

Reform Era of the Early 1800's

Romanticism vs. Reality

- Americanism (Nationalism)
- Cooper's *Last of the Mohicans* describes challenges and fascination with west
- Hudson River School of Art
- James Audubon - Birds
- Independent individual who used nature to guide
- Also a need for social order due to nature's "wild side"

Romanticism vs. Reality

- *Leaves of Grass* – Whitman's celebration of democracy
- Melville – Moby Dick – personal struggle could lead to fulfillment or defeat
- Poe – The Raven – pain and horror are real
- Southern writers glorified slavery OR wrote of the peculiarities of normal "real" southern life sometimes with humor (opened door later for Mark Twain)

Transcendentalism

- Liberate from confines of socially accepted reasoning and “transcend” to let nature, reason, and individualism rule choices
- Led by Emerson, Thoreau, Dickinson, Hawthorne, & Whitman
- Believed in Civil Disobedience against unjust laws (Thoreau refused to pay taxes)
- Brook Farm

Transcendentalism

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

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”

The Transcendentalist Agenda

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

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)

Utopian Societies

- Looking for self-realization as a community. Equality of all members
- Self run communities
- New Harmony – economic failure, but social goals maintained
- Oneida – free love, protect women from unwanted pregnancy. Raise children communally. Eugenics
- Shakers – Mother Ann Lee was leader. Women's roles redefined

Redefining Gender Roles

- Utopian Societies advocated equality for women
- Women in societies had communal and legal protection or advocacy
- Opportunities available for women to work, lead
- Abandon tradition and establish right of individual choices
- Opposition practices Cult of Domesticity

Mormons

- Believed to be too radical (polygamy and secrecy led to suspicion). Faced persecution in New York
- Joseph Smith killed in Illinois while in prison. Brigham Young takes 12,000 on trek to Utah & Salt Lake City
- Very organized and controlled unlike Utopian Societies. Emphasized the structure of the family
- Provided security and order for those looking for it

Revivalism & 2nd Great Awakening

- Salvation of the individual is in the hands of the individual is stressed
- Protestant revival
- New York
- Crusade against immorality
- Many women saw it as a lifeline to liberty
- Mechanism to control immoral immigrants?
- Finney, Cartwright – Burned Over District

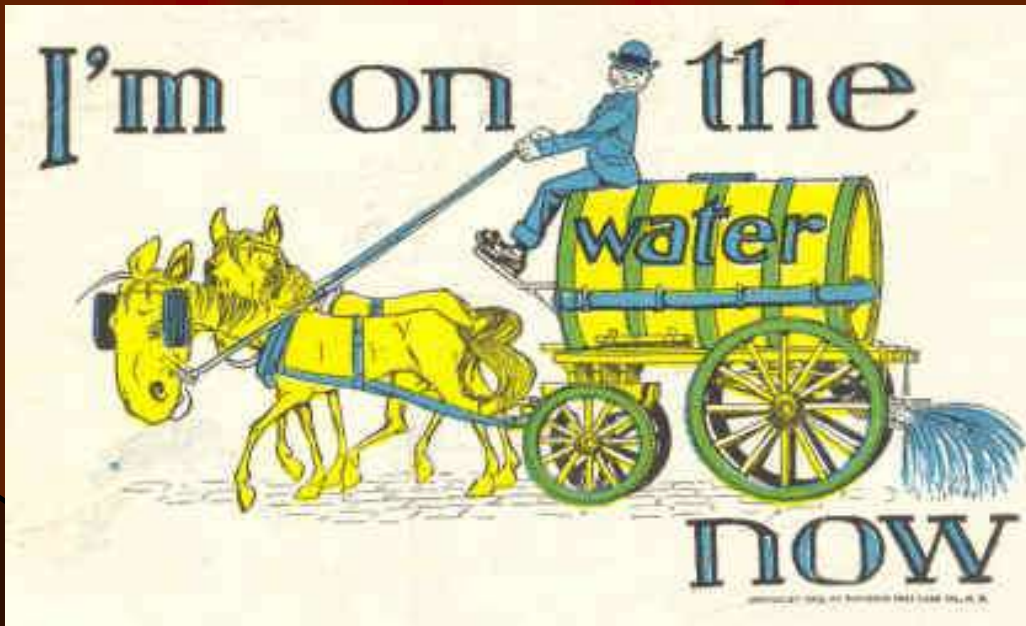
Temperance Crusade

- Alcohol is burden on women (loss of husbands money, values, abuse)
- Alcohol supply is growing
- People drink 3X as much as today
- Eased loneliness, stress. Leisure activity
- American Society for the Promotion of Temperance
- Preached the truth/Personal Experiences
- States change laws first (Maine in 1851)
- Neal Dow will lead crusade to create Deluder Laws
- Protestant vs. Catholic issue (immigration)



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"!

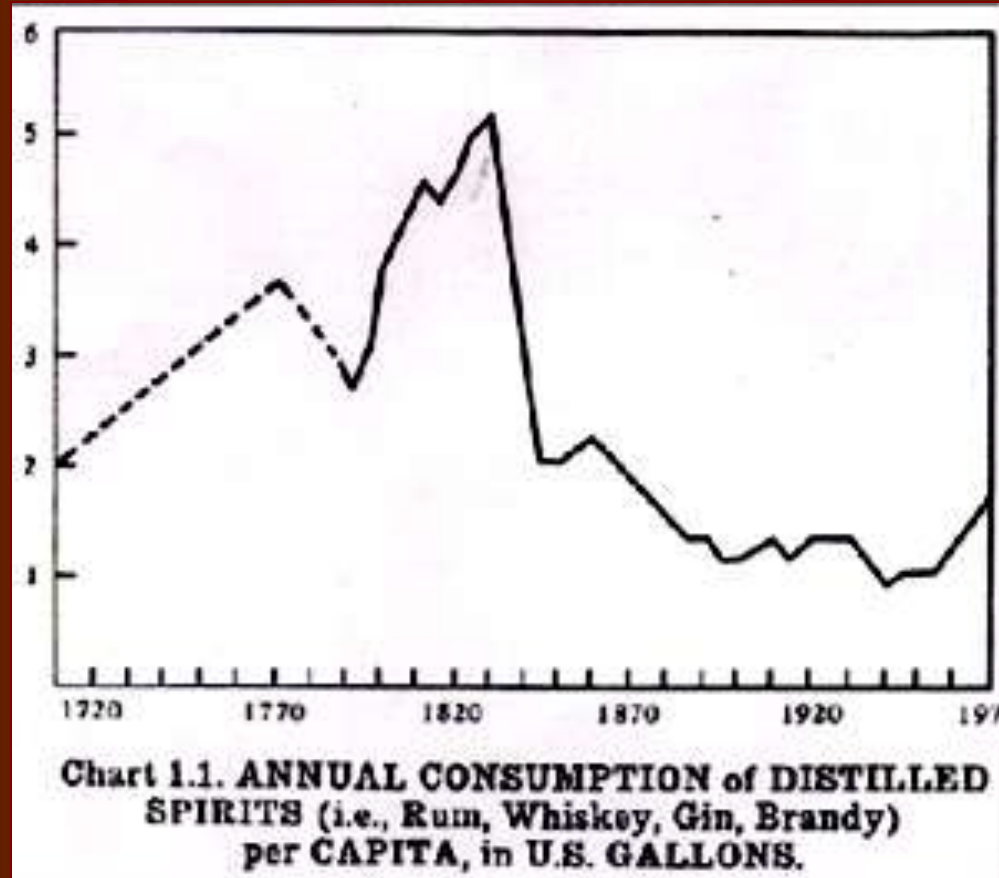


Frances Willard



The Beecher Family

Annual Consumption of Alcohol

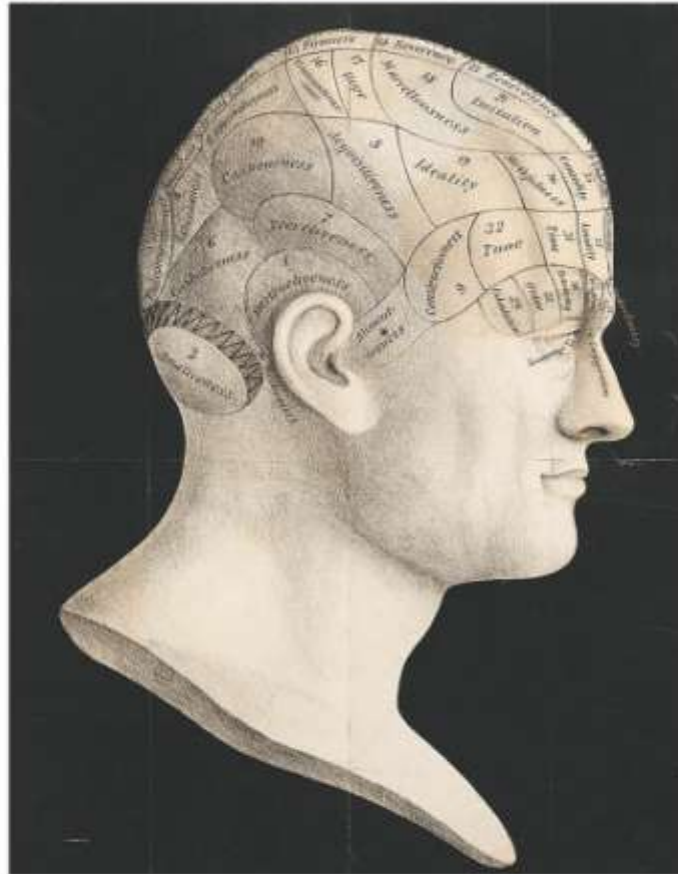


Health & Medical Science

- Establishing city health boards due to epidemics
- Health Spas / Hot Springs - Hydrotherapy
- Sylvester Graham
- Phrenology – used to determine fitness for certain careers
- Ether and antiseptics
- Wash Hands to stop spreading disease

Phrenology

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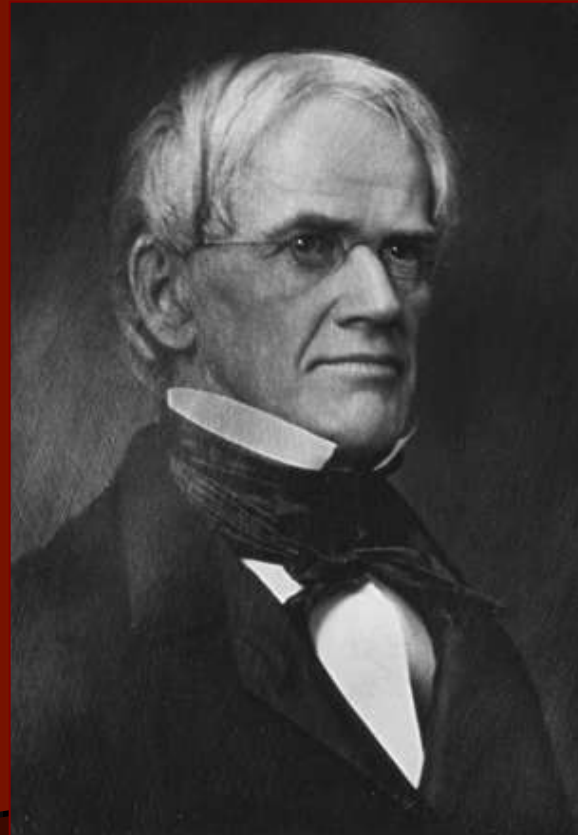
Education

- Societal obligation to tap capacity of all
- Social values installed to resist instability
- Horace Mann – educated electorate = democracy protected, better vocations
- Massachusetts
- New schools, teachers colleges, state funded schools, mandatory attendance
- Disparities between N, S, & W in training of teachers and access to schools
- Think for self vs. Listen and obey schools
- 94% Literacy Rate by Civil War
- Galludet School

Horace Mann (1796-1859)

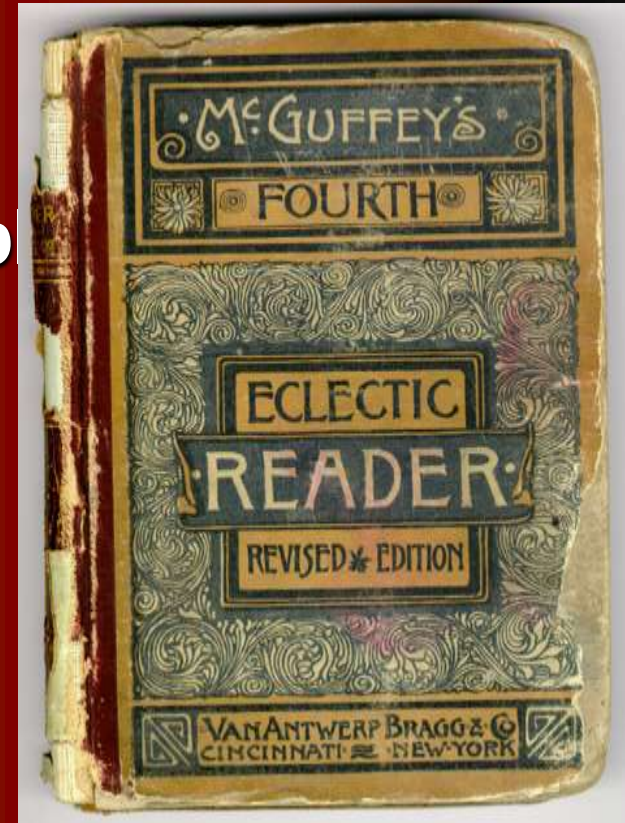
**"Father of
American Education"**

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



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



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**

Prison Reform

- Penitentiaries and Asylums replace “holes in the ground
- Dorothea Dix – led crusade to treat those who are mentally ill and rehabilitate those criminals in prison
- Train the criminals to become productive parts of society

Feminism & Women's Rights

- Started by advocating the abolition of slavery and denied access to the movement by men
- Often linked to Abolition Movement
- Grimke's, Mott, Stanton, Anthony, Beecher's
- Seneca Falls Convention & Declaration of Rights & Sentiments
- Emma Willard founds Troy Female Seminary
- Amelia Bloomer
- Retain maiden names
- Secondary status in other movements hurts plight of women
- Civil War puts damper on progress

“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

- Education – Mount Holyoke, Oberlin colleges
- Developed into consumers for family
- Develop more relationships with other women
- Had own magazines and books that focused on homemaking and not politics
- Moral compass of the family
- Tough for unmarried women
- Domestic service became a viable living for middle to lower class

The Changing Family

- With more movement to cities, less control of children – search for jobs
- Less children needed – Abortion & Birth Control issues
- Separation of work and domestic life
- Child centered families
- Look towards future – dictates decisions of family life

Cult of Domesticity

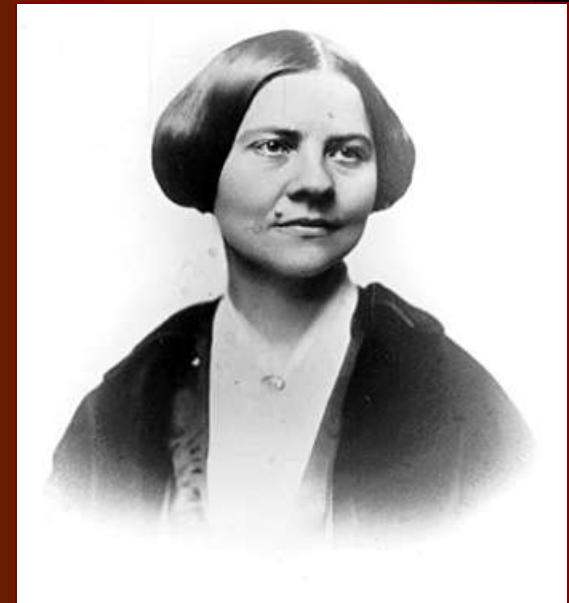
The 2nd Great Awakening inspired women to improve society.



Angelina Grimké



Sarah Grimké



Lucy Stone

American Women's
Suffrage Assoc.

edited *Woman's Journal*

- Southern Abolitionists

Leading to Women's Rights

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

London → World Anti-Slavery Convention



Lucretia Mott



Susan B. Anthony



Elizabeth Cady Stanton

1848 → Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments

FREDERICK DOUGLASS, AMY POST, CATHARINE STEBBINS, and ELIZABETH C. STANTON, and was unanimously adopted, as follows :

DECLARATION OF SENTIMENTS.

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one portion of the family of man to assume among the people of the earth a position different from that which they have hitherto occupied, but one to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes that impel them to such a course.

Seneca Falls, NY



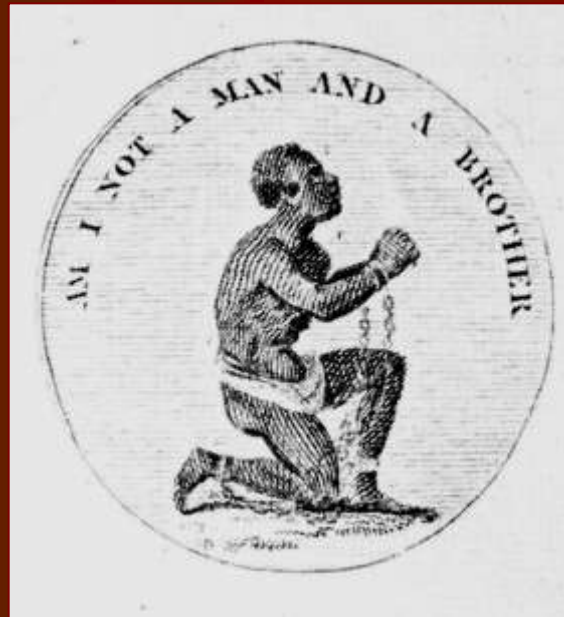
- **Adopt Declaration of Sentiments**
- **Demands right to vote**
- **Starts modern women's movement**

Abolitionists

- Gradual vs. Immediate emancipation
- American Colonization Society
- Garrison and *The Liberator*
- Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth
- Many northerners advocate abolition but do not want their society mixed with the freed slaves
- Elijah Lovejoy
- Uncle Tom's Cabin
- Liberty Party vs. Free Soil Party
- The "peculiar" institution
- Slave Rebellions – Nat Turner

Early Abolitionist Movement

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



Abolitionist Movement

Create a free slave state in Liberia, West Africa.

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

Gradualists



Immediatists

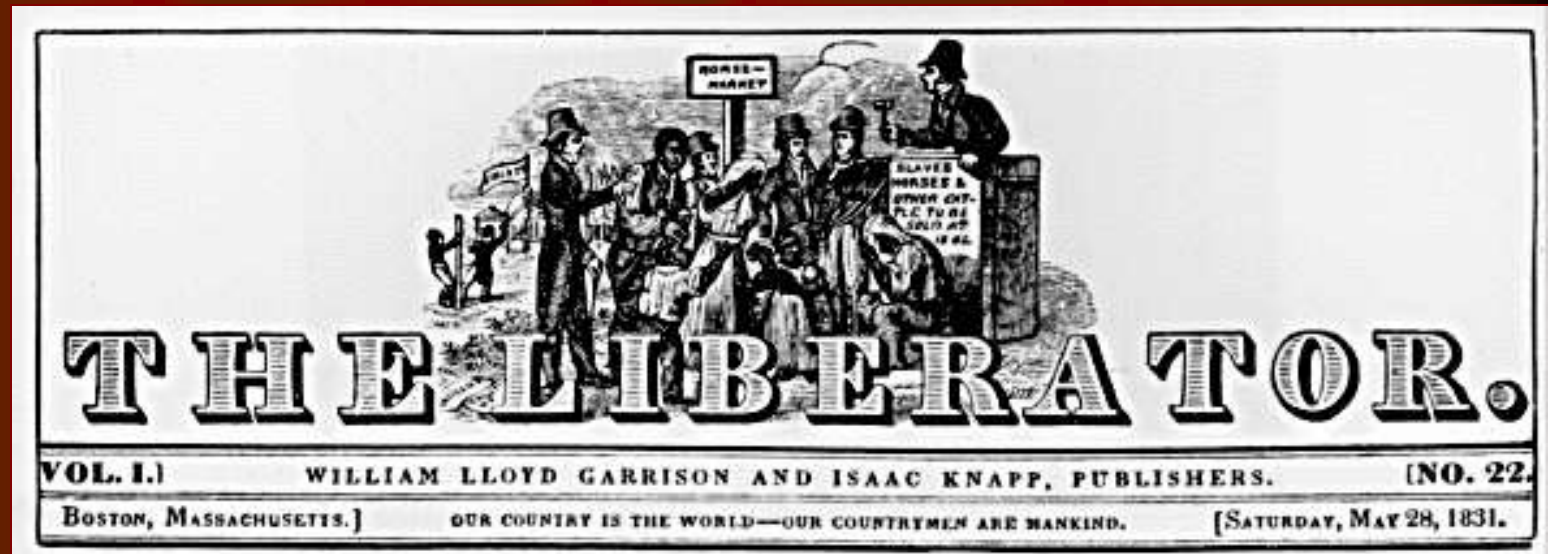
William Lloyd Garrison

(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

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.

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