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Baptists . Vermont . Woodstock Association, 1814.

Minutes ... in Westmoreland, N.H., September 28
& 29, 1814.

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MWA copy.

MINUTES

OF THE

Woodstock Baptist Association

HELD AT THE

Baptist Meeting House,

IN

WESTMORELAND, N. H.

SEPTEMBER, 28 & 29,

1814.

WINDSOR, VT.

PRINTED BY JESSE COCHRAN,

1814.

MINUTES, &c.

*Wednesday, Sept. 28th, 1814. **

1. At 1 o'clock P. M. Brother *Jonathan Going* jun. according to appointment delivered the introductory discourse from 1 Tim. 1. 11. According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God.

2. Chose Br. Aaron Leland Moderator and Br. Joshua Bradley Clerk.

3. After prayer by the Mod. proceeded to read the letters from the churches and took the following account of the members added, dismissed, excluded and who had died the last year. and the present number in each church.

N. B. the names of ordained Ministers are in *small capitals*; licensed preachers in *italic*. Those ministers with this mark (*) were not present. From Churches marked thus (†) we had no information, this session. Vacant Churches are distinguished by a dash —

<i>Churches</i>	<i>Elders & Messengers</i>	Added	Dis.	Ex.	Died.	Total.
Newport	ABRAHAM GATES Philip W. Kibby Jonathan Haven	4	2	0	2	179
Windfor 1785	JOSHUA BRADLEY *JABEZ COTTLE Dea. Daniel Bugbee Eldad Hubbard	16	0	2	1	61
Westmoreland 1773	— Samuel Robins Seth Birton Azariah Snow	6	0	0	1	97

* Ten o'clock, A. M. Brother Abraham Gates delivered a discourse from 45 Ps. 5

Churches	Elders & Messengers	Added.	Dis.	Ex.	Dea.	Total.
	John Chamberlin John Snow					
Chester	AARON LELAND Dea. Isaiah Robinson Reuben Tarbell	5	0	3	0	114
Alstead 1790	JER. HIGBEE Dea. Nath'l Brown Oliver Shephard Ben. Colburn	2	0	0	8	135
Newlondon 1788	JOB SEAMANS SAM'L AMBROSE John Adams Jonathan Greely Ben. Straw	1	1	0	0	135
Cornish	ABRIEL KENDRICK Rufus Stowel	1	2	0	1	36
Plainfield	*JONA. CRAM					47
Jamaica †						79
Canaan 1802	*JOSEPH WHEAT	32	0	0	1	78
Weathersfield & Baltimore 1803	BEMON BOYNTON Frederick Temple Seth Houghton	1	0	3	2	46
Grafton 1803	ELIJAH SHUMWAY JOHN SPAULDING Dea. Wm. Harris C. Medciff Fuller	2	0	2	1	46

<i>Churches</i>	<i>Elders & Messengers</i>	<i>Added</i>	<i>Dis.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cavendish 1803	JONA. GOING jun. Dea. Moses Mayo Reuben Chapman John Spalding 2d.	6	0	3	0	100
Goshen	JOHN COLBY Dea. Parker Tandy Edward Hall	1	2	0	1	50
Sutton 1803	WM. TAYLOR John Phelps Josiah Nichols Jr. Ara Nelson,	17	0	14	0	67
Windham 1807	THOMAS BAKER Dea. David Bennet Isaac Fisher Phins Chamberlain	4	6	1	1	61
Townshend	S. KINGSBURY Thomas Sumner Evans Reed	0	0	1	0	40
Windfor W. P. 1807	SAML. LAMPSON Dea Daniel Ralph Archelus Putnam	0	3	0	0	31
Andover 1803	JOEL MANNING Dea. S. Manning Benj. Taylor	1	1	1	1	62
Londonderry 1811	GERSHAM LANE Dea. J. Baldwin Ben. Baldwin Wm. Coolidge	4	0	3	1	84

<i>Chnrches</i>	<i>Elders & Messengers</i>	<i>Added</i>	<i>Dis.</i>	<i>Ex.</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Total</i>
Acworth 1809	————— Joseph Blanchard David Smith	0	0	0	1	17
Westminster & Rockingham 1812	} JOSEPH ELLIOT } Dea. Ben. Smith John Tuttle	6	0	0	0	40
Winhall 1812	————— John Sprague	1	4	1	1	22
Unity	————— Dea. Abner Chase Jonathan Sleeper	1	0	0	1	68
Mountholly	DANIEL PACKER	7	0	3	0	128

148, 24, 30, 24, 1802

1. A letter from brother LUTHER RICE presented by him to the Moderator was read, and referred to brethren Leland, Bradley and Elliot to report upon the same tomorrow-morning.

2. Chose brethren Kendrick, Going and Manning to report on the expediency of forming a Society in this vicinity for the promotion of foreign Missions.

3. Heard the Circular Letter prepared by brother Elliot and chose brethren Seamans, Packer and Dea, Manning to examine it and the corresponding letter.

4. Brother Higbee being called away on his son's being draughted, forgot we suppose, to leave the corresponding letter which he had prepared, therefore chose brother Kingsbury to write one.

5. Voted to adjourn until tomorrow-morning 8 o'clock. Brother Seamans concluded by prayer.

In the evening brother John Parkhurst preached at the meeting house from I. Cor. 1. 24. Sermons this evening in different parts of the town.

Thursday, 29th Sept.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by brother Kendrick.

6. Voted to accept the circular letter.

7. Read the Corresponding letter and accepted the same

8. Query, from Londonderry. Would it not be for the honor of the cause, for the churches of this Association to have articles of faith alike; and for some measures to be taken to carry this object into effect? Ans. We believe that the articles of the churches of this Association are essentially the same, therefore we do not think it necessary to attempt any alteration.

Your committee Leland, Bradley and Elliot, with great satisfaction have taken into consideration the very pleasing letter presented this Association by brother L. Rice; and report that we believe it necessary for the carrying into operation the plan of said letter, that this Association appoint a standing Secretary to make communications to the corresponding Secretary of the board of Foreign Missions, and recommend it to the churches of this Association, to contribute, for the purpose of aiding Foreign Missions.

9. The report was accepted, and brother Bradley chosen standing Secretary of this Association.

10. Your Committee Kendrick, Manning and Going on the expediency of forming a society in this vicinity for the promotion of foreign mis-

fions, report, that this subject appears to them to promise great good to mankind and therefore beg leave to lay a constitution of a Society for the same before this body. The Constitution was read and approved. Many came forward and entered their names as members.*

11. Called for Messengers and Minutes from Corresponding Associations and received the following account—viz

Ass.	Messengers	Minutes
Warren	○	○
Shaftsbury, Br. SILAS SPALDING,		minutes,
Vermont, Br. <i>Leland Howard</i> ,		minutes,
Barre,	○	minutes,
Leyden,	—	—
Meredith, Brother. TAYLOR,		minutes,
New Hampshire,	—	—
Dublin, Brethren ALLEN & BOWLES,		minutes,
Sturbridge,	—	—
Boston, Brethren RICE & GATES,		minutes,
Danville, Dea. Snow,		minutes,
Fairfield, Br. <i>Minor</i> ,		minutes,

12. Appointed the following Messengers to corresponding Associations. To the

Warren, Brother, SPALDING,
Shaftsbury, Brother ELLIOT.

Vermont, Brethren LELAND, BRADLEY, and GOING.

Barre, Brethren, KENDRICK, BRADLEY, and Dea. Ralph.

Leyden, Brethren, SHUMWAY, ELLIOT and PACKER.

Meredith, Brethren, AMBROSE, SEAMANS

* After the business of the Association was finished a board was chosen who agreed to meet at Windsor on the 1st. Thursday of January next 1815, at 2 o'clock P. M. to carry into operation the will of the society.

and TAYLOR.

New Hampshire, Brother BAKER.

Dublin, Brethren ELLIOT and Robbins.

Sturbridge.

Boston, Brethren GATES and GOING.

Danville, Brother, COTTLE.

Fairfield, Brother LAMPSON.

13. Your committee, Leland, Kendrick and Going appointed last year, to inquire whether any of our brethren have become heretodox in sentiment, beg leave to report, that they have attended to the business of their appointment, and that Elders Jer. Higbee and Joel Manning have exhibited to your Committee a statement of their sentiment respecting the Sonship of Jesus Christ, which is as follows, viz.—

“ Our belief concerning the Son of God.”

1. We believe that the Son of God, did from the beginning possess personal existence in distinction from God, which existence he derived from God, as that of a Son from his father.

2. We believe that, that intimate and mysterious relation does exist, betwixt God the Father and his son which rendered it proper for the son to say I am in the father, and the father in me, or I and my father are one, distinct personality; but unity in essence.

3. We believe that the son of God became so united to that human body, which God prepared for him as to become the soul of the same; or so as to constitute one complete agent, or conscious being possessing divine and human natures in personal union.

4. That the Son of God as a divine human being was made under the law for us, died for our sins, rose for our justification, is seated at his Father's right hand, has received of the Father all power in heaven and on earth, is worshipped as

the son of God by angels and saints in heaven; and by his people on earth; that he will reign until his enemies are all subdued; then the Son will resign up the kingdom to his Father, and will be subject to him who put all things under him, and God will be all in all. The foregoing articles we believe, because we find them clearly stated and abundantly confirmed by the inspired writings of the holy scriptures which are the only rule, by which we can judge of what is truth in that case."

Attest.

JEREMIAH HIGBEE.
JOEL MANNING.

14—Voted. That we do disapprove of their sentiments. Although we cannot fellowship the above sentiments of our brethren; yet in view of our agreeable connexions with them heretofore, and in hope of their return to soundness in the faith, resolved to postpone the matter until our next association.

15. As a request from the first church in Windsor was brought forward to the Association, to encourage the formation of a charitable Education Society, for the purpose of improving the minds of pious youth who are called to the gospel ministry.

Appointed Brethren, LELAND, HIGBEE, LAMPSON, BRADLEY, ELLIOT, KENDRICK, GOING, Dea. Manning, Abner Forbes, and Hon. Judge Fletcher of Cavendish, to meet at Windsor on the 1st Thursday of January next 1815, at 2 o'clock P. M. to form a Constitution for an Education Society and print a circular for the Churches. Also the churches are requested to contribute in the course of the year for this laudable purpose and forward the same by their messengers to our next Association.

16. Appointed Br. Bradley to write the circular letter, and Br. Kendrick the corresponding for the next year.

17. Voted to hold our next meeting at Windsor village on the last Wednesday of September, 1815, at 1 o'clock P. M.

18. Voted that Br. Leland preach the introductory sermon; and in case of failure, Br. Elliot.

The business of the Association being finished the Moderator gave an affectionate and moving address. Br. Ambrose closed with commending the churches to God in solemn prayer.

Br. L. Rice preached to the people ready to depart from Matt. 6, 10. *Thy kingdom come.*

If we see our beloved Br. R. no more on earth, we cannot forget his earnest importunities that this kingdom might fill the world, and that we might be instrumental in forwarding the same by our labors contributions and prayers.

Since our last anniversary, our aged and much esteemed Elder Seamans has lost his house and almost every piece of his furniture by fire. A contribution was made at this session of 25 dolls. 50c. and presented the sufferer. We hope that our churches will remember this aged servant of Jesus under his recent trials and communicate to his necessities.

We cannot close, without shedding an affectionate tear over the ashes of our aged Brother and highly honored Father in the ministry, Elder Eben. Bailey, who departed this life since our last session. He entered the ministry in the morning of life, and was ordained pastor of the Baptist Church in Westmoreland about two years after its Constitution. His talents were above mediocrity; his imagination brilliant; his aptitude to teach engaging and his memory tenacious.—

His labors were blessed, and many were refreshed under his evangelical ministrations. He was called, like many other good men, to pass through great tribulations in entering into the joys of our Lord. He arrived to a good old age, before he finished his course on earth. He has left many relations and a multitude of friends to mourn his departure. May we through grace be prepared to die the death of the righteous and our last end be like his. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord &c.

Circular Letter.

The Ministers and Messengers of the Woodstock Baptist Association, to the Churches which they represent send greeting.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

YOU have read we hope, with pleasure and profit our annual circulars on different subjects; all of which we viewed, important, for your observation as christians.

We now present you with a dissertation on some of the important articles of our faith, taught us in the scriptures. To be rooted and grounded, settled and established in the faith, is of the first importance; yet we would not have you ignorant that faith without works is dead, being alone. A man enveloped in the darkness of sin, naturally opposes what he thinks is calculated to injure his favorite hypothesis. And this he may do with much ability and learning. And finding his opponent not to yield, if it be in his power, he may have recourse to coercive means; but this is far from becoming the disciple of Christ. His province is persuasion, not coercion. 'The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all, apt to teach, patient; in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging the truth'. While, 'we contend earnestly for the faith', let us be cautious lest we contend wilfully, and thus contend about words to no profit.

At the present day, political difficulties engross too much of our attention. Since no political creed is prescribed to us in the New

Testament, we ought to bear with those who differ from us in these respects. In proportion as we grow zealous in political contest, our zeal for God will grow languid. As in the revolutionary war, our churches experienced great trials and but little or no additions to their numbers; so during the present contest, God is visiting his people with great afflictions. He has removed many worthy and eminently useful saints by death; while others have fallen into errors either of faith or practice, to the no small sorrow of the remaining faithful surviving people of God. Many churches have been visited with sore trials in discipline and some have almost despaired of ever rebuilding their broken walls. Alas! tell not our divisions in Gath; publish them not in the streets of Askelon, lest our enemies should wax bold and triumph over us. We are cast down, but not destroyed. Rejoice not over us, O ye our enemies, for though we fall, yet shall we rise again.

Jesus saith to his disciples, 'Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, see that ye be not troubled. In the world ye shall have tribulation; yet in me ye shall have peace'. And if we cannot sing the Lord's song in this day of tribulation, yet let us not be dumb.— Let us at least weep for the slain of the daughters of our people, and thus manifest by our lamentation that we have not forgotten Zion. Although God is visiting our transgressions with a rod and our iniquities with stripes & yet, hath he not cast away his people whom he foreknew. A remnant shall be saved according to the election of grace.'

After peace was restored to our borders in 1783, God was pleased to pour out the divine spirit in a glorious manner upon our churches and build again the waste places of Judah. From 1795 to 1809 the reformation prevailed mightily in the UNITED STATES, and more churches of the Baptist order were planted than had been, during a century before. We may look back and say, 'What hath God wrought! This is the Lord's doings; it is marvellous in our eyes! Have we not from a retrospective view, great encouragement to pray importunately that God would again restore peace to our land and prosperity to the churches? That while our enemies are coming in like a flood, he would graciously be pleased to lift up a standard against them: That he would cause us to keep his new commandment, and 'prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.' Let us prefer afflictions with the people of God, to the boasted enjoyment of the pleasures of sin for a season. When God has shaken church and state, and the things that cannot be shaken shall remain; then shall the spouse come up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved and appear like gold seven times purified in the fire. Therefore, cast not away that confidence which has recompence of reward. In due time we shall reap if we faint not.'

Let us not faint in the day of adversity, but remember, that the Lord saith, My son despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him ; for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth.

To suppose that the gifts of God are bestowed on the worthy only, is but to suppose that none partake of them : ‘ For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.’ Israel the peculiar treasure of the Lord were thus addressed by him who cannot lie. I, even I am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for my own sake, and will not remember thy sins. I do not this for your sake O ! House of Israel, but for mine holy name’s sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen.’ When God gives grace he looks on his Son our shield, and for his sake is graciously pleased to forgive our sins, sanctify our hearts, and adopt us into the number of his children. ‘ The strength of sin is the law,’ and we are governed by the powerful and deceitful influence of sin, till redeemed from its iron yoke by the precious blood of Christ, Thus, dear Brethren, grace alone is sufficient for us. On grace alone we must rely for salvation. For by grace are ye saved through faith ; and that not of yourselves ; it is the gift of God. Since God has saved his people from under the condemning sentence of the law ; he saith that he never will leave them nor forsake them. It is not the will of our heavenly Father that even the least of his flock should perish. ‘ He which hath begun a good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.’ God will visit Zion and redeem her converts, though it be done with judgement. ‘ He will bring her sons from far, and her daughters from the ends of the earth. Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God, and the isles shall wait for his law.’ The fulness of the Gentiles must be brought in, and with them the unbelieving Jews, who have rejected the Messiah. And thus God will complete the number of his jewels. Endure therefore, hardness as good soldiers, and in your patience possess ye your souls.

We as an association claim no superiority or power over you. We are not a board of trial, or a court of appeal. The church is the highest ecclesiastical court on earth. we are only a conference met to consult the general good of Zion ; to cultivate brotherly love : to sympathise with each other in sorrow and joy, and thus lift up our voices together in prayer and together sing.

That you may wait patiently on the Lord and thus renew your strength, mount up with wings as eagles ; run and not be weary, walk and not faint, is the earnest prayer of those who represent you in this associated body. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, AMEN.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

Beloved Fathers and Brethren,

Grace, mercy and peace be multiplied unto you from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear Brethren, while the nations and kingdoms of the earth are engaged in war, spreading destruction and misery; the kingdom, to which we through grace belong, is peace, and the fruit thereof, quietness and assurance forever. We have the delightful employment of working together with God, in promoting the increase of his kingdom which alone ensures peace on earth and good will to men.

When we contrast the haughty, fierce, bold, jealous and revengeful spirit of the hero, with the humble, mild, gentle, forgiving and benevolent temper of the gospel, and see the former filling the earth with contention, misery and those evils which make the earth a near resemblance of the dark world below; and the latter rendering good for evil, forgiving injuries and seeking reconciliation and the good of others as far as its influence extends. It produces that charity which is the bond of perfectness. The heroic character may be admired and applauded as commanding respect; while the christian may be despised as tame, and poor spirited; yet we will glory only in the Lamb of God, who when he was reviled, reviled not again; but even laid down his life for his enemies.

We admire and adore the goodness of God in causing the spirit of the gospel to influence the hearts of so many of our correspondents, to unite and become influential in spreading the gospel as far as circumstances and our influences will admit. May we still be united and directed in all our exertions for the happiness of mankind and the glory of God our Saviour. We as formerly receive with joy your messengers and minutes and wish to continue our connection with you and subscribe ourselves yours in Christ.

AARON LELAND, *Moderator,*
JOSHUA BRADLEY, *Clerk.*