

Reform and Culture

1790 – 1860

America is a “City on a Hill”

“And we Americans are the peculiar,
chosen people, the Israel of our time;
we bear the ark of the liberties of the
world”

-- Melville

A Nation in Transition

- **Reform movements swept country include...**
 - **Alcohol Reform**
 - **Education**
 - **Religious (Second Great Awakening)**
 - **Tobacco**
 - **Medicines**
 - **Profanity**
 - **Mentally Ill**
 - **Women's Rights**
 - **Polygamy**

The Second Great Awakening

"Spiritual Reform From Within"
[Religious Revivalism]

**Social Reforms & Redefining the
Ideal of Equality**

Education

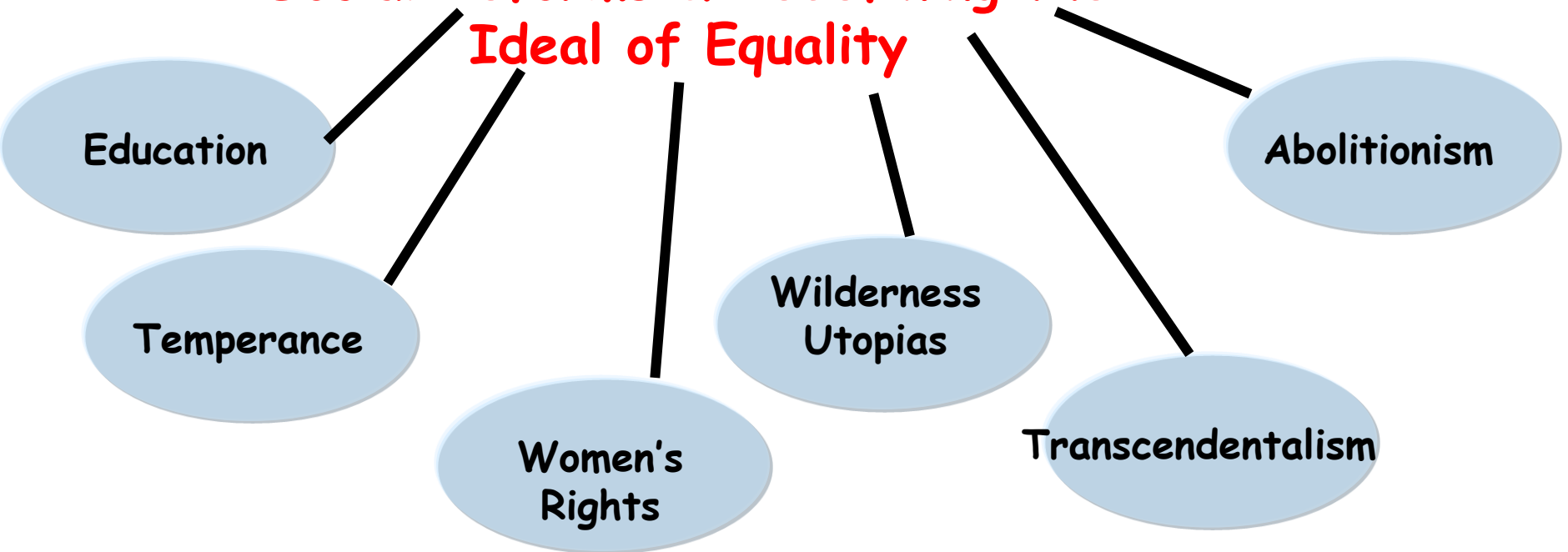
Temperance

Women's
Rights

Wilderness
Utopias

Transcendentalism

Abolitionism



The Rise of Popular Religion

In France, I had almost always seen the spirit of religion and the spirit of freedom pursuing courses diametrically opposed to each other; but in America, I found that they were intimately united, and that they reigned in common over the same country... Religion was the foremost of the political institutions of the United States.

-- Alexis de Tocqueville, 1832

1. Religion

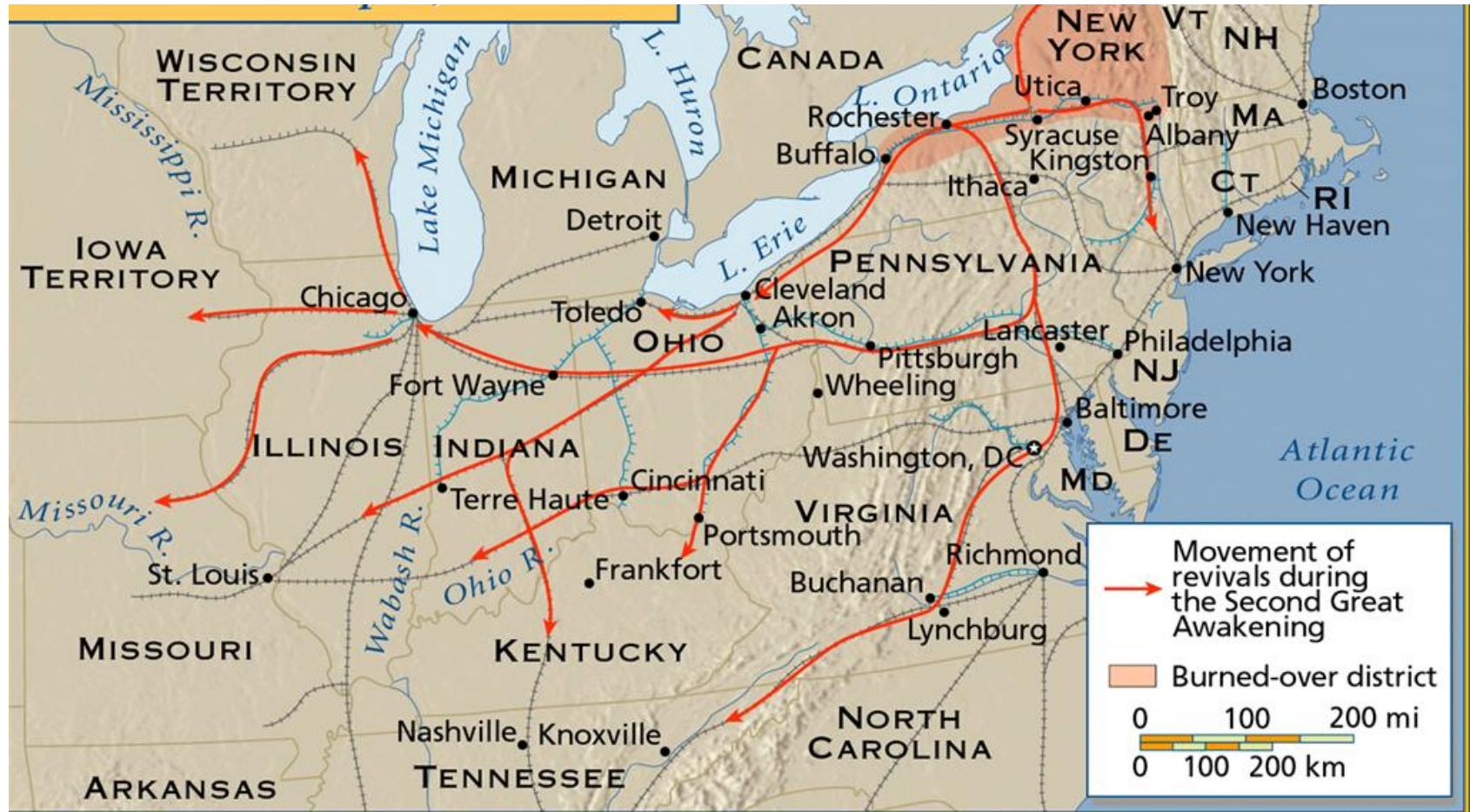
- **Church attendance regular**
- **New beliefs**
 - Deism
 - Unitarians (Former Puritans)
 - Mormons
 - Brigham Young led followers to Utah
 - Polygamy prevents Utah entry into Union



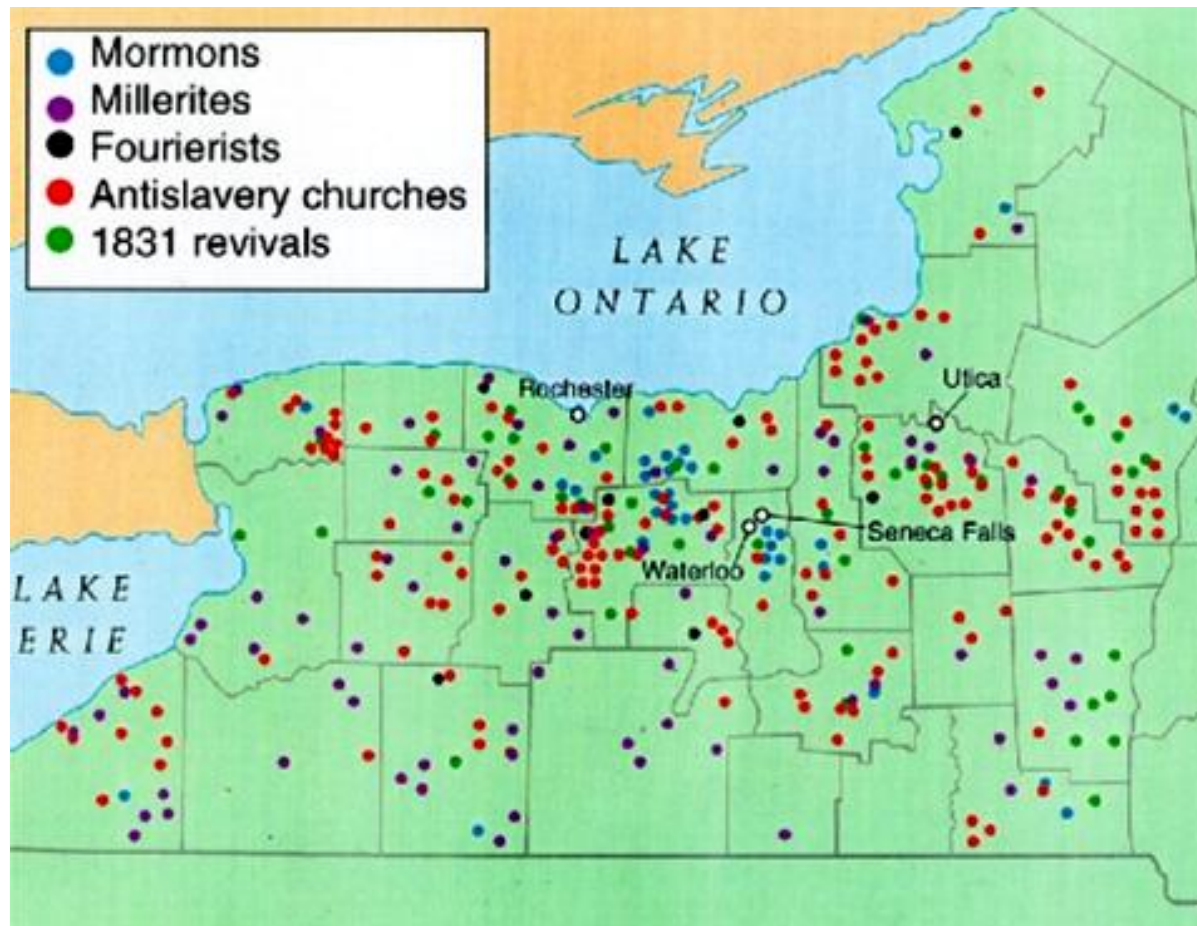
Violence Against Mormons



“The Benevolent Empire”: 1825 - 1846



The “Burned-Over” District in Upstate New York



1. Religion

- **Revivals lead to religious split**
 - **Presbyterian, Congregationalists, Unitarians**
 - **North/East**
 - **Methodist, Baptists**
 - **South/West**

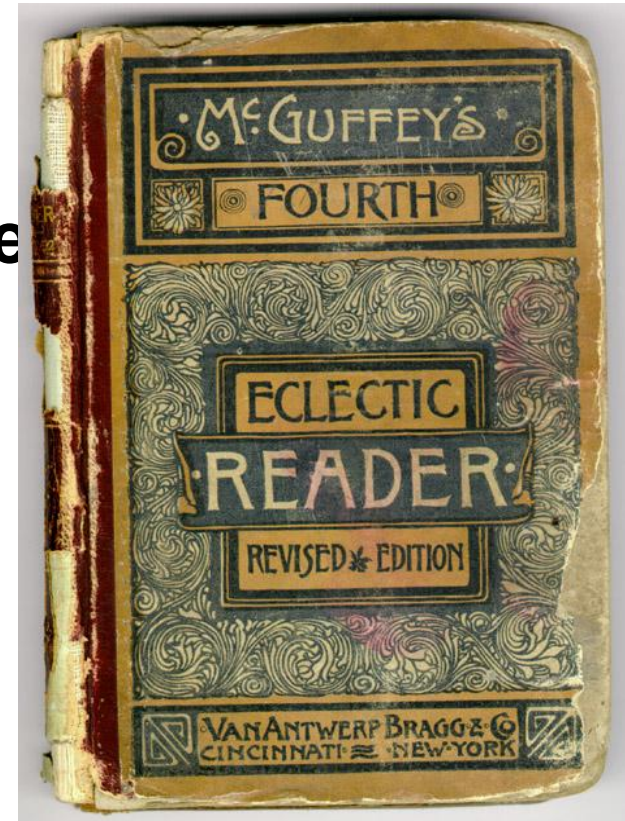


SACRAMENTAL SCENE IN A WESTERN FOREST.

Lith. of P. S. Duvall & Co. Phila.

2. Education

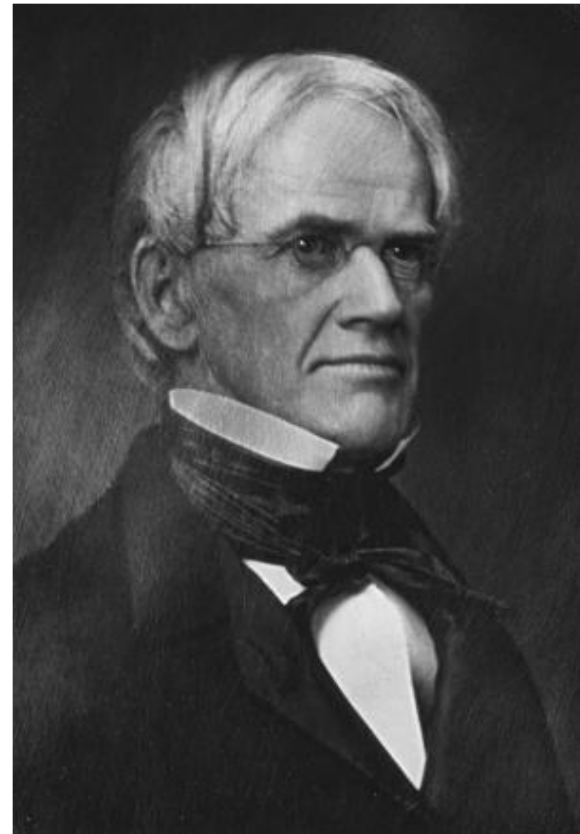
- Support gained for tax supported schools
- Concern over ignorant people having voting rights
- Poor teachers at first
- Horace Mann helps
- African-Am. except
- Noah Webster's Dictionary
- McGuffey readers



Horace Mann (1796-1859)

**"Father of
American Education"**

- Children are clay
- Children should be "molded"
- Discouraged corporal punishment
- Established state teacher-training programs

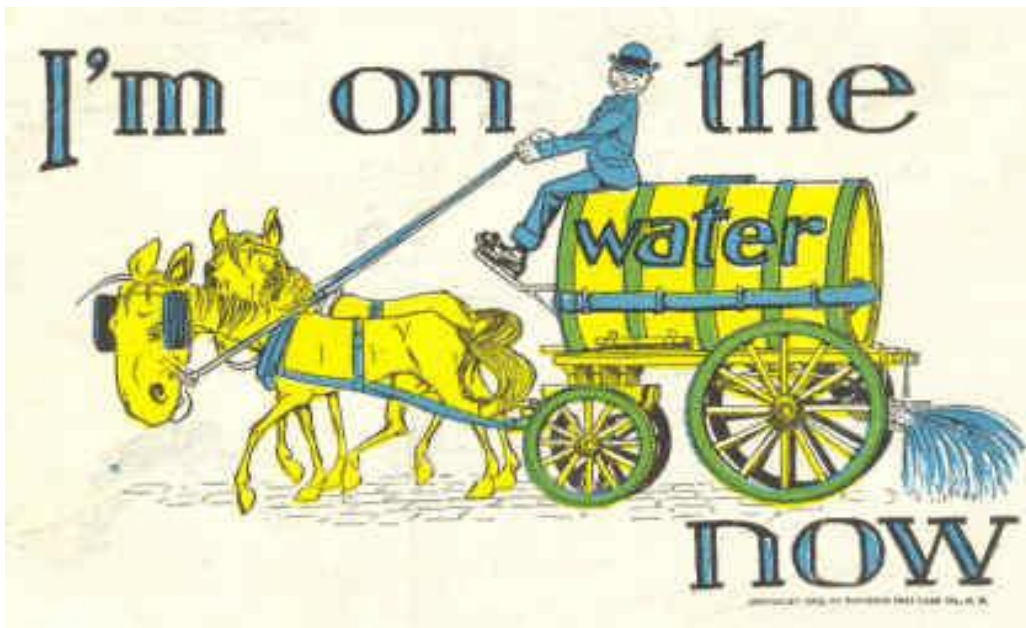


2. Education

- **2nd Great Awakening leads to schools**
 - Taught Latin, Greek, math, philosophy
- **First state supported University – N. Carolina**
- **Women not educated**
- **Libraries, public lectures, magazines flourished**

3. Temperance

- Drunkenness wide spread
- American Temperance Society founded to combat this
 - Make some early strides, but does not stick
- Women affected the most by this



Temperance Movement

1826 - American Temperance Society
"Demon Rum"!

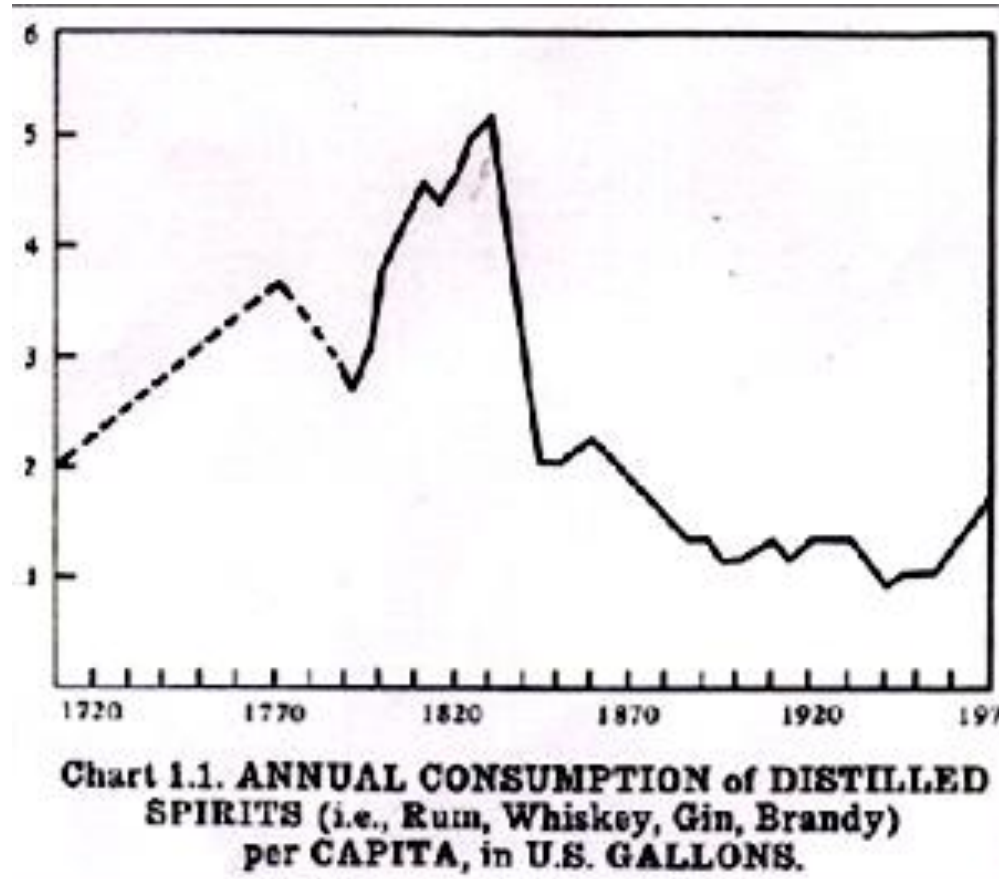


Frances Willard



The Beecher Family

Annual Consumption of Alcohol



4. “Separate Spheres” Concept (Women’s Rights)

“Cult of Domesticity”

- A woman’s “sphere” was in the home
- Her role was to “civilize” her husband and family.

EARLY 19C WOMEN

1. Unable to vote.
2. Legal status of a minor
3. Single → could own her own property
4. Married → no control over her property or children
5. Could not initiate divorce.
6. Couldn't make wills, sign a contract, or bring suit in court without husband's permission

Cult of Domesticity

The 2nd Great Awakening inspired women to improve society.



Angelina Grimké



Sarah Grimké

- Southern Abolitionists



Lucy Stone

American Women's
Suffrage Assoc.
edited *Woman's Journal*

Leading to Women's Rights

1840 → split in the abolitionist movement over women's role in it.

World Anti-Slavery Convention



Lucretia Mott

Susan B. Anthony

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

1848 → Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments

Seneca Falls, NY



- Adopt Declaration of Sentiments
- Demands right to vote
- Starts modern women's movement

5. Wilderness Utopias

- **An attempt to society**
 - **New Harmony – work, save, pray, work**
 - **Brook Farm – Transcendentalism**
 - **Oneida Community – Free love, birth control**
 - **Shakers – no marriage**
- **Reaction industry, society Modernizing etc.**





Shaker Hymn

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'Tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.*

*When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
'Till by turning, turning we come round right.*

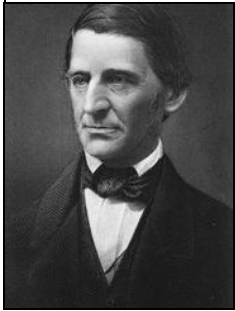
6. Transcendentalism

- **The cultivation of reasoning (black/white)**
- **“Transcend” the limits of intellect and allow the emotions, the SOUL, to create an original relationship with the Universe**
- **Thus, the role of the reformer was to restore man to that divinity which God had endowed them**

6. Transcendentalism

- **Ralph Waldo Emerson**
 - **Practical philosopher – self-government**
 - **Urged writers to throw off European Traditions**
- **Henry David Thoreau**
 - ***Civil Disobedience***
 - ***Walden Pond***

Transcendentalist Intellectuals/Writers *CONCORD, MA*



Ralph Waldo
Emerson

Nature
(1832)

Self-Reliance
(1841)

"The American
Scholar" (1837)



Henry David
Thoreau

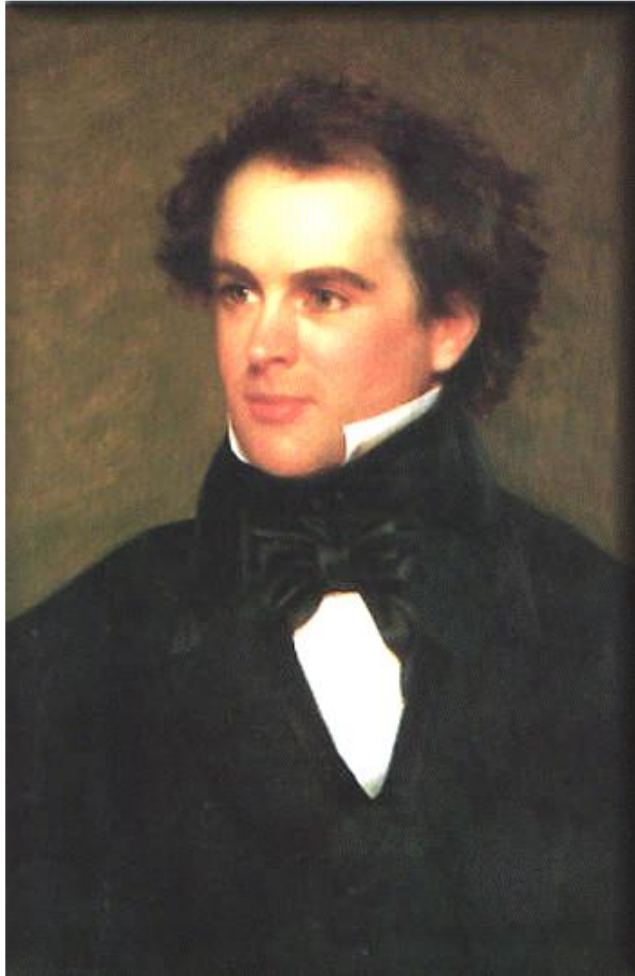
Walden
(1854)

*Resistance to Civil
Disobedience*
(1849)

The Transcendentalist Agenda

- **Free Slaves**
- **Help the poor**
- **Educate people**
- **Provide health care**
- **Spread Peace and Justice**

A Transcendentalist Critic: Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864)



Their pursuit of the ideal
led to a distorted view
of human nature and
possibilities

One should accept the
world as an imperfect
place:

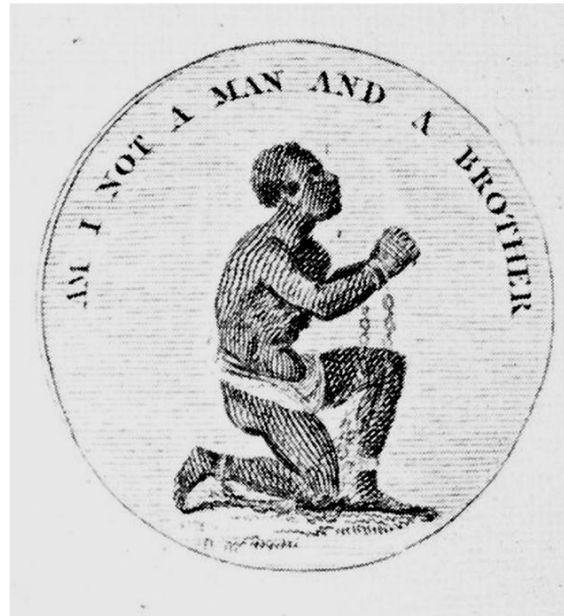
- * *Scarlet Letter*
- * *House of the Seven*

Other Major Writers (Non-Transcendentalists)

- Longfellow
- Lowell
- Holmes
- Alcott – *Little Women*
- Dickinson – poems
- Poe – Dissenter, detective novels, poems
- Hawthorne – *House of Seven Gables*
- Melville – *Moby Dick*
- Historians
 - Bancroft – First US History book, “Father of American History”

7. Early Abolitionist Movement

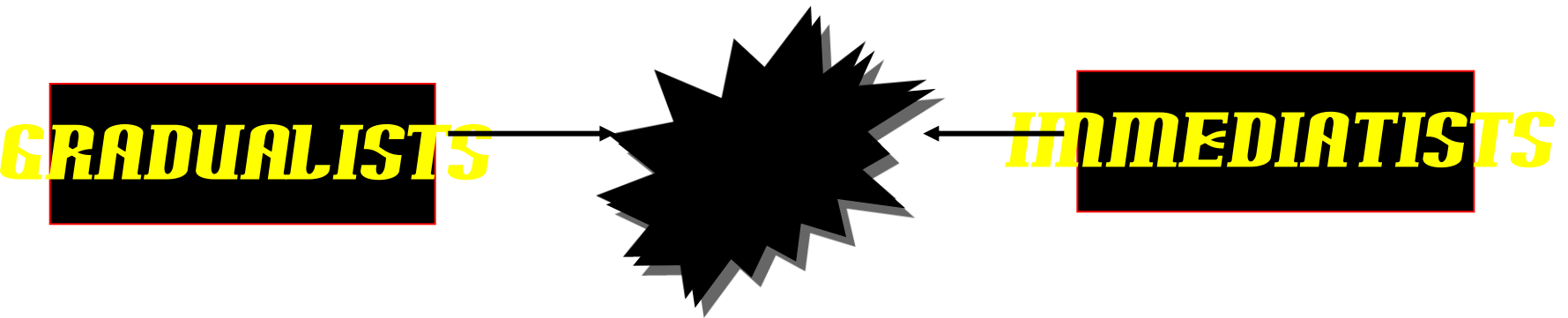
1816 → American Colonization Society created (gradual, voluntary emancipation.)



7. Abolitionist Movement

Create a free slave state in Liberia, West Africa.

No real anti-slavery sentiment in the North in the 1820s & 1830s.



VA Slave Revolts Drive the Point Home

- Led by Nat Turner and Gabriel Prosser
- Fed white southern fears about slave rebellions
- Led to harsh laws in the South against fugitive slaves
- Southerners who favored Abolition were intimidated into silence

Anti-Slavery Alphabet



A is an Abolitionist—
A man who wants to free
The wretched slave—and give to all
An equal liberty.



B is a Brother with a skin
Of somewhat darker hue,
But in our Heavenly Father's sight,
He is as dear as you.



C is the Cotton-field, to which
This injured brother's driven,
When, as the white man's slave, he toils
From early morn till even.



D is the Driver, cold and stern,
Who follows, whip in hand,
'To punish those who dare to rest,
Or disobey command.

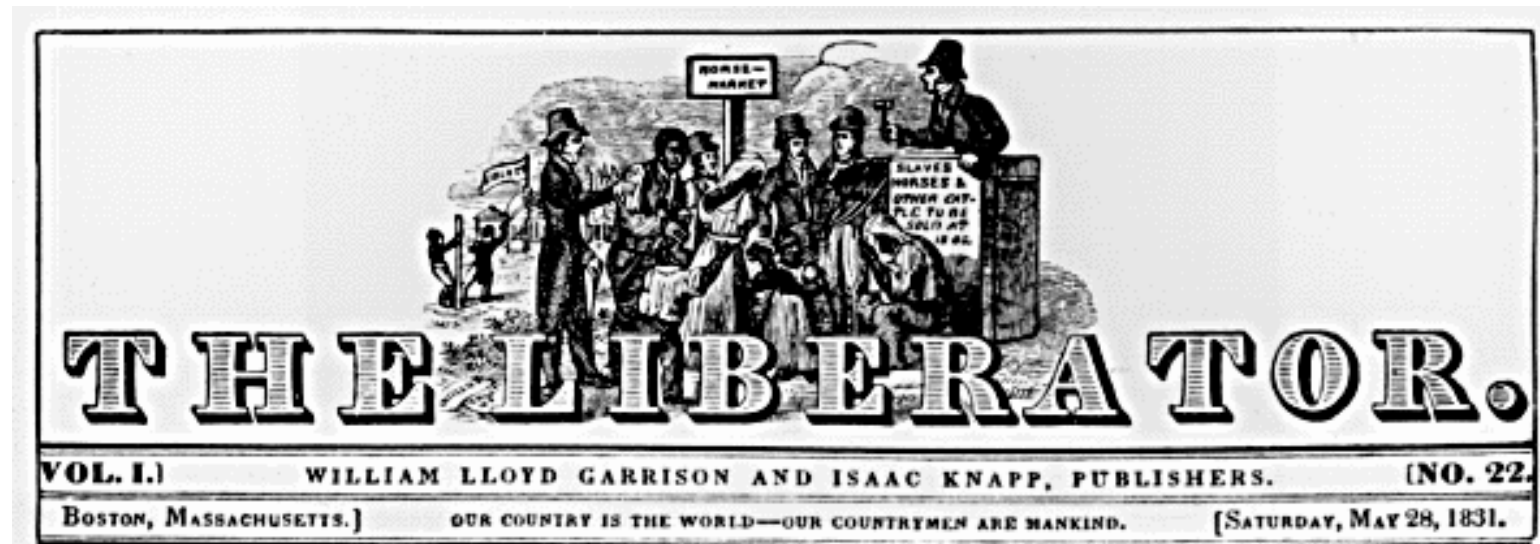
William Lloyd Garrison

(1801-1879)



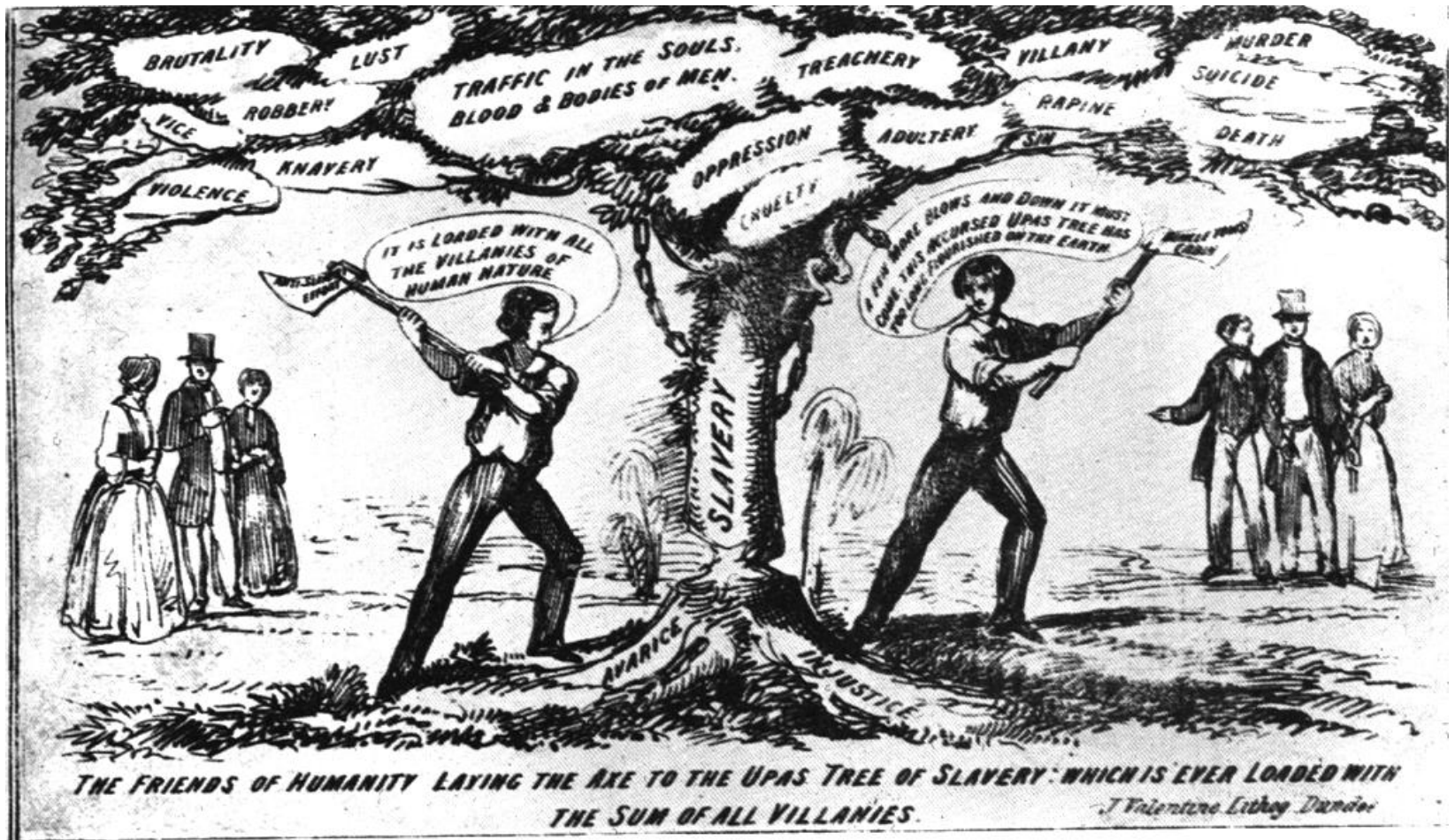
- **Slavery & Masonry undermined republican values.**
- **Immediate emancipation with NO compensation.**
- **Slavery was a moral, not an economic issue.**
- **Southerners alarmed by growing abolitionist strength**
- **Starts...**

The Liberator



Premiere issue → January 1, 1831

The Tree of Slavery—Loaded with the Sum of All Villanies!



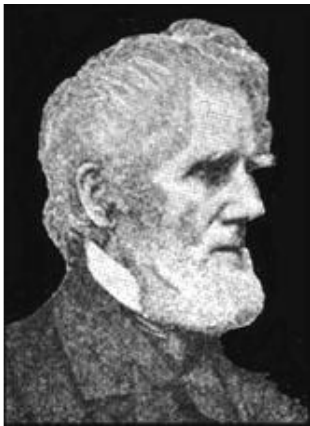
Other White Abolitionists



Lewis Tappan



James Birney



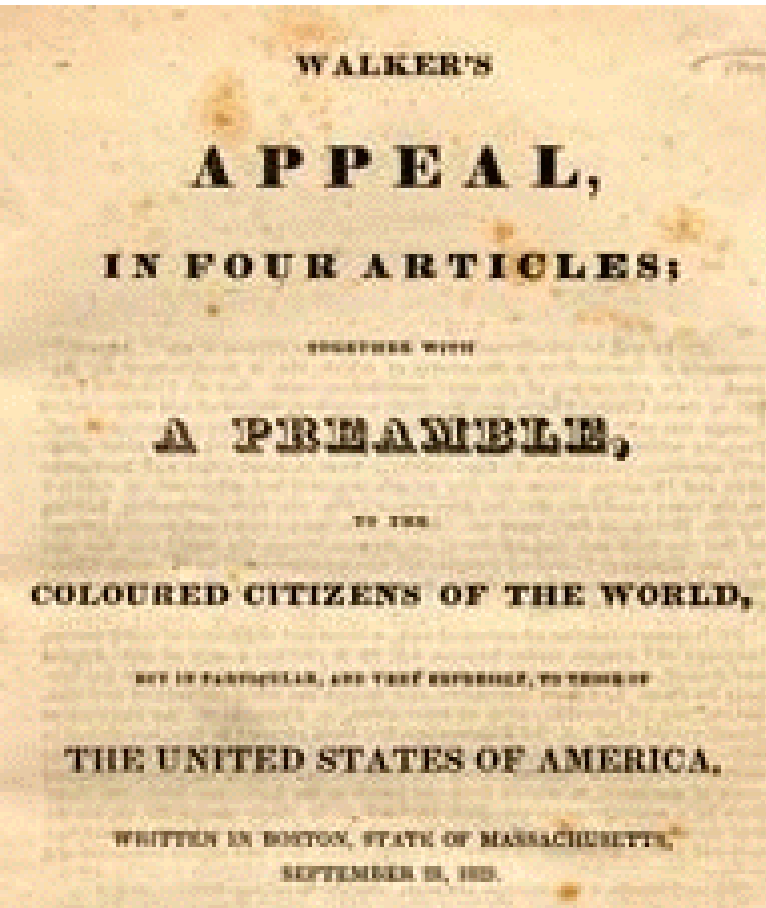
Arthur Tappan

**Liberty Party.
Ran for President
1840 & 1844.**

Black Abolitionists

David Walker

(1785-1830)



1829 → *Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World*

Fight for freedom rather than wait to be set free by whites.

Science and Culture

- **Americans interested in the Practical**
 - **Plow**
 - **Navigation**
 - **Ocean winds**
- **Medicine primitive**
- **Lifespan low**
- **Surgery 1790 – hold people down**
 - **1860 – ether**

Culture

- Jefferson – best architect
- Painters
 - Stuart
 - Trumbull – Revo. War paintings
 - Peale



Culture

- **Writing – practical, Federalist papers**
 - **After War of 1812 picks up**
 - **Knickerbocker group (first internationally recognized)**
 - **Irving, Cooper, Bryant (homework)**

The Works of John C. Calhoun II

- We are charged by Providence, not only with the happiness of this great rising people, but, in a considerable degree, with that of the human race. We have a government of a new order, perfectly distinct from all others which have preceded it--a government founded on the rights of man; resting, not on authority, not on prejudice, not on superstition, but reason. If it shall succeed, as fondly hoped by its founders, it will be the commencement of a new era in human affairs. All civilized governments must, in the course of time, conform to its principles. in Richard K. Cralle, ed.,