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Baptists. Vermont. Woodstock Association, 1807.

Minutes of the ... at Dublin, N.H. September, 1807.

Walpole, N.H., Nichols & Hale, 1807. 11 pp.

MWA copy.



MINUTES

OF THE

Woodstock Association,

HOLDEN AT

DUBLIN, N. H.

September 30th, and October 1st, 1807.

WITH THEIR

Circular and Corresponding Letters.



WALPOLE, N. H.

PRINTED BY NICHOLS & HALE, FOR THE ASSOCIATION.

1807.



MINUTES

OF THE

WOODSTOCK ASSOCIATION.



Wednesday, September 30.

1. **A**T 1 o'clock, P. M. agreeably to appointment, Elder Thomas Brown preached the introductory sermon, from Heb. x. 23. *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, (for he is faithful who promised.)*

2. Chose Elder Ariel Kendrick, Moderator, and Elder J. Higbee, Clerk.

3. Read the Letters from the Churches, from which the following list was taken.

N. B. Notes of distinction as usual.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Money. D. C.</i>
<i>Woodstock,</i>	JABEZ COTTLE,	0	0	0	0	79	32
<i>Newport,</i>	THOMAS BROWN, Philip W. Kibbee. Joseph Cumings,	1	0	0	1	121	1 68
<i>Windsor,</i>	SAMUEL SMITH,	2	0	1	1	27	50
† <i>Royalton.</i>		0	0	0	0	16	
<i>Westmoreland,</i>	EBEN. BAILEY,	1	2	0	1	53	31
† <i>Marlow.</i>		0	0	0	0	91	
<i>Dublin,</i>	ELIJAH WILLARD, Robert Muzzy. William Banks.	31	2	0	2	143	1 25
† <i>Hopkinton,</i>		0	0	0	0	87	
<i>Chester,</i>	AARON LELAND,	3	0	2	1	71	19
<i>Alstead,</i>	JEREMIAH HIGBEE, Moses Hale.	10	0	2	0	94	1
<i>New-London,</i>	*JOB SEAMANS, James Shepard.	0	0	1	0	106	1 75
<i>Cornish,</i>	ARIAL KENDRICK, John G. Bigs.	66	2	0	0	127	91

<i>Mason,</i>	WILLIAM ELLIOT, Dea. Andrew Elliot. Dea. Andrew Hutchingson.	10	2	1	2	106	50
<i>Temple,</i>	Dea. Josiah Brown. Abel Parker. Aaron Brown.	1	3	0	0	29	55
† <i>Sharon,</i> <i>Westminster,</i>	*JAMES PARKER, John Tuthill. Dea. Benj. Smith.	0	0	0	0	36	
		0	0	0	0	18	50
† <i>Plainfield,</i>	*JONA. CRAM,	0	0	0	0	45	
† <i>Grafton, N. H.,</i>	*JOSEPH WHEAT,	0	0	0	0	106	
<i>Wardsboro',</i>	STEPHEN CHOAT, Aaron Draper. Jonas Woodward.	30	0	1	1	79	67
<i>Jamaica,</i>	Samuel Kingsbury, John Sprague.	22	52	0	1	104	70
† <i>Hanover and</i> } <i>Line.</i> }	*ISAAC BRIDGMAN,	0	0	0	0	150	
<i>Reading,</i>		0	10	0	0	80	
<i>Canaan,</i>	Clark Currier.	1	0	0	1	41	64
† <i>Pomfret,</i>		0	0	0	0	23	
<i>Weatherfield,</i>	DAVID BOYNTON Dea. B. Boynton. Seth Houghton.	1	1	0	1	41	1
<i>Grafton, Vt.</i>	Joseph Crumb. Enoch Hale.	0	2	2	0	35	25
<i>Cavendish,</i>		4	0	0	0	36	
<i>Andover,</i>	JOEL MANNING Dea. Saml. Manning.	10	0	1	0	40	50
<i>Goshen,</i>		3	0	0	2	34	50
	Jonathan Sholes. Nathaniel Reed.						
<i>Washington</i>		2	0	0	1	33	75
	Thomas Murdough. Benjamin Smith.						
<i>Sutton,</i>	NATHAN CHAMPLIN, John Howlet	3	0	0	0	68	50
<i>Peterborough and</i> } <i>Society Land.</i> }	Benj. Nichols.	6	0	0	1	26	66

Windham,*

0 0 0 0 57 75

Thomas Baker.
Aaron Knapp.
Noah Fisher, Jr.

207 76 11 16 2152 15,66

* This Church joined this session.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Thursday, October 1st.

4. Met according to adjournment.—Meeting opened by prayer.

5. Received Messengers, and Minutes from sister Associations, as follows.

From the Warren, Minutes for two years, by Dr. Baldwin.

From Shaftsbury, Minutes, but no Messenger.

From Vermont, Minutes, but no Messenger.

From Leyden, Minutes by Elder William M'Cur-

lar.

From Richmond, Minutes by Elder J. Higbee.

From New-Hampshire, and Meredith, we received no intelligence.

6. The Barre Association sent a Messenger to open correspondence with us; but he not having their Constitution with him, it was voted to send them our Minutes and Brethren to visit them: but to suspend an answer to their request for further information.

7. Read the Circular Letter, written by Elder T. Brown. Voted that the Clerk revise, and correct it, as he shall think proper.

8. The Corresponding Letter having failed, voted that Brother Moses Hale, prepare one to be printed with the Minutes.

9. Appointed the following Brethren Messengers to visit sister Associations.

To the Warren, Elders Willard, and Higbee.—

To New-Hampshire, Elders Bailey, and Elliot. To Meredith, Elder Champlin. To the Vermont, Dea. Ralph. To the Richmond, Elders Brown, and Kendrick. To Barre, Elders Kendrick, Smith, Brown, and Deacon Ralph.

10. The Committee appointed last year, to enquire of the Church in Pomfret, the cause of their neglect, report, that they found them divided in their ideas of Doctrine. Voted that Elders Cottle, Smith, and Higbee, be a committee to visit them again and make report at our next.

11. The committee who visited Woodstock church made a report similar to the above. Appointed Elders Higbee and Smith to make them a visit.

12. Heard the report of the committee appointed to visit Chester Church. Voted to suspend any decision on their state for one year.

13. Resolved, That Elder J. Higbee prepare the Circular Letter, and Deacon S. Manning the Corresponding, Letter for next year.

14. Resolved, to recommend to those churches, who have requested supplies, to make application to those Elders whom they wish to have visit them, and if practicable they will undoubtedly comply.

15. Resolved, that this association meet at the Baptist Meeting-house in Cornish on the last Wednesday in September 1808, at one o'clock, P. M.

16. Appointed Elder Stephen Choate to preach the introductory Sermon : but in case of failure, Elder Joel Manning.

17. Voted that Elder Higbee superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes.

18. Resolved, to recommend to the churches of this association, to express their minds in their letters next year, whether they wish the association to be divided.

The business of the association being finished at

three o'clock, Doct^r- Baldwin preached an appropriate, and very impressive discourse, from Ps. cxxxiii.
1. *Behold how good and how pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity.*

Our meeting has been solemn, our deliberations calm, and we could truly say, "*It is good for us to be here.*"

Corresponding Associations meet as follows, viz. The Warren, at the Baptist Meetinghouse in Newton, the Thursday after the first Wednesday in September, at two o'clock, P. M.

Shaftsbury, at the Meetinghouse of the first Church in Pownal, the first Wednesday in June at ten o'clock, A. M.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Elders and Messengers of the Woodstock Association, to the Churches in the connection.—
Peace be multiplied unto you.

Beloved Brethren,

Being together, and of one accord, you will permit us to address you in the words of the Apostle, Heb. xiii. 1. "*Let brotherly love continue.*"

The exhortation implies that those who profess the Christian religion should love each other as real saints, or as the children of the same father, and that this love be manifested by mutual intercourse, and reciprocal communication. So that, if one member suffers, all suffer with it; or one be honored, all rejoice with it.

This love is of God, and is exercised towards his children *as such*; or, in proportion as they appear to bear the image of Christ.

In the exercise of this love the christian appears like his heavenly Father. "*For God is love.*" And it is by this love to his children, that we know that we love God. "*If any man says, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar.*" 1. John iv. 20. It is love that stimulates christians to be faithful in reproofing, and admonishing each other. "*Faithful are the wounds of a friend.*" Love is the chord that binds the christian church together. Let this be broken, and she has nothing to support her. It is by this, also, that the children of God are distinguished from the world. "*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another.*" John xiii. xxv.

Again it is this brotherly love that lays the foundation for communion at the table of the Lord; and

when this is wanting, we have but the shadow without the substance : which will avail us nothing in God's account. And we shall, at best, have but a name to live, while we are dead.

Again, it is by the exercise of this mutual friendship that the church on earth bears any resemblance to the church in glory, where "*Charity never faileth.*"

If such be the nature of brotherly love, then it is not produced by nature, or art ; but by the spirit and grace of God. It commences in regeneration ; continues in progressive sanctification, in a state of grace on earth ; and will at last be perfected in glory.

Again. If to maintain brotherly love be so important, then let us exhort you, dear brethren, to reduce the same to practice. Cultivate love among yourselves, for in this lies your strength. United you stand, divided you fall. "*See, therefore, that ye fall not out by the way.*"

O how glorious would the Christian Church appear if all the members possessed this brotherly love ! "*Beautiful as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, and terrible as an army with banners.*"

Let us then awake to righteousness, and act the part of christians in the cause of truth. Let us forsake the honors of the world, however dear to us, and remember that *Christ's Kingdom is not of this world*, and that those who forsake all for his sake, shall receive an hundred fold in this world, and in the world to come, eternal life.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Woodstock Baptist Association met at the Baptist meeting House in Dublin Sept. 30, and October 1st. 1807. To the Elders and brethren of our Sister associations, sendeth Christian Salutation.

Beloved Brethren,

When we contemplate the repeated opportunities we have had of corresponding with you by exchanging our Minutes and Letters, it affords very agreeable sensations, especially on the receipt of your Messengers and Letters at our present session. We are happy to hear from many of you, that the Lord is still carrying on his good work in our land and world; that he is not only providing the means for the spreading of the gospel, but is also crowning those means with abundant success. A very extraordinary missionary spirit has prevailed of late, not only in Europe but in America; so that those who have heretofore sat in darkness and in the region of death, have had the gospel proclaimed to them, and many have been translated from Satan's kingdom, to that of our blessed Lord and Saviour. Unto the triune God let us unitedly join to render all the praise.— We have joined our feeble efforts to promote the above laudable design, as you have seen by our last years minutes—have sent out two missionaries the year past, to the northern parts of New-Hampshire and Vermont; also into Lower Canada, at which place we are informed by our beloved brother Higbee (who has lately been on a mission to that place) that much missionary labors are necessary, and they earnestly request Societies to consider them.

Let us not be shaken but stand firm in the faith, and although we see the prediction of our blessed

Lord fulfilling—"nation dashing against nation,"—yet we firmly believe that those things which cannot be shaken will remain.

Our present meeting has been harmonious and solemn, attended (as we trust) with some tokens of the divine influence.

We have joyful accounts from some of our churches. Our blessed Redeemer appears to be walking in the midst of his candlesticks, and holding the stars in his right hand. May the good Lord perfect his good work.

Dear brethren, pray for us and for the outpouring of the blessed spirit on Zion.

We desire to continue our correspondence and remain your brethren in the faith, and order of the Gospel.

By order of the Association,

ARIAL KENDRICK, Moderator.

JEREMIAH HIGBEE, Clerk.