

## GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

©Vera V. Mainz and Gregory S. Girolami 1998

Hopkins, William

1793 - 1866

DEGREE: MA (mathematics)      DATE: 1830

PLACE: Cambridge

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Sedgwick

mathematician; geologist; studied the precession of the equinoxes to test whether the earth's interior is solid or liquid; determined that the melting points of substances increase under high pressure; developed a theory of the motion of glaciers and a theory of earthquakes; published texts on physical geology, celestial mechanics, and trigonometry; successful teacher - tutored Stokes, Maxwell, and Kelvin.

FOOTNOTE: Hopkins turned his interests to geology after excursions with Sedgwick about 1833.

1. *Dictionary of National Biography*; Smith, Elder & Co.: 1908-1986; vol. 9, p1233-1234.
2. *Quart. J. Geol. Soc.* **1866**, 23, xxix-xxxii.
3. *The Gentleman's Mag.* (Nov. **1866**) 706.
4. *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*; Charles Scribner's Sons: 1970-1990; vol. 6, p502-504.