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## **Samuel Hopkins correspondence, 1766-1767, 1803. MS4865**

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English  
DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregational Library & Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	Hopkins, Samuel, 1721-1803
<b>Title:</b>	Samuel Hopkins correspondence, 1766-1767, 1803.
<b>ID:</b>	MS4865
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1766-1767, 1803
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 Folder
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	Rev. Samuel Hopkins (1721-1803) was a Congregational minister in the New England area. . Hopkins preached in Sheffield (now Great Barrington), Massachusetts, from 1743-1769 and then preached at the First Congregational Church in Newport, Rhode Island, from 1770 until his death in 1803. He is best known for his theological work that formed part of the theological scheme known as New Divinity, or Hopkinsianism. This collection contains three letters written by Samuel Hopkins; two thank a family friend for their hospitality while Hopkins travelled and the third includes some of Hopkins theological arguments.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Samuel Hopkins correspondence, 1766-1767, 1803, MS4865. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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## Biographical Note

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Rev. Samuel Hopkins (1721-1803) was a Congregational minister in the New England area. Born in Connecticut, he was educated at Yale, and later studied under the Reverend Johnathan Edwards. Hopkins preached in Sheffield (now Great Barrington), Massachusetts, from 1743-1769, until a difference in theology between Hopkins and his congregation resulted in

his dismissal due to a lack of financial support for his continued pastorate. Hopkins traveled to Newport, Rhode Island, in 1770 to preach at the First Congregational Church. He continued to preach there until his death in 1803. During the Revolutionary War, Hopkins fled Newport, and continued to preach at Newburyport, Massachusetts, as well as Canterbury and Stamford, Connecticut.

Hopkins' work with Johnathan Edwards and Joseph Bellamy resulted in the theological scheme known as New Divinity, Hopkinsianism, and New England Theology, among other names. Initially a slave holder himself, Hopkins later became one of the earliest Congregationalists to condemn the institution of slavery.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains three letters written by Samuel Hopkins. Two are written to Ebenezer Little, a family friend, thanking Little and his family for their hospitality during Hopkins travels. The third letter is written to British minister Andrew Fuller (1754-1815) and includes some of Hopkins' theological arguments.

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## Arrangement

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Materials have been arranged in chronological order.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## Restrictions on Access

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## Acquisition Information

No acquisition information is available for this collection.

## Processing Information

Originally processed by Anderson Boone, September 2014, using DACS Second Edition. Reprocessed by Zachary Bodnar, June 2019, using DACS Second Edition.

## Digital Copies

Records within this collection were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions may be accessed online through our [digital archive](#).

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- New Divinity theology.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- Fuller, Andrew, 1754-1815

- Hopkins, Samuel, 1721-1803 -- Correspondence.

## Technical Requirements

To access digital user's copies via online-interface, a java-enabled web browser is required. Internet Explorer 8.x and later, Firefox 5.x and later, Opera 12 and later, Safari 5.x and later, or any version of Google Chrome are recommended.

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## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances		
Correspondence, 1766-1767, 1803 <u>Physical Description:</u> 3 Items	box NEHH- Small 1	folder 20	
Hopkins to Little, 1766 <u>Digital Copies:</u> <b>Digital Copies</b>  This letter was digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are <a href="#">available to view online</a> .	box NEHH- Small 1	folder 20	Item 1
Hopkins to Little, 1767 <u>Digital Copies:</u> <b>Digital Copies</b>  This letter was digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are <a href="#">available to view online</a> .	box NEHH- Small 1	folder 20	Item 2

## Scope and Contents

This letter written by Rev. Samuel Hopkins was addressed to Ebenezer Little in Newbury, Massachusetts. Hopkins thanks Little again for his hospitality after another visit to Newbury. Rev. Hopkins mentioned Ebenezer Little, his wife, their daughter, and Mr. Parsons, a mutual acquaintance, within the letter.

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Hopkins to Fuller, 1803

box NEHH-  
Small 1

folder 20

Item 3

### Digital Copies:

### Digital Copies

This letter was digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are [available to view online](#).

## Scope and Contents

This letter, likely dictated by Rev Samuel Hopkins to a scribe, was likely addressed to the British Andrew Fuller (1754-1815). The letter opens with a statement about Hopkins declining health. The majority of the letter is a theological argument on how determine what a true Christian is, how to think about faith, and how an individual may go to heaven. The letter includes notes and edits and is unsigned indicating this was likely a draft letter.