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Baptists. Vermont. Woodstock Association, 1817.

Minutes ... September 24 and 25, 1817.

Windsor, Vt., Spooners, [ 1817 ]. 12 pp.

MWA copy.

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# MINUTES

OF THE

WOODSTOCK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HOLDEN AT

MOUNT HOLLY, VERMONT,

SEPTEMBER 24 AND 25, 1817:

WITH THESE

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTERS.

WINDSOR, VT.....PRINTED BY A. & W. SPOONER.

[1817]

## MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th, 1817.

1. At one o'clock, P. M. the introductory sermon was delivered by Elder JEREMIAH HIGBEE, (according to appointment) from 1 Timothy, iii. 14, 15.

2. Made choice of Elder JOSEPH ELLIOT, moderator, and LAND HOWARD, clerk.

After prayer by the moderator,

3. The Circular and Corresponding Letters were read, and committed to Elders HIGBEE and ELLIOT.

4. Proceeded to read the letters from the Churches; and took the following account of the numbers added by baptism and by letter, dismissed, excluded and died, during the last year, and the present number in each Church.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS, licensed preachers in *italics*. Those ministers with this mark [\*] were not present. Churches marked thus [†] were not represented. Vacant Churches are distinguished by a dash (—).

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messegers.</i>	<i>Added by baptism</i>	<i>Added by letter</i>	<i>Dismissed</i>	<i>Excluded</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Total</i>
Newport, †	{ * ELISHA HUTCHINSON.	0	0	0	0	0	171
East Parish Windsor,	{ LELAND HOWARD, Deac. Abner Forbes, John Smith.	5	5	2	0	0	97
Chester,	{ * AARON LELAND, Nathan Whiting, William Howard.	4	0	0	0	2	112
Alstead,	{ JEREMIAH HIGBEE, Emmerson Smith, Samuel Borrough.	17	0	2	3	2	162
New-London,	{ * JOB SPAMANS, Jeremiah Pingrey.	1	0	0	0	2	125
Cornish,	{ ARIEL KENDRICK, Joseph Richardson.	3	2	3	3	0	146
Jamaica,	{ Artemas Arnold.	10	0	0	1	0	83
Plainfield, †	{ * JONATHAN CRAM.	0	0	0	0	0	31
Weathersfield, & Baltimore,	{ BEMAN BOYNTON, Isaac Buckler, Matthew Pierce.	0	1	0	1	0	46
Grafton,	{ Cyrenius M. Fuller, Daniel Baker, Joseph Crumb.	22	1	1	0	0	70
Cavendish,	{ * ——— STARKWEATHER, Asaph Fletcher, Benjamin Pierce, Luther Howard.	0	0	2	0	1	117
Goshen,	{ Solomon Howe, Jonathan Wakefield.	0	0	1	0	0	40

Churches.	Messengers.	Abbyh.	Adbyl	Dis.	Excl.	Died	Total
Sutton,	{ RUEL LOTHROP, Deac. Asa Nelson, James Messer.	8	2	0	2	1	73
Windham,	{ Deac. — Knap.	2	0	0	1	0	50
Townsend,	{ * SAMUEL KINGSBURY, Evans Reed.	4	0	2	1	2	42
West-Parish Windsor,	{ SAMUEL LAMPSON, William White, Daniel Ralph.	1	0	1	3	0	30
Andover,	{ JOEL MANNING. Deac. Samuel Manning, Benjamin Tabor, Moses Dodge.	1	0	0	0	1	61
Londonderry,	{ Deac. Jesse Baldwin, Seth Ewers, David Smith.	3	2	1	0	1	77
Acworth, †	{ * David Cummings,	9	1	0	0	0	69
Rockingham & Westminster	{ JOSEPH ELLIOT, Waitfield Wilcox, Bela Wilcox	30	5	1	1	1	116
Unity,	{ Deac. Abner Chase, Joseph B. Bartlett.	0	0	1	0	1	56
Winhall,	{ — Robbins.	0	0	1	0	2	9
Moutholly,	{ DANIEL PACKER, Deac. Edmund Briant, Deac. Ichabod G. <del>Clark</del> , Martin Cole.	53	2	0	0	0	186
Hartland,	{ TIMOTHY GROW, Jesse Coburn, Simeon Alvord.	0	0	0	0	0	52
Weston,	{ GERSHAM LANE, Deac. Henry Hall, Parker Shattuck, Timothy Watts.	5	0	0	0	0	20
Total		178	21	18	16	16	2041

Net gain,

142

5. Adjourned till to-morrow morning.  
Prayer by Elder GREEN.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 25th, 1817.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder BOLLES.

6. The committee, to whom were referred the circular and corresponding letters, presented them with alterations, which were accepted.

7. Chose a committee of three, (viz. J. ELLIOT, A. Forbes and A. KENDRICK,) to correspond with other associations in this state, on the subject of our circular; and that this committee be directed to form a constitution for an education society, and present the same to the association next year.

In consequence of the trying state of Newport Church,

8. Chose a committee of seven, viz. D. PACKER, J. MANNING, R. LOTHROP, Dea. S. MANNING, J. ELLIOT, CHARLES CUMMINGS, and Dea. A. Forbes, to visit that Church; to assist them, and to learn their situation; and to report next year.

9. The committee, viz. Elders KENDRICK, HUTCHINSON, & ELLIOT, appointed last year, to visit the Churches in Londonderry and Andover, reported favourably. The report was accepted.

The following confession, from Elder JOEL MANNING, of Andover Church, was received as satisfactory:

*"To the Woodstock Association.*

*"Dear Brethren,*

*"Upon a review of the sentiments that I have advanced on the sonship of Christ, with my Bible in my hand, I feel it a duty and a privilege to say, that the sonship of Christ, as a derived being, is incorrect; and my present sentiment is, that he is God and a created being in union.*

*"JOEL MANNING."*

10. From Corresponding associations, received the following accounts:

	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>
Warren, Shaftsbury,	JONATHAN GOING, Jr.	minutes.
Vermont,	{ WILLIAM M'CULLER, HENRY GREEN, WILLIAM HARRINGTON.	minutes.
Barre, Leyden, Meredith, New-Hampshire,	<i>Ira Persons.</i>	minutes. minutes.
Dublin, Sturbridge,	CHARLES CUMMINGS.	minutes.

Boston,  
Danville,  
Fairfield,

NATHANIEL BOLLES,

minutes.  
minutes.  
minutes.

11. Appointed Messengers to corresponding associations.

Warren,	JOSEPH ELLIOT.	[2d Wed'y Sept. 1818,
	{ ISAAC BUCKLEN,	[June, 1818.
Shaftsbury,	{ Cyrenius M. Fuller,	
	{ LELAND HOWARD.	
Vermont,	DANIEL PACKER.	
Leyden,	{ JOSEPH ELLIOT,	[2d Wed'y Oct. 1818,
	{ ISAAC BUCKLEN.	one o'clock, P. M.
Meredith,	BUEL LOTHROP.	
Newhampshire,	BUEL LOTHROP.	[2d Wed'y June, 1818,
		ten o'clock, A. M.
Dublin,	{ JEREMIAH HIGBEE,	[3d Wed'y Oct. 1818,
	{ ELLIOT, KENDRICK,	one o'clock, P. M.
	{ and LOTHROP.	
Boston,	{ JOSEPH ELLIOT,	[3d Wed'y Sept. 1818,
	{ A. Forbes and	ten o'clock, A. M.
	{ L. HOWARD.	
Barre,	{ JEREMIAH HIGBEE,	[3d Wed'y Sept. 1818
	{ A Forbes, S. LAMPSON,	Bethel, one
	{ T. GROW, I. HOWARD,	o'clock, P. M.
	{ and S. Howe.	
Danville,	{ Jesse Coburn,	[3d Wed'y June, 1818,
	{ T. GROW, S. LAMPSON,	Barnet, one
	{ and D. PACKER.	o'clock, P. M.
Fairfield,	{ C. M. FULLER,	[last Wed'y Aug. 1818,
	{ B. BOYNTON, I. BUCKLEN.	ten, A. M.

12. Voted to hold the next meeting of the association at New-London, N. H. on the last Wednesday of September, 1818, at ten o'clock, A. M. Elder HOWARD to preach the introductory sermon, in case of failure Elder PACKER.

13. Appointed Elder HUTCHINSON to write the circular, and Elder KENDRICK the corresponding letters for next year.

14. Voted, to recommend to the Churches to unite in the monthly concert of prayer, on the first Monday of every month.

15. The committee appointed to visit Newport Church, will meet on the last Wednesday of December next, at ten o'clock, A. M.

The business of the association closed with an appropriate and solemn address, and prayer, by the moderator.

Sermon at the close by Elder GREEN.

After the business of the Association closed, the Union Society in Vermont and New-Hampshire, auxiliary to the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, met, and called on the Board of Directors to make a report of their doings, which was presented and accepted. The Society then proceeded to appoint a Board for the year ensuing.

REV. JEREMIAH HIGBEE, *President.*  
 „ ABIEL KENDRICK, } *Vice-Presidents.*  
 „ TIMOTHY GROW, }  
 „ LELAND HOWARD, *Corresponding Secretary.*  
 „ JOSEPH ELLIOT, *Recording Secretary.*  
 GEN. ABNER FORBES, *Treasurer.*  
 REV. JOEL MANNING, }  
 „ SAMUEL LAMPSON, } *Trustees.*  
 HON. ASAPH FLETCHER, }

The Treasurer made his report, and Rev. Timothy Grow was appointed Auditor of his account.

The Board of Directors ordered the Treasurer to transmit to John Couldwell, Esq. Treasurer of the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, two hundred dollars. The money remaining in the Treasury, to be put at interest, until appropriated.

*Receipts into the Treasury.*

1817	Cash remaining in the Treasury, as pr. report	
Sept.	of September, 1816,	211 94
	one year's interest on the same	12 71
	Addison Parker's ann. sub.	1
	Of Mrs. Phalle Grow, Treasurer of the Female U. Society, Hartland	7 51
	Samuel Cumens ann. sub.	1
	Donation from Samuel Cumens	7
	Contribution 1st Baptist Society, Windsor, East Parish	12 22
	J. P. Skinner ann. sub.	1
	Of Mrs. Dulcina Skinner, treasurer of the Windsor F. M. Society	14 54
	A. Forbes ann. sub.	1
	Rev. Leland Howard do.	1
	Josiah Wakefield 2 do.	2
	Female M. Society, Sutton, N. H.	11 49
	do. do. New London, N. H.	12 62½
	do. do. Cornish, N. H.	12 42
	Rev. Joseph Elliot for ann. sub. and collection	28
	Amos Howard ann. sub.	1
	Rev. Samuel Kingsbury do.	1
	Avary Reed 2 do.	2
	Collection by Rev. Ariel Kendrick	9 66
	His ann. sub.	1



Female M. Society, Newport	23 26
do. Cavendish	8 19
Rev. S. Lamson for ann. sub. and col.	5 50
Donation Mrs. Martha Davison	25
Maj. T. Lull ann. sub.	1
Deacon Dan Davison do.	1
Simeon Alvord do.	1
Rev. Timothy Grow do.	1
Donation Mrs. Polly Lamson	1
William Harris ann. sub.	1
Female M. Society, Grafton	8 50
Rev. Joel Manning collection in Andover	7 90
Ann. sub. Andover and Cavendish	10
do. do. Newport	8
William Constantine donation	50
Rev. Beman Boynton 3 ann. sub.	3
Miss Joana Herrick donation	5
Jesse Baldwin ann. sub.	6
Maj. Ez. Ransom ann. sub.	1
Collection and ann. sub. New London	10 78
Mrs. Jemima Packer treasurer F. M. Society Mountholly	6 41
Rev. D. Packer ann. sub.	6
„ Jeremiah Higbee do.	15
Miss Patience Coburn donation	25
Miss Abigail Wheeler do.	26
Miss Betsey Putnam do.	25
Miss Orvha Lamson do.	26
Contribution after sermon, Mountholly	13 59

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\$ 493 06½

*Expenditures.*

Sept. 25. Paid Rev. J. Elliot pr. order of Board of Directors	10
Oct. Transmitted to John Couldwell, Esq. trea- surer of the Baptist Board for For- eign Missions pr. order of Directors	200

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\$ 210

Balance in the treasury \$ 283 06½

ABNER FORBES, *Treasurer.*

*Windsor, October 14, 1817.*

This may certify, that I have examined the foregoing account

• In dating the certificate of the Auditor of the Treasurer's account last year, there was a mistake: it ought to have been dated October instead of September.

of the treasurer, and find it correctly stated and footed; and that there is now remaining in the treasury (*after deducting the above mentioned expenditures, of \$210*) \$283,06½.

TIMOTHY GROW, *Auditor.*

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## CIRCULAR.

*The Ministers and Messengers composing the Woodstock Association to the Churches which they represent, send Christian salutation.*

*Dear Brethren,*

Through the tender mercy of God, we have once more been permitted to meet in association; and although there are some things trying, yet our hearts have been made to rejoice with the good news of the increase of the friends of Zion from various parts. It is with peculiar pleasure that we have the opportunity of again addressing you in a circular.

To a subject which we conceive to be very important, we would now call your serious attention. God grant it may not be in vain. The subject is, the adoption of some plan, whereby those "*pious young men, who possess talents which promise usefulness in the word,*" and who, we have reason to believe, are called of God to preach the gospel, may receive some assistance in procuring an education. Although literature is not sufficient alone to qualify the sinner, or even the Christian, for the gospel ministry; and though it be not *absolutely* necessary, yet it must be granted by every considerate and candid mind, to be very useful and important in dispensing the divine word.

It is true that many who have not been favoured with a thorough *English* education, have been very useful in the Church:.... God has made them instrumental of much good. But it is nevertheless an evident fact, that the greater the literary advantages of good men are, the more extensive their usefulness. The gospel minister professes to be engaged in the cause of Christ, the greater his advantages are, the more capable he certainly will be, of displaying and vindicating the *truth* of the gospel. Yet we "are fully sensible that, in relation to ~~the~~ *grace* in the heart, a sacred necessity compelling to the work, and the valuable success that shall accompany pulpit labor, the Lord alone can make able ministers of "the New Testament; but when" we "mark the advantages which "those servants of the church enjoy who can read the lively oracles in their original languages; when" we "consider the improved and rapidly improving state of society, in which the grammar "of the English language is generally taught; when" we "mark "the zeal which *other* Christian societies are exercising on this "subject, and the advantages which it secures them; when" we "consider how much literary assistance is desired by Godly and in-

celligent young men, and the facility with which it may be obtained by a little genius and common sense," we "feel compelled, affectionately and importunately, to solicit your" aid "and influence" in the attempt to form a society, and establish a fund, for the benevolent purpose of granting that assistance to pious young men which they greatly desire and need, to render them useful in the gospel ministry. Do not despair, dear brethren, of accomplishing this important object on account of the trifling sum each individual friend of the Redeemer may be able or disposed to contribute; but remember that from very small streams are formed the largest rivers; so by a very small sum annually contributed by each professing friend of Christ and his cause, even in this association, would, in a few years, form a very respectable fund, which if wisely and judiciously appropriated for the assistance of those who need, would gladden many a desponding heart; and be the means (through a divine blessing) of preparing a number of the sons of Zion for usefulness in the church of God. It is probable that there are about two thousand professing Christians in this association; and about four thousand belonging to other associations of our denomination, in the state of Vermont. Should their exertions be united, and each one contribute only twenty-five cents annually, (which would be less than half a cent a week) it would amount to fifteen hundred dollars; the interest of which would be ninety dollars per annum. And should this contribution continue for only ten years, the annual interest would amount to nine hundred dollars. This sum would be sufficient to grant the necessary assistance to ten young men yearly. After a few years it would introduce into public usefulness, the same number of the sons of Zion, who would be capable of taking her by the hand, and leading her into the paths of gospel ordinances; and rejoice the hearts of many of the friends of the blessed Redeemer.

Does not the cause of religion, dear brethren, demand our exertions in effecting an object so desirable, and which promises so much good to the church of God? Let us not withhold a little of the great abundance God has bestowed upon us; but remember, where much is given much will be required; and let our hearts and hands be open to contribute for the good of that cause in which we profess to be engaged. Do not consider the happiness of the heathen to be very important. And are we not now contributing generously, for the purpose of qualifying and supporting missionaries, and sending the gospel among them? Is not the salvation of the perishing thousands of our own country equally important? Shall we not do every thing in our power, to render their condition happy in this and the future world? And how can we more effectually secure this blessing to them, than by instrumentally furnishing them with faithful and well qualified ministers of the New Testament?

## CORRESPONDING LETTER:

*The Woodstock Association to the Associations with which we correspond.*

*Beloved Brethren in the Lord,*

What is more sweet than Christian intercourse, founded and kept up in the love of God shed abroad in the heart? What is more delightful than to testify the souls of the saints, than the unfeigned love of the brethren? Or the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace? "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" How frequently do the scriptures inculcate the love and fellowship of saints! "Let brotherly love continue."

"Come, dearest Lord, descend and dwell  
 "By faith and love, in every breast;  
 "Then shall we know, and taste, and feel  
 "The joys that cannot be express'd"

Dear brethren, while we are of the same sentiment, holding fast the faithful word, and our souls are knit together in love, our correspondence will be truly pleasant and useful.

Beloved in the Lord, we rejoice to meet your Messengers in our association; and to hear, from them, the wonderful displays of the power and grace of God in our sister associations. How soon, when we hear from our brethren in any part of the habitable globe, of whatever rank or blood, are our hearts drawn out in love to them! May we indeed have fellowship with the Father, and with his Son, and one with another.

We earnestly solicit a continuance of your correspondence. May Christ be to us, *all in all*.

"O! for a sweet inspiring ray,  
 "To animate our feeble strains,  
 "From the bright realms of endless day,  
 "The blissful realms where Jesus reigns"

There low, before his throne,  
 Adoring saints and angels  
 And, with delightful words  
 His smile, their bliss, their heaven, their *all*.

Our present session has been truly *sweet* and *awful*. We can from the heart, say, "God's presence is life, and his loving favours better than life."

Our situation you will learn from our minutes.

"The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice."

For the association.

JOSEPH ELLIOT, *Moderator.*

LELAND HOWARD, *Clerk.*