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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

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Hopkins, Samuel, 1721-1803
Title:	Samuel Hopkins correspondence, 1766-1767, 1803.
ID:	MS4865
Date [inclusive]:	1766-1767, 1803
Physical Description:	1 Folder
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	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

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

This collection contains four 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. The fourth letter is written to Stephen West in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and mostly discusses Hopkins's poor health.

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Arrangement

Materials have been arranged in chronological order.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Accrual to the collection processed and added to the finding aid. Controlled vocabulary terms expanded. 2025-02-12

Restrictions on Access

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Acquisition Information

No acquisition information is available for letters one through three. The letter to Stephen West was donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by Diane Power in May 2022; 2022-11.

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](#).

Processing Information

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

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Controlled Access Headings

- Clergy -- Correspondence.
- New Divinity theology.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- Fuller, Andrew, 1754-1815
- Hopkins, Samuel, 1721-1803
- Little, Ebenezer, 1716-1768
- Parsons, Jonathan, 1705-1776
- West, Stephen, 1735-1819

Technical Requirements

To access digital materials on Quartex, it is strongly recommended that you use the latest available version of Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Safari (Apple).

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances		
Corresppondence, 1766-1767, 1803 <u>Physical Description:</u> 4 Items	box NEHH- Small 1	folder 20	
Samuel Hopkins to Ebenezer Little, 1766 July 18 Scope and Contents This letter written by Rev. Samuel Hopkins was addressed to Ebenezer Little in Newbury, Massachusetts. Hopkins thanked Little for hosting Hopkins and his family during his travels. Hopkins also stated that he would like to live in Newbury were it not for his family obligations. People mentioned in the letter include, Ebenezer Little, his wife, their daughter, and a "Miss E. West" who was entrusted with delivery of the letter.	box NEHH- Small 1	folder 20	Item 1
Samuel Hopkins to Ebenezer Little, 1767 January 9	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 Rev. Jonathan Parsons, a mutual acquaintance, within the letter.

Samuel Hopkins to Stephen West, 1803 July 28

box NEHH-
Small 1

folder 20

Item 4

Samuel Hopkins to Andrew Fuller, 1803 October 18

box NEHH-
Small 1

folder 20

Item 3

Scope and Contents

This letter, likely dictated by Rev Samuel Hopkins to a scribe, was likely addressed to Andrew Fuller (1754-1815) of Britain. The letter opens with a statement about Hopkins declining health. The majority of the letter is a theological argument on how to 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.