



Rev. Samuel Kirkland (1741-1808)

Date

1865

Primary Maker

Augustus Rockwell

Medium

Oil on canvas

Description

Kirkland was the founder of the Hamilton-Oneida Academy, which became Hamilton College. "No portrait was made of the Rev. Samuel Kirkland (1741-1808) during his lifetime. In 1779, however, when the missionary was serving as an army chaplain during the Sullivan campaign in the Indian territories of Pennsylvania and New York, a brother officer made an India ink sketch of him. From this, "at one or two removes," Augustus Rockwell (1822?-1882), a painter of Buffalo, New York, was commissioned by the Rev. Amos Delos Gridley, '39, local historian and a member of the committee in charge of the new Memorial Hall, to prepare a portrait of the Founder, showing him "as he

appeared at forty years of age - erect, vigorous, of commanding presence, with a penetrating eye and an animated, buoyant expression..." (SOURCE: Walter Pilkington, "College Portraits" exhibition cat. (Clinton, NY: Edward W. Root Art Center, 1964)

Dimensions

Overall: 30 x 25 in. (76.2 x 63.5 cm) Frame: 38 1/2 x 33 1/4 x 4 3/4 in. (97.8 x 84.5 x 12.1 cm)