amount in the treasury then was	\$368 96
Paid, by order, to the treasurer of the Baptist board for foreign missions, in New-York,	150 00
Leaving a ballance of	218 96
Interest obtained on the ballance,	13 12
Rec'd by sundry agents and donations this year,	100 85
Rec'd from the female mite society in Brandon,	21 40
Bridport female cent society,	11 45
Ira female society,	5 66
Shoreham female cent society,	9 31
Morristown contribution, by elder Culver,	8 19
Total,	388 85
Appropriated for foreign missions, by vote of the board, this year,	150 00
Loss on a piece of gold, which fell short in weight,	30
Ballance in the hands of our treasurer,	238 55

The society hereby express their thanks to female societies, individuals, and the public for their liberality in aiding, by generous contributions and donations, the great object of missions. The board of directors hold their next meeting at esquire Segars, in Addison, the Tuesday before the sitting of the Association, at 6 o'clock P. M.

11th. Voted that we approve of the correspondence of our standing secretary with the Baptist board for foreign missions; and hereby express our gratitude for communications from that society.

12th. Received communications from corresponding associations.

Associations.

Messengers.

Warren.	- - - - -
Woodstock.	DANIEL PARKER, & <i>Leeland Howard</i> , With their Letter & Minutes.
Shaftsbury.	- - - - -
Leyden,	- - - - -
Fairfield,	PHILIP CULVER, & <i>Joseph W. Sawyer</i> .
Essex,	<i>Ely Stone</i> , & Abel Bingham.
Saratoga,	- - - - -
Black River,	Letter and Minutes.
Boston,	- - - - -
Danville,	Letter and Minutes.
Otsego,	Letter and Minutes.

13th. Appointed messengers to corresponding Associations.

Warren,	WM. McCULLAR, & <i>Leeland Howard</i> .
Woodstock,	C. KENDRICK, HAYNES, & McCULLAR.
Leyden,	<i>Ely Stone</i> .
Fairfield,	I. SAWYER, McCULLAR, & <i>Stearns</i> .
Essex,	- - - - -
Saratoga,	ROWLEY, REYNOLDS, & C. KENDRICK.
Black River,	SILVANUS HAYNES,
Boston,	WM. McCULLAR & <i>Leeland Howard</i> .
Danville,	<i>Leeland Howard</i> .
Otsego,	N. KENDRICK, WM. HERINTON, & H. GRISWOLD.
Shaftsbury,	GRISWOLD, GREEN, & ROWLEY.

14th. Appointed WM. HERINTON to write the Circular and Corresponding Letter for next year.

15th. Voted to hold the Association next year in Addison, the first Wednesday in October at 10 o'clock A. M. Br. HAYNES to preach the introductory sermon; in case of failure, Br. C. KENDRICK.

16th. At the suggestion of the Chh. in Shoreham, voted to recommend to the churches of this association, to set apart Thursday, the 17th inst. as a day of fasting and prayer, that, while the frowns of Providence are felt in our land, God would work such a general and effectual reformation, that when temporal prosperity is again bestowed, it may not be abused.

17th. Voted to give brethren ABEL WOODS & ISAAC SAWYER, letters of recommendation to the western country.

Monies contributed for Domestic Missions.

By the church and congregation in Brandon,		\$ 3 25
do.	Pittsford,	5 00
do.	Granville,	5 00
do.	Whiting,	2 00
do.	Poultney,	6 20
do.	Monkton,	3 77
do.	Rupert,	3 00
do.	Cornwall,	5 00
do.	Dorset,	1 50
do.	Orwell,	5 25
do.	Shoreham,	3 6
do.	Middlebury,	1 60
do.	Addison.	3 32
		<hr/>
	Total,	47 95

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Vermont Baptist Association, to the churches which we represent, and the Associations with whom we correspond, send Greeting.

Dear Brethren,

We have often reminded you, in our addresses, of your solemn vows to the lord; exhorted you to a constant attention to all christian duties, to stand fast in the truth, and to beware of error. We rejoice at the enlargement of Zion, and the rapid spread of gospel principles: yet in many things we are wanting. Perhaps among professors of religion there are but few things more injurious to the prosperity of the church than *an inordinate desire for the world*. This love for riches, accompanied with discontent, is debasing to human nature—is ranked among the greatest sins in the scriptures, and exposes to ruin. It blinds our understanding, and perverts our reason and judgment. This is often seen in the concerns of the church; in its meetings, in supporting their pastor, as well as in the common dealings among mankind. It makes us useless in church and society. While under the influence of such a disposition, in vain is an object of general utility proposed and urged; in vain is the pathetic language of the distressed poor; in vain the friend of missions paints, in the truest colors the miserable and perishing condition of heathen nations.

Covetousness is pernicious in its effects. It often blasts the most pleasing prospects of the church. Frequently it prevents their enjoying the ministry of a faithful servant of Christ, and a convenient house for public worship. It may justly be compared to that earth that drinketh in the rain, and receiveth the blessing of God, but beareth thorns and briars, is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. Or, to earthquakes, which convulse the earth, swallow up the wealth of ages from towns and cities, and never restore it again. Or, to a vortex, which exerts its power on every object within its influence; draws all to itself; sucks them down—dashes in pieces—and leaves them in ruins. Or, once more, to the grave, which receives generation after generation, and yet “saith give, give; and never saith it is enough.” Thus is covetousness destructive of the peace and prosperity of the church, and of the happiness of mankind. From this corrupt tree we may trace ten thousand branches, and find bitter fruit on them all; so that we may emphatically say, with the Apostle, *The love of money is the root of all evil.* It is inconsistent with religion! “Ye cannot serve God and Mammon,” is the declaration of our Lord. St. John says, “If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him.” And how, brethren, does the practice and experience of many prove these scriptures to be true! Where a restless desire for the world prevails, it damps our heavenly zeal and union, brotherly love and faithfulness, and every amiable or useful grace of the new man.

God requires our hearts; but where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also. If the world has our affections, we then worship the creature, instead of the Creator. This in the scriptures is called idolatry. In this we rob God of his glory and service, as far as possible, exalt ourselves, and grasp worldly objects, ail for ourselves, as the greatest good. How base, brutish and criminal! This disposition generally reigns like a tyrant. If we feel, at times, compassion for the poor, a spirit of prayer for the spread of the glorious gospel of peace, and to contribute to send it among the heathen, or if our hearts rise in love to God, a few minutes of selfish reflections, and all those animated and truly christian feelings are cold, or indifferent! It gives the coloring to every subject and action. Covetous persons will often talk much in favor of some proposed object of public benefit, till they find it

requires some of their *money*, then there are many difficulties, insuperable difficulties. Fraud, falsehood, extortion, &c. becomes in their view, small, or no crimes, when a little of the unrighteous Mammon is to be kept or gained.

We are fully taught its dangerous and ruinous tendency from Matt. XIII. 22. Luke XII. 15-21. and 1 Tim. VI. 9-10.

By these remarks we would by no means encourage idleness or prodigality. These are practices, also, shameful and criminal. We should not be slothful in *business*, or wasteful in our living. But let us be diligent in all things, giving no offence to any one; live soberly, righteously and godly in this *evil* world. Let us feel our accountability to one another, and to God. If we would not lose the pleasure of doing good, let us be "ready to distribute, willing to communicate; and as we have opportunity let us do good unto all men, especially unto the household of faith."

The covetous are their own tormentors, for "they that *will be rich* fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition." Let us, brethren, escape these things, and cleave to that which is good. Let us be one in all our exertions to promote Zion. Let us in bearing burdens together, adopt *equality*, an equitable practice recommended by Paul in 2 Cor. 8th chap. Strive together for the things that make for peace, whereby one may edify another, advance our spiritual interest and the declarative glory of God.— And may we feel that we, and all we have are the Lord's. That we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of God, till we arrive to the stature of perfect men in Christ.

The messengers and minutes of corresponding associations, we thankfully and joyfully received. We view our correspondence of such utility to the churches in promoting uniformity of sentiment and practice, brotherly love, and in detecting error and false teachers, that we are unwilling to suspend it, till we come to the full enjoyment of him "that filleth all in all."

Our present session was remarkably harmonious; and we are happy to state, that an increasing zeal for the general spread of the gospel, and a spirit of prayer for the salvation of souls, prevail through most of the churches. We are much encouraged from late beginnings of reformations in many of our towns. We notice with joy, the rapid spread of the missionary spirit among the daughters of Zion, and that several female unite societies have recently been formed. May the good Lord bless our feeble efforts, and carry on his begun goodness, till the whole earth shall be filled with his praise. Signed by order of the association,

ISAAC SAWYER, *Moderator.*

SAMUEL ROWLEY, *Clerk.*