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Baptists. Vermont. Vermont Association.

Minutes ... in Hinesburgh, October 6, and 7, 1819.

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**MINUTES**

**OF THE**

**VERMONT BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**HELD IN**

**THE MEETING HOUSE IN WINDSBOROUGH,**

**OCTOBER 1, and 2, 1819**

**WITH THE**

**CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING**

**LETTER.**

**RUTLAND:**

**Printed by Fay and Burt**

**1819.**

# MINUTES, &c,

MINUTES, Oct. 6, 1819.

1. The Elders and Messengers, composing the association, convened at half past 10 o'clock, A. M. Introductory sermon, by Elder HENRY GREEN, from Job iii. 5.—*Is not thy wickedness great? and thine iniquities infinite?*

2. Made choice of Elder Clark Kendrick, Moderator, and Elder Joseph W. Sawyer, Clerk. Adjourned one hour.—Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder Heriston.

3. Messengers from Corresponding Associations were invited to a seat with us.

4. Proceeded to read the letters from the several churches composing the Association, and took the following account of their alterations the year past.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers, in the following list, are in SMALL CAPITALS. Churches without an ordained minister settled with them, are distinguished with a dash (—)

CHURCHES.	MESSAGERS.	Received by letter.	Discontinued.	Excluded.	Died.	Total no.	Cash for orn.
Hubbardton,	JOSIAH W. SAWYER, (ISAAC SAWYER, WILLIAM HERISTON,	0 1 2 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	\$5 150	50 75
Erzden,	Dea. John Couant, (Peter Will.	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	28	50
Whiting,	Dea. Jonas Hubbard, (Stillman Brown.	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	87	57
Eastford,	(—) A letter.	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	17	00
Peotney,	CLARK KENDRICK, (Elisha Ashley.	5 0 1 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	48	50
Wheaton,	Robinson Mumford, (Nathan Douglass.	0 1 3 8 1	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	212	50
Millietown,	SETH EWER, (David Ward, (Nathan Ford.	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0		

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Rec'd by letter.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total no.	Cash for mfrs.
Bridport,	HENRY CHAMBERLAIN, David Burwell.	1	0	2	1	0	87	50
Cornwall,	HENRY GREEN, Dea. Paine Converse, Dea. John Beecher.	2	5	2	2	0	1841	00
Bristol,	AMOS STEARNS, Nathan Rider.	6	0	4	0	0	52	50
Charlotte,	JOHN HOWARD, Solomon Powell, Stakely Westcott.	2	0	2	2	1	33	50
Granville,	ABEL WOOD, Ransom Harvey.	3	0	4	1	4	257	60
Hinesburgh,	EPHRAIM BUTLER, James M'Ewen, Joseph E. Stearns.	0	1	3	5	1	77	50
Orwell,	(—) Deacon Higgins, Myron G. Peck.	0	0	4	1	2	58	50
Middlebury,	ISAAC BUCKLIN, Dea. Seth Landon, Dea. Warren G. Os.	3	7	2	0	0	60	50
Shoreham,	(—) Benjamin Hutchinson, Jonas Boyden.	8	2	2	1	1	851	00
Benson,	(—) Joseph Carter, Jonah Carter, 2d.	1	0	2	0	0	62	50
Ira,	WILLIAM M'CULLER.	2	0	2	4	1	194	50
Panton,	(—) Elijah Grandy, William Myrick.	0	0	6	0	1	67	60
Addison,	JOHN S. CARTER, Dea. John White, William Whitford.	0	4	7	5	0	159	75
W. Clarendon,	Nathaniel Culver, Dea. Thomas Tower.	7	6	3	1	0	5	75
W. Haven,	JOHN STEARNS, Dea. Elijah Tryon.	0	0	2	1	0	37	50
Hampton,	E. W. MARTIN, William Miller.	1	0	0	5	0	110	62
Ferrisburgh,	(—) John A. Dodge, Ashbel Fuller, Caleb Herinton.	1	1	1	3	1	87	
N. Haven and Weybridge, 25 Churches,	(—) Dea. D. N. Bennett, J. Bishop. 15 Ordained Ministers.	7	2	0	0	1	40	25
		49	38	65	15	20	2464	

**NOTE**—Whereas in most of our churches numbers are absent from us from whom we can give no particular account, *Resolved*, That in future we insert another column in our list, certifying the number absent from us, of whose standing the churches are not particularly acquainted; and we do hereby solicit information annually respecting it."

3. The circular and corresponding letter prepared by Elder J. Stearns was read and referred to the missionary-board for examination.

4. Received communications from corresponding associations, viz.

From the Warren,	Minutes but no Messenger.
Woodstock,	do. do.
Leyden,	do. do.
Fairfield,	do. by Elders Meers & Culver.
Essex,	do. Elder Churchill.
Shaftsbury,	do. no messenger.
Saratoga,	no information.
Black River,	do.
Boston,	do.
Danville,	do.
Otsego,	do.

Voted to adjourn till tomorrow morning 9 o'clock.

**THURSDAY, Oct. 7. 1819.**

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder McCuller. Entered upon business.

1. Heard the report of the committee appointed to examine the circular and corresponding letter, and voted to accept it as reported by them.

2. Appointed Messengers to corresponding associations, viz: Warren, Elder McCuller; Woodstock, Elders Kendrick and McCuller; Shaftsbury, Elder McCuller and Brother N. Culver; Leyden, Elder McCuller; Fairfield, Elder J. Stearns and E. Butler; Essex, Elders Isaac Sawyer, Greene, Carter, A. Stearns and Butler; Saratoga, Elders Kendrick, Wood, J. W. Sawyer and Martin; Black River, Elders Martin and Churchill; Boston, Elder McCuller and Dea. John Conant; Danville, Elders Butler and Meers; Otsego, Martin.

3. Voted to open a correspondence with the Zarre Association, and accordingly appointed Elders Kendrick and

J. W. Sawyer for that purpose. Also, voted to open a correspondence with the St. Lawrence Association, and appointed Elder J. W. Sawyer our messenger.

4. Appointed Elder Kendrick to write the circular and corresponding letter for next year.

5. Voted to hold our next convention at Cornwall, the 1st Wednesday in October, 10 o'clock, A. M. Elder J. W. Sawyer to preach the introductory sermon, and Elder Carter in case of failure.

6. Read and accepted the report of the board of directors on domestic missions. The following is an extract:

Brother J. W. Sawyer made acceptable returns of his mission of eight weeks to the north part of Vermont and Lower Canada.

Brother John Spaulding gave a very satisfactory account of his tour of eight weeks to the River St. Lawrence.

Brother Wood received an appointment at the same time, and communicated his returns to this board. Voted, satisfactory.

Heard Mr. Starkweather report on his mission assigned him from this board, in 1816, as he had never before made his returns. Said report accepted.

Voted, to appropriate for Domestic Missions, for the year ensuing, \$60 00.

Appointed Br. J. W. Sawyer on a mission of eight weeks to the St. Lawrence. Also, Elder Meers on a tour of four weeks to the north part of Vermont and Lower Canada.

There is a balance remaining in the Treasury, after paying the appropriations of last year, of \$15 20

By Cash contributed to Elder Spaulding, on his tour,	19 00
By Cash paid by Mr. Starkweather,	10 62
By Cash contributed to Elder J. W. Sawyer, on his mission,	8 62
Oct. 6, 1819—Rec'd of Cornwall chh. and society,	5 00
of Brother Stewart,	25
Brandon chh. and society,	2 65
Hampton do. do.	2 50
Brother Sebra,	1 00
Poultney chh. and society,	6 80
Monkton do. do.	3 00
Granville do. do.	2 65

Shoreham do.	do.	1 32
Benson do.	do.	1 50
Hinesburgh do.	do.	3 78
Addison do.	do.	5 47
Elder Wood, as contributed on his mission,		6 20
Elder Meers, Treasurer of the Fairfield Association,		5 00

Balance due on settlement, including }  
S. Rowley's note, } \$100 56

The following is the Treasurer's Report, on the Board of Foreign Missions, Oct. 6, 1819.

By balance of monies remaining in the Treasury after paying the appropriations for 1818,	\$253 95
Nov. 1818. By Cash of Br. Griggs, Agent,	13 00
Oct. 1819. Of Br. Caleb Arnold, a subscriber,	2 00
Of Dea. Jonathan Merriam,	1 00
Elder Isaac Sawyer,	1 00
Cornwall church and society,	5 00
Female Mite Society in Hubbardton,	7 29
Br. David Rumsey, a subscriber,	2 00
Elder John Stearns,	1 00
Br. Elisha Ashley, agent,	7 50
Poultney F. M. S.	10 00
Panton F. M. S.	4 00
W. Niles, esq.	1 00
Bridport F. M. S.	7 37
Sister Sally Wood, Hubbardton,	1 00
Granville F. M. S.	15 00
Dea. Jonathan Savage,	25 00
Hinesburgh F. M. S.	7 18
Addison F. M. S.	7 90
Shoreham F. M. S.	8 62
Jonathan Spencer,	1 00
John White,	1 00
Horace Holcomb,	1 00
Brandon F. M. S.	10 00
Middletown F. M. S.	1 00
Elder Abel Wood,	1 00
Ransom Harvey,	1 00



Samuel Everetts,	50
Elder Meers, Treasurer of the Fairfield Association,	29 66
Elder Meers, a subscriber,	1 00
By balance of interest,	21 02
Balance remaining in the Treasury, after deduct- ing the appropriations for this year,	\$409 53

7. Whereas our beloved Elder Wm. Herinton has for a long time been a member of this association and is about to remove into the western country, probably to meet with us no more,

*Resolved*, That we affectionately appreciate his long course of faithful labours in this part of the heritage of our common Lord, and do cheerfully commend him to the fellowship of all the brethren, and as a minister of good report to all men, who may wish to improve him as such.

The business of the association being very agreeably finished, a large and respectable assembly was entertained with a solemn and impressive discourse from elder Herinton from Acts xx. 24. "*But none of these things move me.*" After which a collection was taken for missionary purposes, which amounted to \$9,07.

NOTE.—The missionary board to meet at Elder Green's in Cornwall the Tuesday evening preceeding the setting of the association.

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## THE CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Elders and Brethren composing the Vermont Baptist Association, to the several churches we represent, send Christian Salutation.*

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—

Various are the subjects with which you have been addressed from this association, each of which has been calculated to present to your minds some important duty or doctrine of the gospel.

For some time past your attention has been called to the duty of establishing foreign and domestic missionary societies, in order to send the gospel to the heathen in foreign

lands, and the destitute in our own. These momentous objects are worthy the patronage of every christian and benevolent heart.

We rejoice in the success which thus far has attended our labours, and humbly trust that the sparks of benevolence which are enkindled will not be extinguished until Ethiopia shall have stretched out her hand to God, and the islands of the sea not only waited for, but received the law of the Lord, and his name and his praise be one throughout all the earth.

The time to build God's house, seems to have fully come, and ought to be an occasion of rejoicing to us all, that we are called upon in God's providence to impart some of our worldly substance to aid such a glorious object. The gospel is calculated in some measure as well to alleviate the sufferings of humanity, as to make us wise unto salvation. And while we contemplate the vast regions, both in our own and foreign lands, where the light of the gospel has not shone, your attention is called not only to the establishment and support of missionaries, but for a sufficient number of these to bear the gospel to the destitute. God calls the sons of the poor as well as the rich into the work of the gospel ministry. An education suitable to such a work must be obvious to every reflecting mind. To this subject your attention is seriously invited. To us does it not belong to assist pious indigent young men, who, destitute of pecuniary means to educate themselves, appear to be called of God to preach the gospel, in acquiring that literary and theological knowledge, which will enable them to discharge the duty of their holy vocation, and render them useful in Zion. To accomplish such an object, was the design of forming an Education Society.

The objects of this institution are such, to render it useful, as to require of its friends their united and unabating efforts for its support. For tho' the exertions of an individual can accomplish but a little, yet the exertions of many combining their influence to accomplish the same object, may do much.

As a multitude of small rivulets decending from the neighbouring mountains water the extensive plain, so by combining your exertions you may be the instrumental cause of making many souls as a watered garden. We know that some do not manifest all that friendship to this institution which we conceive its importance requires.

But let us for one moment reflect, "What would have been our situation if there had been no learned men of pie-

ty?" To them we are indebted, for the translation of that book of books, the Holy Bible. We should be unwilling to trust such an important work to learned infidels.

But there are many languages into which the sacred scriptures are to be translated in order for general use, for which it is desirable to understand the original language in which they were first written. Do we not long to have the scriptures read, and the gospel preached in every land, that the inhabitants may receive their benign influence? Let then the friends of Zion unite their efforts to aid the glorious work.

We have reason to rejoice that this institution has received such encouragement, as animates the hope that it will succeed, and that its friends will still evince their zeal for the promotion of the Redeemer's kingdom.

But while we commend you for your liberality for these benevolent institutions, we would just solicit your attention to another important subject, viz. that of supporting the gospel in our own churches.

Is it not a serious fact that many of our churches are destitute of the stated word and ordinances of the gospel? That some of our fathers in the ministry have gone, and others preparing to leave this part of the vineyard? Those too who have been instrumental of abundantly enlarging the borders of Zion and comforting the hearts of God's people; who have spent the morning of their days, and vigour of their strength in labouring for the honour of God and the good of souls, and whose labours and counsels are more wanted at present than any former period, but now in the evening of life must leave the place where the hand of the Lord has wrought with them, and seek an asylum in the wilds of the west, or some other land. This subject it should seem ought to have some bearing on your minds. If owing to the benign influence of the gospel on the hearts of men it becomes our duty to exert ourselves to send it to the destitute, it can be no less a duty to support it at home. And if we use laudable efforts to send the gospel to others and not maintain it among ourselves, we do but half our duty. Let us not forget there are rising generations among us whose souls are precious and lasting as eternity. For their good we are to look as well as the good of others. Finally it ought to be our first object to support the gospel at home and then exert ourselves to send it to those who are destitute. And let us do all we can to extend

the kingdom of the Redeemer in the world, and we may look forward with raised expectations to the day, when the desert and the solitary place shall be glad, and all flesh see the salvation of God.

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## CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The Vermont Baptist Association, to the several associations with whom we correspond, send Greeting.*

DEAR BRETHREN.—

Under the auspicious smiles of Divine Providence we have been permitted to attend another anniversary meeting. To behold the friends of Zion assembled from the various parts of our country excites our warmest gratitude. We have abundant reason to rejoice that the blessed gospel is preached and its benign influence more extensively experienced at the present, than at any former period.

Our present session has been conducted harmoniously, and we trust under the smiles of an approving heaven. We cordially unite with you in improving all lawful means within our power to send the gospel to the destitute. As it respects the accessions to our body, our comparative numbers, and the transactions of our meeting, you may learn from our minutes.

Your messengers and minutes were joyfully received, and a continuation of your correspondence solicited.

We subscribe ourselves yours in gospel bonds.

CLARK KENDRICK, *Moderator.*

J. W. SAWYER, *Clerk.*

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N. B. The public are warned against imposition from the following characters, viz. John Johnson, who professes to be a Baptist preacher, but who sustains an immoral character.

Also, Henry S. Smith, who is an excommunicated member from a Baptist church, and is guilty of falsehood. He professes to be a great schoolmaster, is a man very round shouldered, and carries with him the certain evidences of an imposter, a large number of papers of recommendation.

Also, Samuel Clark, a man of a public education, but who sustains a bad character.