

The Ferment of Reform and Culture

1790 – 1860

Reformers

- As US society changed, reformers worked to erase what they saw as negative effects of this change
 - Different groups embraced various (and sometimes contradictory) causes
 - Many took spirit of reform from religion and Second Great Awakening

Reviving Religion

- Mid 1800s – about 3/4 of Americans attended church regularly
 - Hard doctrines of Calvinism had been softened
 - Rationalist ideas of Enlightenment and French Revolution
 - “The Age of Reason” by Tom Paine

Reviving Religion

- Deism
 - Supported by some Founding Fathers (Jefferson, Franklin)
 - Reason and science over revelation and the Bible
 - Denied original sin and Christ's divinity
 - Believed in Supreme Being, but one who didn't interfere with human affairs

Reviving Religion

- Unitarianism
 - God existed in only 1 person (*unitarian*)
 - Not in Trinity
 - Denied divinity of Jesus
 - Stressed goodness of human nature
 - Believed free will and good works would save humans
 - God seen as loving Father
 - Embraced by intellectuals (like Emerson)
 - Contrasted with orthodox Calvinism (hell, predestination, human depravity)

Reviving Religion

- **Second Great Awakening**
 - Began around 1800 as reaction against growing liberalism of religion
 - Began in Southern frontier; spread across country (even conservative Northeast)
 - Effects
 - People converted
 - Evangelical religion more prominent
 - Reforms (prison, temperance, women's rights, abolitionism)

Reviving Religion

- Camp meetings
 - Huge meetings (up to 25,000 people)
 - Lasted several days
 - Religious ecstasy (rolling, dancing, barking, jerking)
 - Boosted church membership; led to greater missionary and reform work

Reviving Religion

- Methodists and Baptists gained most converts from camp revivals
 - Personal conversion (not predestination)
 - More democratic control of church affairs
 - Emotionalism in church service

Reviving Religion

- Peter Cartwright
 - Methodist circuit rider (traveling revival preacher)
 - Strong preacher who converted thousands
 - Would fight people who tried to break up his meetings

Reviving Religion

- Charles Grandison Finney
 - Trained as lawyer; became preacher after conversion
 - Kept thousands listening with powerful preaching
 - Massive revivals in 1830 – 1831 in New York
 - “anxious bench” in which repentant sinners sat where everyone could see them
 - Encouraged women to publicly pray
 - Promised perfect Christian kingdom on earth
 - Opposed slavery and alcohol
 - Served as president of Oberlin College (Ohio)
 - Became center of abolitionist movement

Revival Preaching During the Second Great Awakening



Reviving Religion

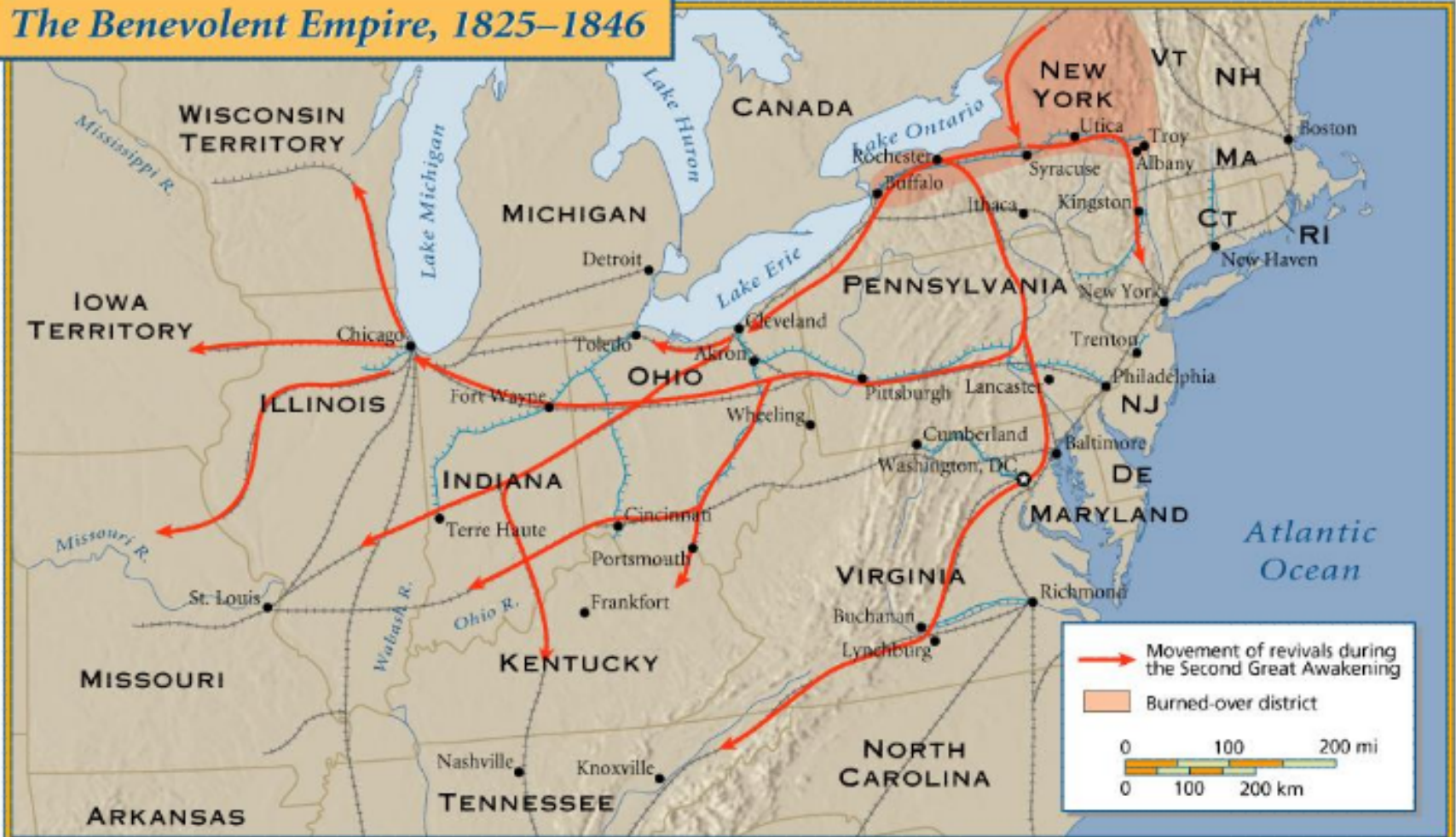
- Feminization of religion
 - Middle-class women (wives and daughters of businessmen)
 - Most of new church members
 - Most likely to stay after evangelists left town
- Why women were more affected by revivalism
 - More uncertain about changes of market economy
 - Preachers spoke about female spiritual worth
 - Women given active role to convert husbands and children
 - Women turned to reform in society after families converted

Denominational Diversity

- “Burned-Over District”
 - Western New York, where some New England Puritans had moved
 - Center of revivalist preaching

The Benevolent Empire

The Benevolent Empire, 1825–1846



Denominational Diversity

- Millerites (Adventists)
 - Formed in Burned-Over District by William Miller
 - Believed Jesus would return to earth on October 22, 1844
 - Since Jesus did not come, the sect was diminished but not destroyed

Denominational Diversity

- Great Awakening widened differences between classes and regions
 - Eastern areas not was affected by revivalism
 - Upper classes in these areas stayed with conservative, traditional churches (Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Unitarians)
 - Southern and Western areas most strongly affected by revivalism
 - Methodists and Baptists (and other revival sects) grew among poorer, less educated people

Denominational Diversity

- Splits in churches over slavery
 - Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians split into northern and southern branches because of disagreements over slavery
 - Foreshadowed split of nation

A Desert Zion in Utah

- 1830 – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) organized by Joseph Smith
 - Claimed to have seen God and Jesus
 - Angel delivered plates to Smith, from which he translated the Book of Mormon



Joseph Smith's Vision of God and Jesus

Joseph Smith's Translation of the Book of Mormon



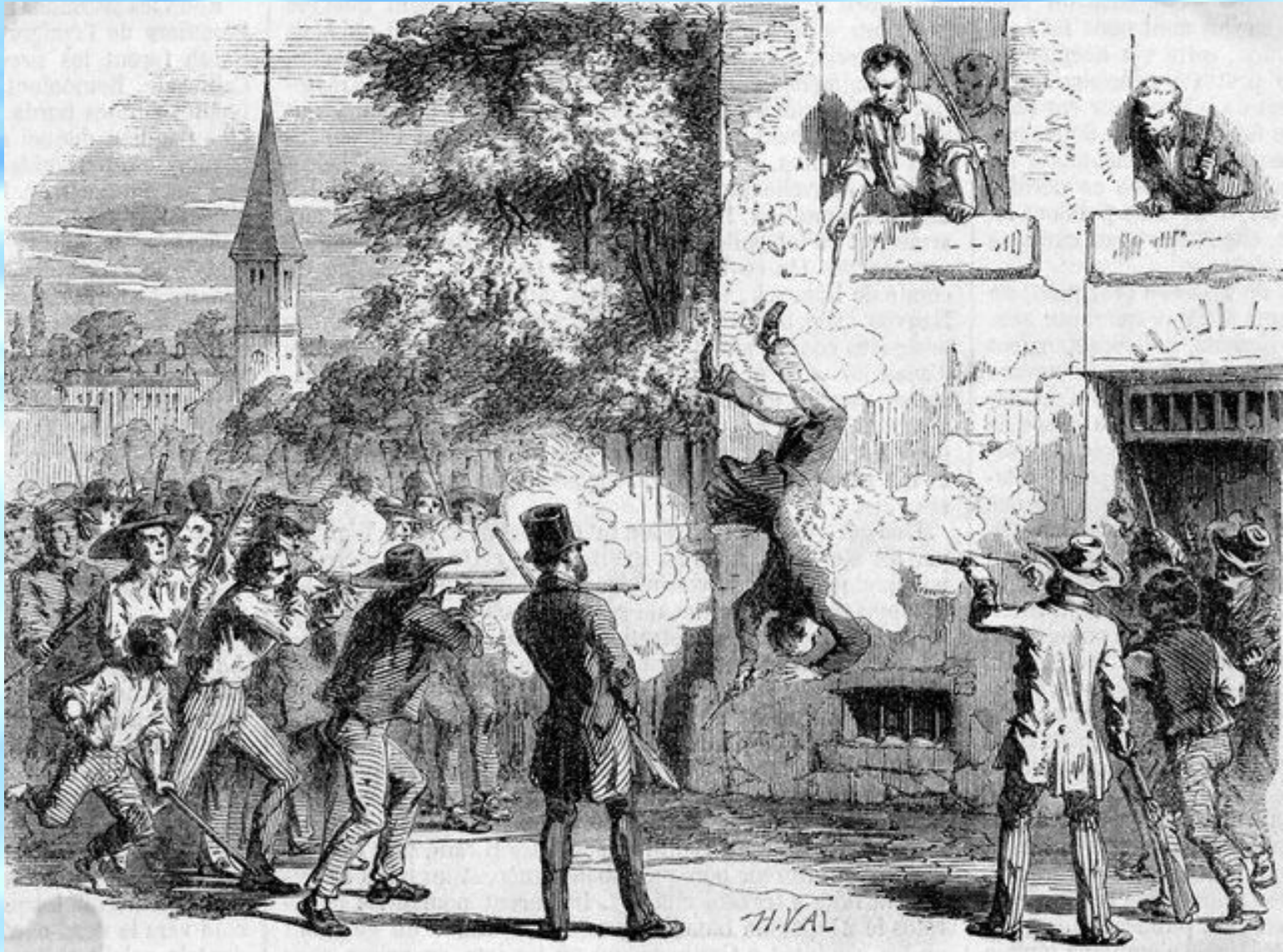
A Desert Zion in Utah

- Hostility between Mormons and their neighbors
 - Moved from New York to Ohio to Missouri to Illinois
 - Cooperation in economics and voting angered individualistic Americans
 - Mormons also openly drilled militia (misinterpreted as hostility) and were accused of polygamy

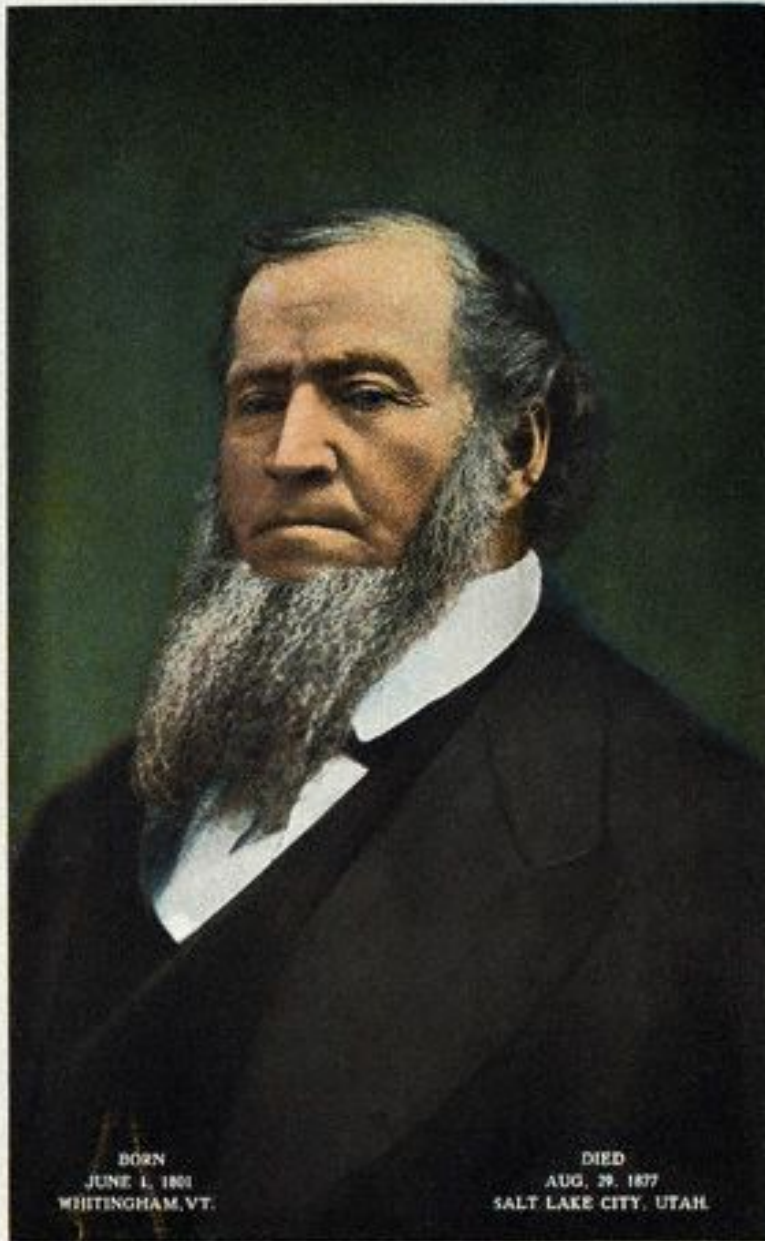
A Desert Zion in Utah

- 1844 – Joseph and Hyrum (his brother) were killed by a mob at Carthage, Illinois
- Church fell under leadership of Brigham Young
 - Proved to be an extraordinary leader
 - 1846 – 1847 – Young led Mormons to Utah

The Assassination of Joseph Smith



Brigham Young



BORN
JUNE 1, 1801
WHITINGHAM, VT.

DIED
AUG. 29, 1877
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

692

Brigham Young

68573

A Desert Zion in Utah

- Mormons in Utah
 - Dry desert bloomed thanks to cooperative irrigation
 - Mormons continued to come across plains, some even pulling carts
 - Many converts came because of missionary work in Europe
 - Young established theocracy and Mormons practiced polygamy (marrying of more than 1 wife)

The Mormon World



A Desert Zion in Utah

- 1857 – federal army marched against Mormons
 - Federal government felt Mormons were out of control
 - Situation resolved with few deaths
- Antipolygamy laws passed (1862, 1882)
 - Some Mormon men prosecuted and jailed
 - Church abandoned polygamy in 1890
 - Utah became a state in 1896 (had been delayed because of polygamy controversy)

A Mormon Polygamous Family



Free Schools for a Free People

- Early 1800s – public schools (tax-supported) mainly for poor

Free Schools for a Free People

- Changes leading to free public education
 - Wealthy did not want mass of poor, uneducated voters in society
 - Workers demanded education for their children
 - Given power to make demands by universal manhood suffrage

Free Schools for a Free People

- 1825 – 1850 – public education flourished
 - One-room schoolhouse
 - Teacher educated all 8 grades at once
 - Only stayed open a few months a year
 - Teacher relied on physical punishment and was usually ill-trained and underpaid
 - Public education in South lagged
 - Upper classes sent children to private schools
 - Poor whites remained uneducated (in general)
 - Slaves and free blacks blocked from education

Teacher and Pupils at a One-Room Schoolhouse



Free Schools for a Free People

- Horace Mann
 - Secretary of Education (Massachusetts)
 - Worked for more and better schools, longer school terms, higher teacher pay, expanded curriculum
 - His reforms led to changes in other states
 - Even with reforms, school was still an expensive luxury
 - Illiteracy and lack of education continued for many
 - Free blacks kept out of public schools in North and South

Free Schools for a Free People

- Noah Webster's textbooks
 - Helped educate young; widely used in 19th century
 - Designed to promote patriotism as well as educate
 - 1828 – published dictionary that helped standardize American English
- William H. McGuffey's textbooks
 - McGuffey's Readers
 - 1830s – first published grade school readers
 - Taught reading, morality, patriotism, idealism



LESSON VIII.

his	this	bite	keep	wants
can	four	play	moon	watch
hog	cow	kind	sheep	stands
how	dark	most	chase	shines

SEE how this dog stands on his feet.
He wants to play with John.

A dog has four feet. A dog and a cat
can see in the dark.

Dogs keep watch at night, and bark.
They bark most when the moon shines.

A dog will chase a sheep, or a hog, or
a cow, and bite it. If you are kind to
the dog, he will not bite you.

claws
catch
barks
scratch

g? We

l. The
er.

p teeth;
she will

she will

A Page from a McGuffey's Reader

Higher Goals for Higher Learning

- Great Awakening led to founding of many small liberal arts colleges, mainly in South and West
 - Narrow, traditional curriculum (Latin, Greek, math, philosophy and ethics)

Higher Goals for Higher Learning

- State-supported universities
 - Established first in South (North Carolina first in 1795)
 - Given federal land on which to build
 - 1819 – University of Virginia
 - Founded and designed by Jefferson
 - Emphasis on modern languages and science

Higher Goals for Higher Learning

- Early 1800s – higher education for women discouraged
 - Should be in home and married, not learning
 - Too much learning hurt women's brains and made them unfit for marriage

Higher Goals for Higher Learning

- Beginning in 1820s – women's education increased
 - 1821 – Troy (New York) Female Seminary established by Emma Willard
 - 1837 – Oberlin (Ohio) College admitted women with men
 - Had already admitted black men
 - 1837 – Mount Holyoke Seminary (College) established in Massachusetts

Higher Goals for Higher Learning

- Self-education for adults
 - Private or (new) tax-supported libraries
 - Traveling lecturers in lyceum lecture associations
 - Science, literature, philosophy
 - Ralph Waldo Emerson spoke in many
 - Magazines flourished, but many died quickly

An Age of Reform

- Great Awakening inspired idealists to reform society
 - Dream of perfect society (from Puritans) renewed
 - End to cruelty, war, alcohol, slavery
 - Women especially prominent, especially in suffrage movement
 - Middle class women could get out of confining home and work in public affairs

An Age of Reform

- Reform movements used traditional responses to completely new problems
 - Early industrialism, urbanization and immigration
 - Solutions were attempt to reach back to earlier (simpler) time
 - Blamed industrial workers' problems on their bad habits (or just ignored them)

An Age of Reform

- Debt imprisonment
 - A problem for poor (although exaggerated)
 - As workers got the vote, state legislatures abolished it

An Age of Reform

- Criminal codes
 - Softened (following Europe's example)
 - Capital (death) offenses reduced
 - Brutal punishments (whipping, branding) eliminated
 - Prisons should reform, as well as punish

An Age of Reform

- Insane asylums
 - Insane treated cruelly
 - Most believed they were willingly depraved
 - Chained up in prisons with sane
 - Dorothea Dix traveled in 1830s and 1840s around country, writing about horrible conditions of insane asylums
 - Led to improved conditions and recognition of mental illness

Insane Asylums were Brutal Places Before Dix's Reforms



An Age of Reform

- Peace
 - Reformers like William Ladd and the American Peace Society (1828) worked against war
 - Set back by US Civil War and Crimean War (1854-1856)

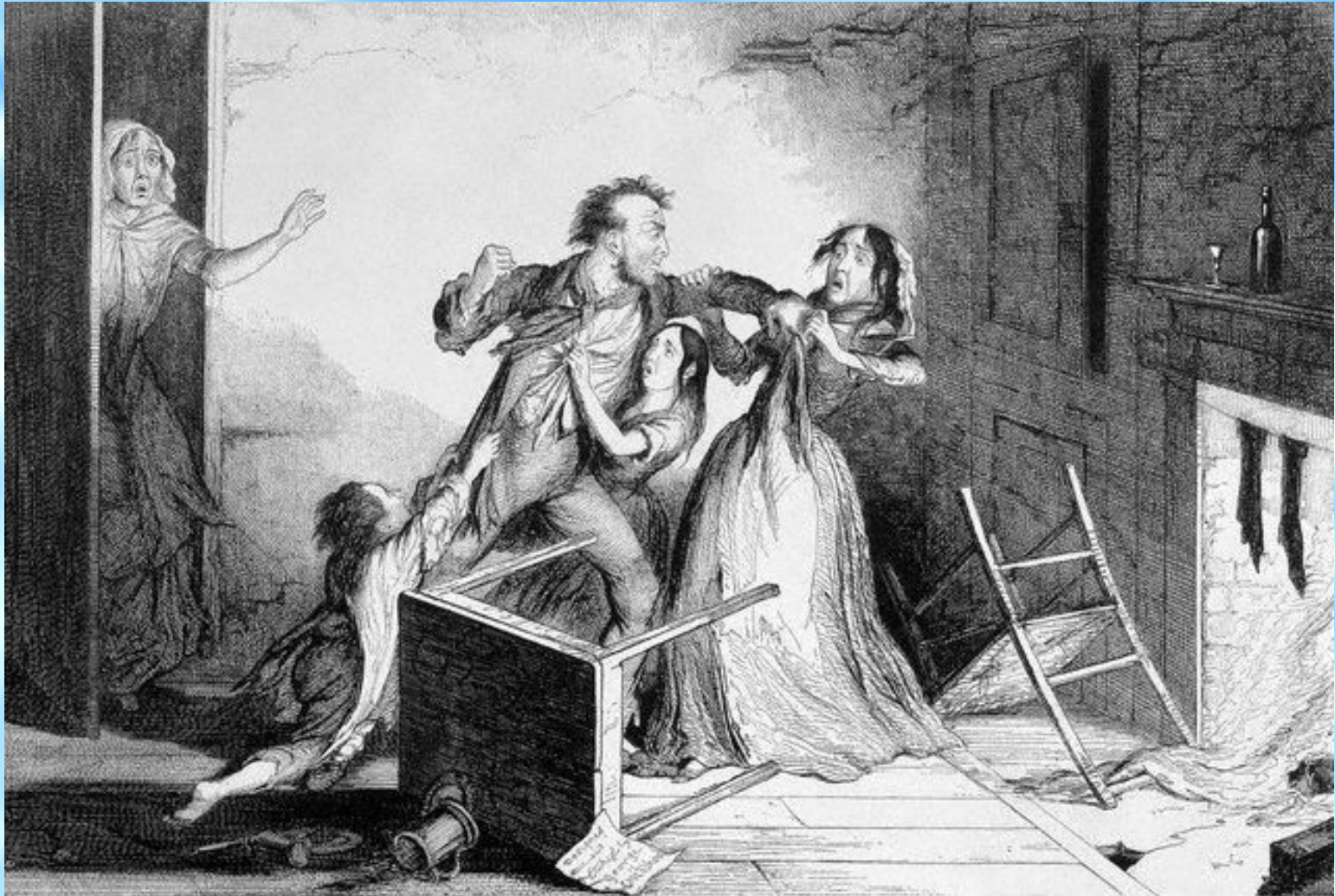
Demon Rum—The “Old Deluder”

- Heavy drinking
 - Caused by hard, monotonous life
 - Even women and clergy drank hard
 - Decreased efficiency of workers and led to accidents
 - Hurt physical and spiritual safety of women and children

An Alcoholic's Family Loses Their Furniture



A Drunkard Attacks His Wife



Demon Rum—The “Old Deluder”

- 1826 – American Temperance Society founded
 - Temperance – restraint in the use of or abstinence from alcoholic liquors
 - Thousands of local groups sprang up
 - Worked to get drinkers to sign temperance pledges
 - Used pictures, pamphlets, lecturers to reach drinkers

Demon Rum—The “Old Deluder”

- 2 lines of attack
 - Get individuals to resist drink
 - Temperance (moderation), not “teetotalism” (total abstinence from alcohol)
 - Pass state laws against alcohol
 - Maine Law of 1851 most famous
 - Some northern states passed laws, but were either soon repealed or simply ignored

THE TEMPERANCE CRUSADE.

FOUR HOURS IN A BAR ROOM.



1ST HOUR
CYNICAL INDIFFERENCE.



2ND HOUR
MOCKERY AND DEFIANCE.



3RD HOUR
RAGE AND DESPAIR.



4TH HOUR
UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER.

A Temperance Poster

Demon Rum—The “Old Deluder”

- Effects of temperance movement
 - Found it impossible to legislate against alcohol
 - Gains made in reducing alcohol consumption, especially among women

Women in Revolt

- Early 1800s – women subordinated to men
 - Served men, could not vote or own property, could be legally beaten by husband
 - American women still had more rights and protections than European women
- 1820s – 1850s – women's rights and roles increased in American society

Women in Revolt

- Gender differences
 - Emphasized because of separation of men and women into different economic roles in new market economy
 - Women seen as physically and emotionally weak, but artistic, refined
 - Keeper's of society's conscience and guardian of young
 - Men seen as stronger, but more crude
 - Might fall into savage ways if not guided by women

Women in Revolt

- “cult of domesticity”
 - Belief that women’s special sphere was the home
 - Some women came to believe that this belief was keeping them trapped

A Woman
Teaching the
Scriptures
(Bible) to a
Child, Part of
Her Special
Duty as a
Mother



Engraved by J. Fisher.

TEACHING THE SCRIPTURES

Women in Revolt

- Female reformers
 - Gained strength in 1840s and 1850s
 - Awakened by Great Awakening
 - Most were from upper classes
 - Most worked for other reforms (temperance, abolition) in addition to women's rights
 - Important leaders like Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony

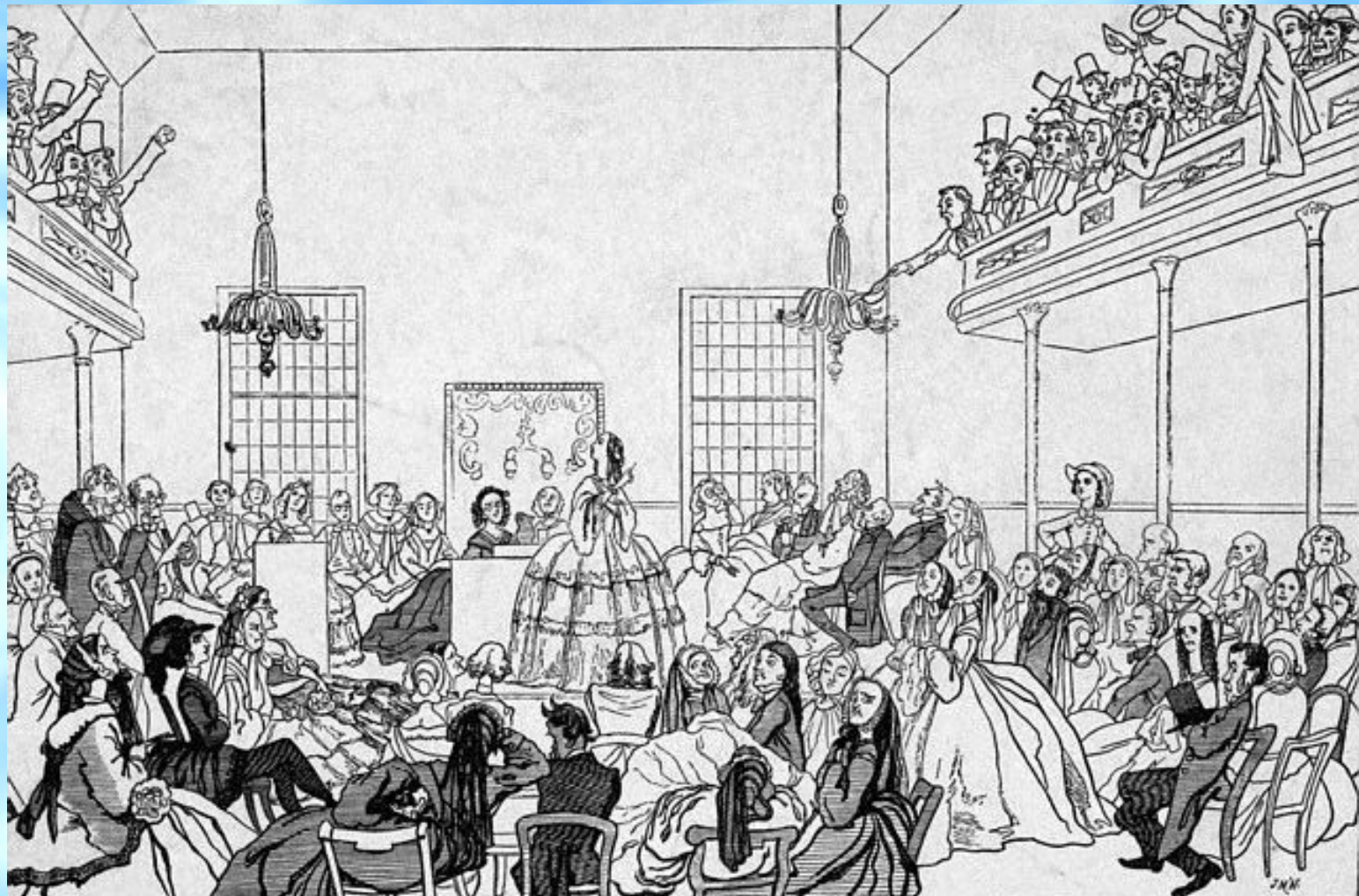
Women in Revolt

- Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell
 - First woman graduate of medical college
- Margaret Fuller
 - Edited transcendentalist magazine and worked for democracy in Italy
- Grimké sisters (Sarah, Angelina)
 - Worked against slavery
- Lucy Stone
 - Kept her maiden name after marriage
- Amelia Bloomer
 - Wore shorter skirt with Turkish pants (“bloomers”) instead of long (so street) dresses

Women in Revolt

- 1848 – Women’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York
 - Stanton read “Declaration of Sentiments”
 - “all men and women are created equal”
 - Demanded the vote
 - Launched the women’s rights movement
 - Women’s movement eclipsed by antislavery until after Civil War

The Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, NY



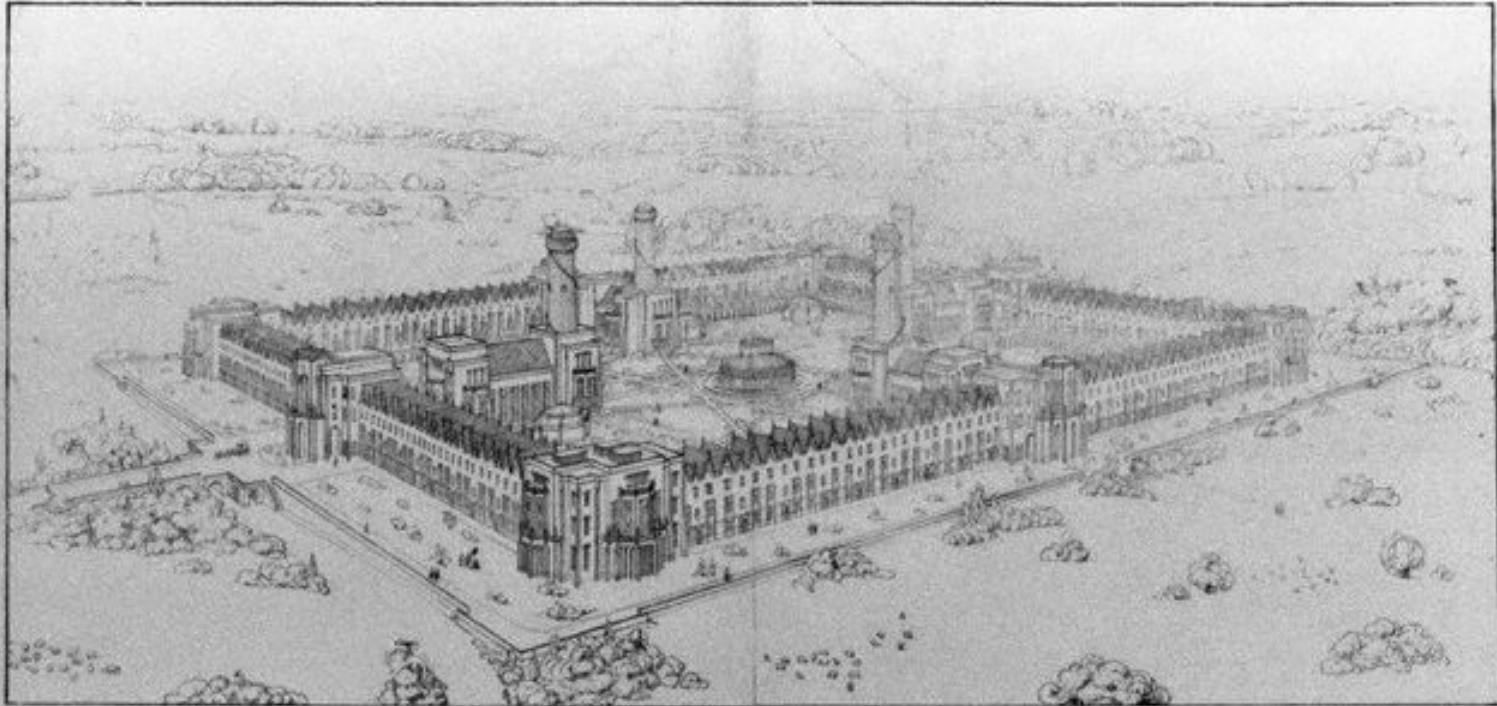
Wilderness Utopias

- Utopian age led reformers to set up over 40 communities of cooperation

Wilderness Utopias

- Robert Owen
 - 1825 – founded New Harmony, Indiana
 - Communal society with 1,000 people
 - Colony destroyed by internal conflicts between idealists, and those who wanted to live off others' work

Robert Owen's Plan for New Harmony, Indiana



A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF ONE OF THE NEW COMMUNITIES AT HARMONY.
IN THE STATE OF INDIANA, NORTH AMERICA.
AN ASSOCIATION OF TWO THOUSAND PERSONS FORMED UPON THE PRINCIPLES ADVOCATED BY

ROBERT OWEN

STEEDMAN WHITEWELL, ARCHITECT

THE SITE IS NEARLY IN THE CENTRE OF AN AREA OF 8000 ACRES POSSESSED BY THE COMMUNITY, SITUATED UPON HIGH LAND, ABOUT THREE MILES FROM THE EASTERN SHORE OF THE GREAT WABASH RIVER AND TWELVE MILES FROM THE TOWN OF MOUNT VERNON, ON THE RIVER OHIO. BOTH THESE RIVERS ARE NAVIGATED BY STEAM BOATS OF CONSIDERABLE BURDEN, WHICH MAINTAIN A COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NEW-YORK AND THE GULF OF MEXICO ON THE SOUTH AND PITTSBURGH IN THE EASTERN STATES ON THE ATLANTIC.

THE GENERAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE BUILDINGS IS A SQUARE, EACH SIDE OF WHICH IS 1000 FEET. THE CENTRE & THE EXTREMITIES ARE OCCUPIED BY THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS. THE SPACES BETWEEN THEM ARE THE SWIMMING OF THE MEMBERS. IN THE INTERIOR OF THE SQUARE ARE THE BOTANICAL & OTHER GARDENS. THE EXERCISE GROUNDS BE. THE WHOLE IS RAISED ABOVE THE LEVEL OF THE NATURAL SURFACE, AND CIRCUMSCRIBED BY AN ENCLOSURE. IN A DESCENT TO THE RIVER IS OPEN THE OUTSIDE OF THE WALLS.

ONE OF THE PRINCIPALS OF THE SQUARE COINCIDES WITH A MERIDIAN, AND THE DISPOSITION OF EVERY SPACE HAS BEEN REGULATED BY A CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE MOST IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES & FACTS IN SCIENCE, AS TO FORM A NEW COMBINATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES, CAPABLE OF PRODUCING PERMANENTLY GREATER PHYSICAL, MORAL, AND INTELLECTUAL ADVANTAGES TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL, THAN HAVE EVER BEEN REALIZED IN ANY AGE OR COUNTRY.

Wilderness Utopias

- Brook Farm
 - Established in 1841 by transcendentalist intellectuals
 - Survived until 1846
 - Main building burned
 - Community deep in debt

Wilderness Utopias

- Oneida Community
 - Founded in New York in 1848
 - Practiced “complex marriage” (system where men and women engaged in sexual relations without marriage)
 - Selective breeding to produce superior offspring
 - Lasted for about 30 years

Members of the Oneida Community



Wilderness Utopias

- Shakers
 - Led by Mother Ann Lee
 - Set up communal religious communities
 - Prohibited sexual relations and marriage
 - Died out by 1940s

The Dawn of Scientific Achievement

- Americans more interested in practical applications than pure science
 - Borrowed European ideas and adapting them to practical needs
 - Nathaniel Bowditch – practical ocean navigation
 - Matthew F. Maury – ocean and wind currents

The Dawn of Scientific Achievement

- American scientists
 - Benjamin Silliman – chemist and geologist at Yale
 - Louis Agassiz – biologist at Harvard; pushed for research over memorization
 - Asa Gray – botanist at Harvard; published many (350) books
 - John J. Audubon – painted birds and published Birds of America

The Dawn of Scientific Achievement

- American health
 - Small pox, yellow fever, malaria, and other epidemics
 - Bad health (“rheumatics”, “miseries”, chills) widespread
 - Caused by bad diet, eating too quickly, sweating and cooling quickly, ignorance of germs and sanitation

The Dawn of Scientific Achievement

- American medicine
 - Primitive medicine
 - Bleeding was a “cure” that killed many
 - Poor teeth caused much suffering; rotten teeth ripped out without anesthetic
 - Life expectancy short (50 for whites; less for blacks)
 - Patent medicines, fad diets, home remedies used
 - Surgery performed by tying patient down, having him drink whiskey (to dull pain) and then sawed/cut as fast as possible
 - 1840s – ether and laughing gas finally used as anesthetics

Artistic Achievements

- Architecture
 - US copied European forms
 - 1820s – 1850 – Greek and Roman forms
 - 1850 – Gothic forms (arches and large windows)
 - Jefferson best architect in US
 - Designed Monticello (his mansion) and University of Virginia

Artistic Achievements

- Painting weak in US
 - People had to work for shelter; had little free time
 - No wealthy patrons (supporters) of arts to sit and pay for portraits
 - Puritan belief that art was waste of time and obscene

Artistic Achievements

- Important American painters
 - Gilbert Stuart – painted Washington; worked in Britain
 - Charles Wilson Peale – painted Washington in US
 - John Trumball – painted scenes from Revolutionary War (had served in war)
- Nationalistic (post-War of 1812) painters
 - Hudson River school – romantic paintings of local landscapes
- Daguerreotype – early type of photography
 - Invented in 1839; gave painters competition

An Example of a Hudson River School Painting



Artistic Achievements

- American music
 - Black music brought to white audience very popular
 - Minstrel shows (white actors with blackened faces)
 - Stephen C. Foster – white Pennsylvanian popularized “black” songs



A White
Actor in a
Minstrel
Show in
“Blackface”

The Blossoming of a National Literature

- Pre-1820 – practical Americans focused mainly on political books
 - The Federalist – Hamilton, Madison, Jay
 - Common Sense – Thomas Paine
 - Political speeches of Daniel Webster
 - Ben Franklin's Autobiography

The Blossoming of a National Literature

- Post-1820 – Knickerbocker Group (New York)
 - Group of writers who wrote great American literature
 - Fueled by nationalism after War of 1812 and more established character of eastern seaboard

The Blossoming of a National Literature

- Washington Irving
 - Knickerbocker's History of New York (caricatures of Dutch)
 - The Sketch Book (Dutch American tales like "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow")

The Blossoming of a National Literature

- James Fenimore Cooper
 - The Spy (about American Revolution)
 - Leatherstocking Tales (including Last of the Mohicans)
 - Tales of rifleman Natty Bumppo and his encounters with Indians
 - Contrasted undeveloped values of “natural men” with the corrupting influence of civilization

The Blossoming of a National Literature

- William Cullen Bryant
 - Poet; published “Thanatopsis” at 16
 - Served as editor of New York Evening Post
 - Set high standard for journalists in US

Trumpeters of Transcendentalism

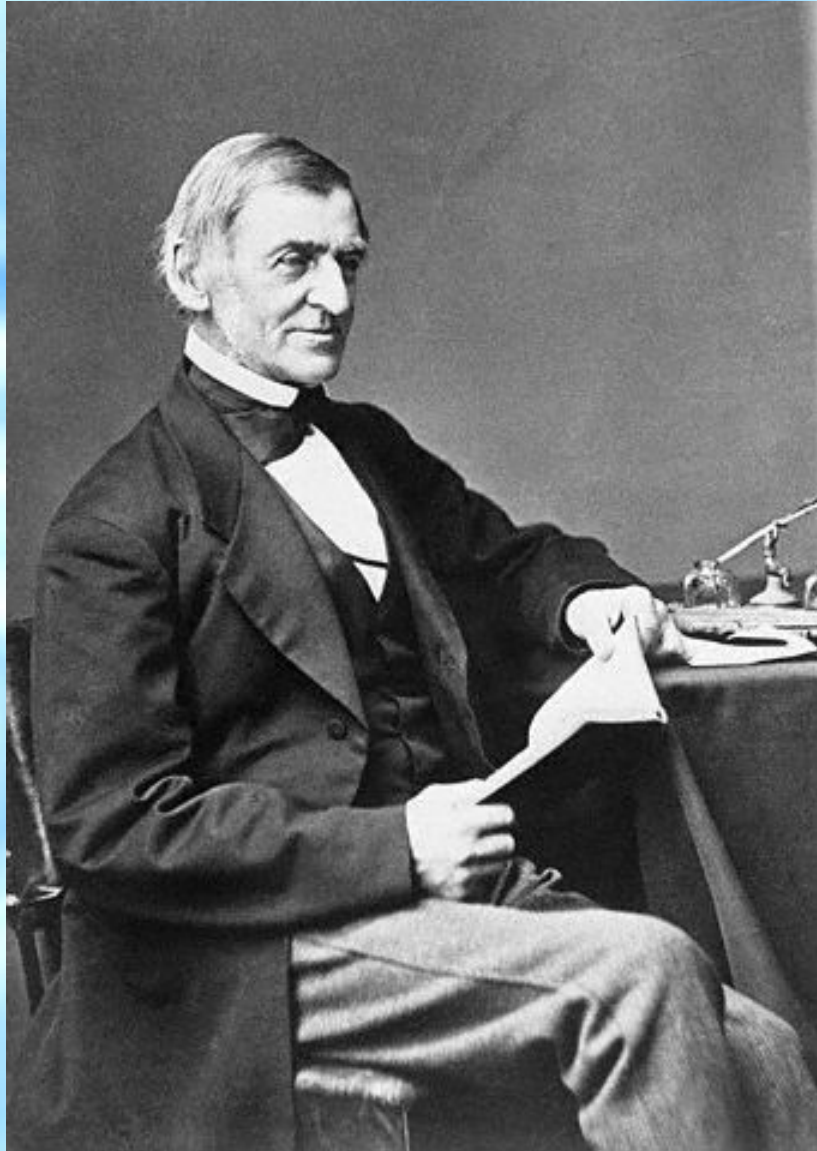
- 1825 – 1850 – flowering of American literature
 - Transcendentalism sprang out of this
- Roots of transcendentalism
 - Relaxing of strict Puritanism
 - Foreign influence (European romantics; Asian religions)

Trumpeters of Transcendentalism

- Transcendentalist beliefs
 - Truth “transcends” the senses
 - Every person has inner light through which to connect directly to God
 - Individualism and self-reliance
 - Hostility to authority and formal institutions
 - Dignity of the individual

Trumpeters of Transcendentalism

- Ralph Waldo Emerson
 - Trained as a Unitarian minister
 - Became lecturer on lyceum circuit
 - “The American Scholar” address at Harvard (1837)
 - Called for American intellectuals to dump European traditions in favor of their own
 - Essays on self-reliance, improvement, optimism, freedom
 - Strong critic of slavery; supported Union in Civil War



Ralph Waldo
Emerson

Trumpeters of Transcendentalism

- Henry David Thoreau
 - Poet and essay writer; nonconformist transcendentalist
 - Refused Massachusetts poll tax (because the government supported slavery)
 - Jailed for 1 night
 - Walden: Or Life in the Woods (1854)
 - Record of 2 years living in hut on Walden Pond
 - Reduce wants to have time for meditation and study
 - On the Duty of Civil Disobedience
 - Influenced Gandhi's and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s resistance to oppression through nonviolent confrontation



Henry David
Thoreau

Trumpeters of Transcendentalism

- Walt Whitman
 - Leaves of Grass (collection of poetry)
 - Romantic, emotional, unconventional
 - No titles, stanzas, rhymes, even regular meter at times
 - Frank talk about sex
 - Not appreciated fully until after his death
 - Celebrated America and pioneering spirit
 - “Poet Laureate of Democracy”

Walt Whitman



Glowing Literary Lights

- Other writers who were not associated with transcendentalism

Glowing Literary Lights

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
 - Harvard professor and very popular poet
 - Most admired poems were about American events
 - “Evangeline”, “The Song of Hiawatha”, “The Courtship of Miles Standish”

Glowing Literary Lights

- John Greenleaf Whittier
 - Poet who used talent to attack slavery
 - Profound influence on antislavery crusade

Glowing Literary Lights

- James Russell Lowell
 - Harvard writer
 - Most remembered as political satirist in Bigelow Papers
 - Ones in 1846 dealt with Mexican-American War; fiercely condemned Polk's desire to expand slavery

Glowing Literary Lights

- Oliver Wendell Holmes
 - Taught anatomy at Harvard
 - Poet, essayist, lecturer
 - “The Last Leaf” – poem about last white Indian of Boston Tea Party

Glowing Literary Lights

- Women writers in New England
 - Louisa May Alcott wrote *Little Women* and other books to help support family
 - Emily Dickinson wrote poetry as a recluse; over 2,000 poems published after her death

Glowing Literary Lights

- Southern writer
 - William Gilmore Simms wrote many (82) books about South during colonial and revolutionary times
 - Not appreciated by South because he came from humble background

Literary Individualists and Dissenters

- Edgar Allen Poe
 - Had a difficult life (orphaned, poor health, young wife died of tuberculosis, hunger, cold, poverty, debt)
 - Failed at suicide; became an alcoholic
 - Died early after being found drunk in a gutter in Baltimore

Literary Individualists and Dissenters

- Poe's writing
 - Lyric poetry (The Raven)
 - Short stories (especially horror)
 - “The Fall of the House of Usher”
 - Invented modern detective novel
 - Wrote about morbid topics; went against predominant optimistic tone of American society at the time
 - More appreciated in Europe than US

Literary Individualists and Dissenters

- Nathaniel Hawthorne
 - Grew up in Salem, Massachusetts around powerful memories of Puritan ancestors
 - The Scarlet Letter (1850)
 - Described psychological effects of sin on woman forced to wear “A” for adultery and the baby’s father, a Puritan minister
 - The Marble Faun (1860)
 - About some young American artists who see murder in Rome; explores omnipresence of evil and the past’s influence on the present

Literary Individualists and Dissenters

- Herman Melville
 - Worked in shipping as young man
 - Moby Dick (1851)
 - Story of good and evil in terms of conflict between Captain Ahab and Moby Dick
 - Whale rams the ship and sinks it; only 1 survivor
 - Sea continued on without regard to the deaths and destruction
 - Not appreciated in 1800s – too dark and depressing
 - Cynical 1900s would appreciate him
 - Died poor and unknown

Portrayers of the Past

- George Bancroft
 - “Father of American History”
 - Multi-volume, patriotic history of US to 1789

Portrayers of the Past

- William H. Prescott
 - Important accounts of the Spanish conquest of Mexico and Peru
- Francis Parkman
 - Books on the struggle between France and Britain for control of North America

Portrayers of the Past

- Most historians were from New England
 - Boston and area had well-educated upper class and libraries
 - History reflected “northern” (anti-slavery) bias until post-Civil War era