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

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Congregational Library & Archives

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Biographical Note .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Controlled Access Headings .....	6
Technical Requirements .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	6

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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 four letters written by Samuel Hopkins; two thank a family friend for their hospitality while Hopkins travelled, the third includes some of Hopkins theological arguments, and the fourth speaks to Hopkins's illness in 1803.

### Preferred Citation

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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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's 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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents

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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 Mr. Fuller in Newport and includes some of Hopkins' theological arguments. The fourth letter is written to Rev. Stephen West in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and includes an account of Hopkins's sickness.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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Materials have been arranged in chronological order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## **Revision Description**

Added a new item to the collection. Adjusted some description. 2022-05-02

## **Restrictions on Access**

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

## **Restrictions on Use**

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## **Acquisition Information**

No acquisition information is available for items one through three.

The letter from Hopkins to West was donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by Diane Power in May 2022; 2022-11.

## **Existence and Location of Copies**

Some items in this collection were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are [available to view online](#).

## **Accruals**

Additional accruals are expected for this collection in the form of full-text transcription. There is no anticipated date for this accrual.

## Processing Information

Originally processed by Anderson Boone, September 2014, using DACS Second Edition. Reprocessed by Zachary Bodnar, June 2019, using DACS Second Edition. An accrual of a single letter was processed and added to the collection by Zachary Bodnar in May 2022.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- New Divinity theology.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- Hopkins, Samuel, 1721-1803 -- Correspondence.
- West, Stephen, 1735-1819

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## Technical Requirements

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances		
Correspondence, 1766-1767, 1803 <u>Physical Description:</u> 3 Items	box NEHH- Small 1	folder 20	
Hopkins to Little, 1766	box NEHH- Small 1	folder 20	Item 1

### 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.

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Hopkins to Little, 1767

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

**Scope and Contents**

This letter, likely dictated by Rev Samuel Hopkins to a scribe, was addressed to Mr. Fuller in Newport, Rhode Island. The letter opens with a statement about the 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.

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Hopkins to West, 1803

box NEHH-  
Small 1

folder 20

Item 4

**Scope and Contents**

In this letter, written in reply to a previous letter from Rev. Stephen West in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, Samuel Hopkins recounts his recent sickness.