

# **Chapter 15: The Ferment of Reform and Culture (1790-1860)**

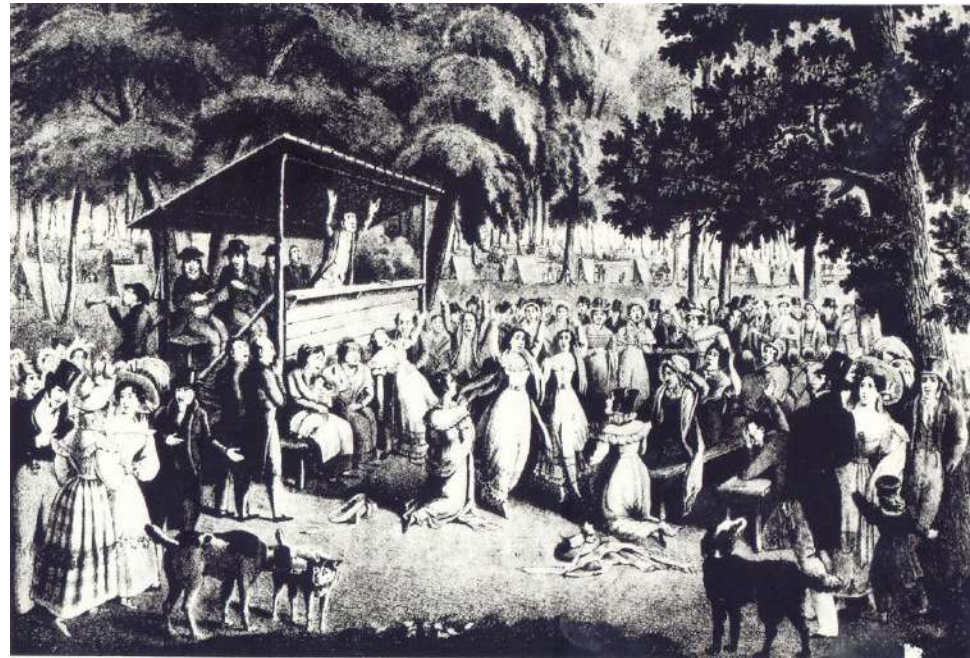
# Reviving Religion

- Church attendance was regular in 1850 (3/4 pop) but has lost some of the strict Calvinist pressures
- Many relied on Deism (reason rather revelation); rejected original sin, denied Christ's divinity but believed in supreme being that created universe
- God existed in only 1 person not in orthodox trinity; stressed goodness of human nature
- Belief in free will & salvation through good work; pictured God as loving father
- Appealed to intellectuals w/ rationalism & optimism
- Many founding fathers like Jefferson and Franklin were Deists.



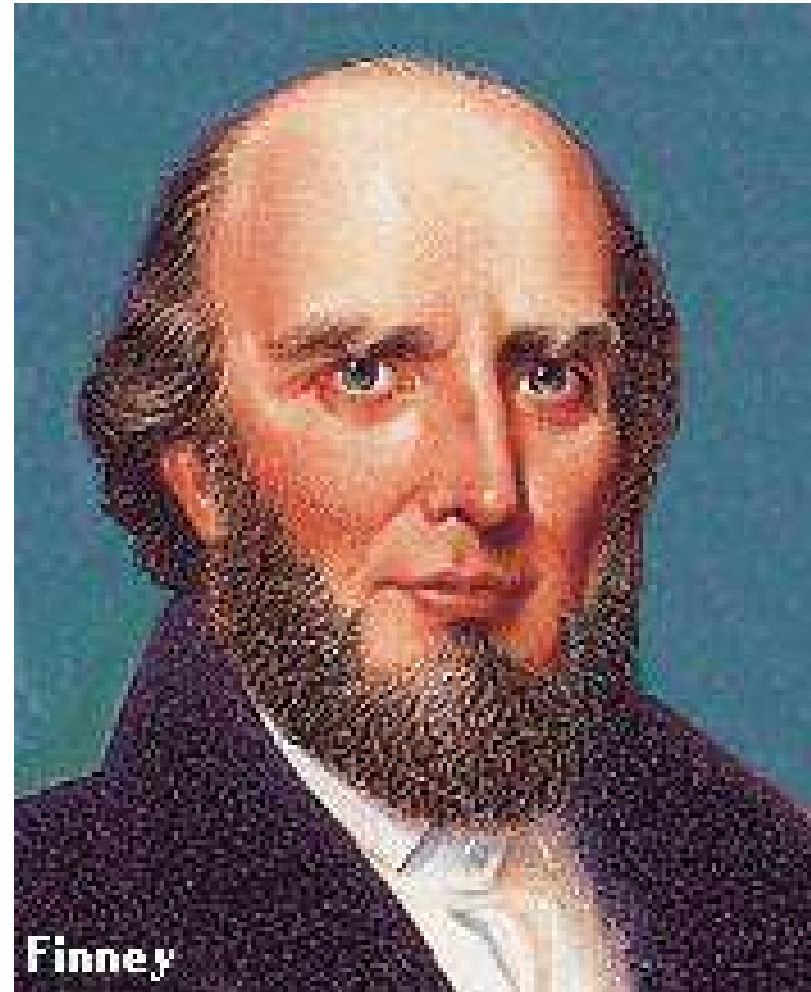
# Reviving Religion

- Liberalism in religion started in 1800
- **Second Great Awakening:**  
Tidal wave of spiritual fervor that resulted in prison & church reform, temperance cause, women's movement, abolish slavery (larger than last)
- Spread to masses through huge “camp meetings”
- East went to West to Christianize Indians
- Transcendentalist believe that knowledge came from an “inner light not just from observations



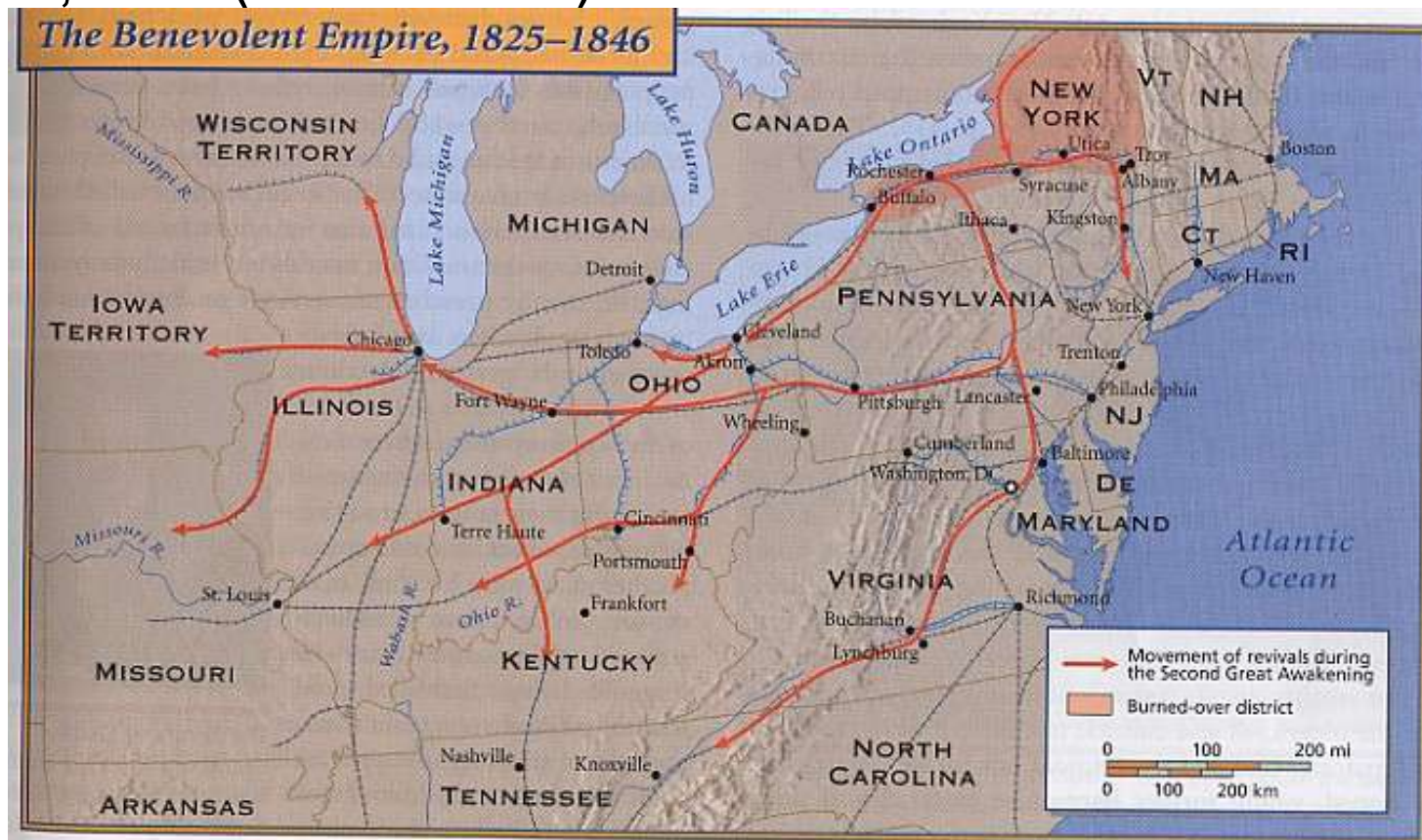
# Reviving Religion

- **Methodists & Baptists** stressed personal conversion
- Peter Cartwright-best known of “circuit riders”
- Charles Grandison Finney were greatest of revival preachers
- Led massive revivals in Rochester & New York
- According to John Humphrey Noyes, the key to happiness is the suppression of selfishness.



# Denominational Diversity

- Revival furthered fragmentation of religious faiths
- New York w/ Puritans preaching “hellfire” known as “Burned-out District”
- Millerites (Adventists)-Christ return to earth on Oct 22, 1844 (didn't come)

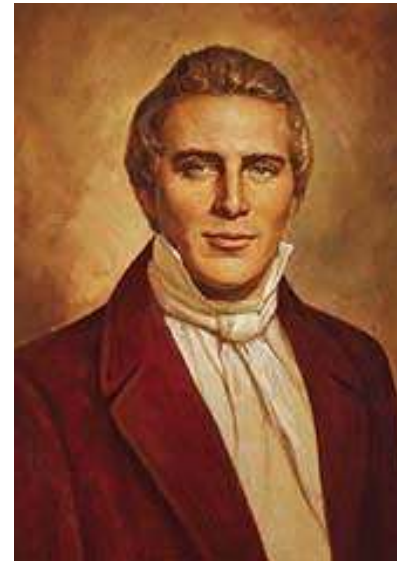


# Denominational Diversity

- Widened lines between classes & region (like 1st)
- Religion further split with the issue on slavery (Methodist, Presbyterians split)
- Many communities try to create local colleges to support faith but lack intellectual rigor

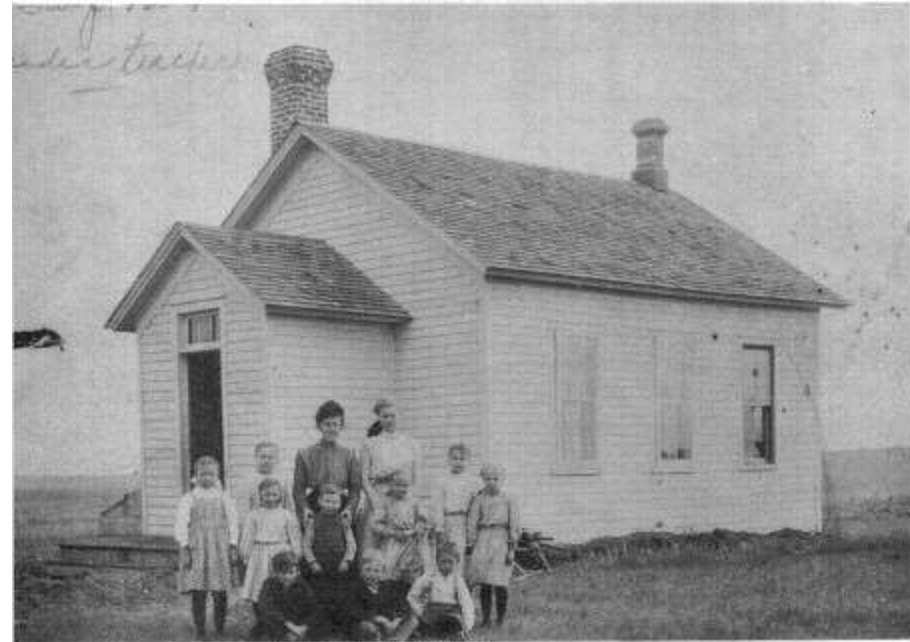
# A Desert Zion in Utah

- Joseph Smith (1830) came up from the “burned –over district” in NY.  
Creates: Mormon & Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- Antagonism toward Mormons for polygamy, drilling militia, voting as a unit
- Smith murdered by a mob but succeeded by **Brigham Young** who led followers to Utah
- Grew quickly in 1850s by birth & immigration from Europe
- Federal gov. marched to Utah when Young became governor. But no bloodshed
- Polygamy prevented Utah entrance to US ‘till 1896



# Free School for a Free People

- Tax-supported primary school was opposed because it related to pauperism & would be used by the poor
- Gradually support because “brats” might grow up to be rabbles with voting rights so it was agreed to (wealthy parents sent children to private school still)



Weber Township #4

Weber Township # 4 Jesse Lauder, Teacher  
Clara Romundstad, Agnes Enberg, Alma Enberg, Bertha Spande, Selma  
Loseth, Ethel Enberg, Gertrude Loseth, Oscar Peterson, Lauritz  
Romundstad, Odin Loseth, Otto Loseth.

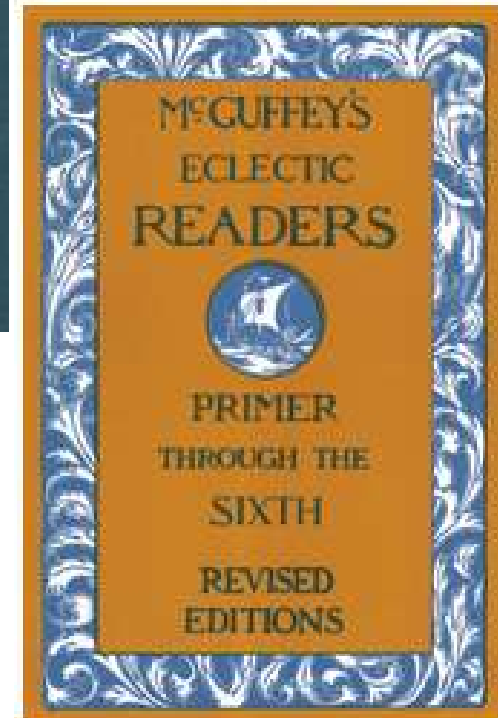
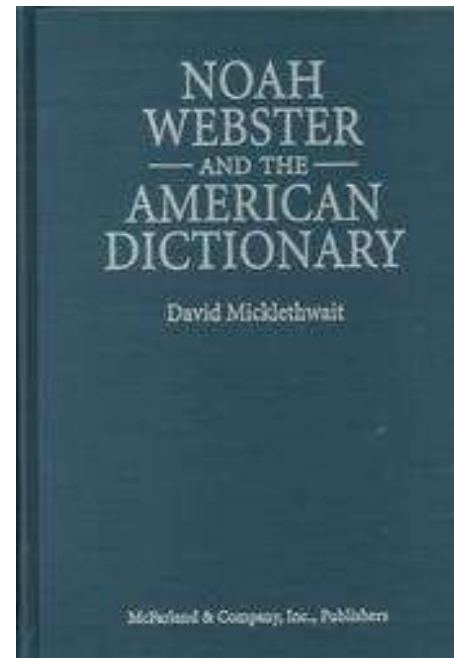




Mr. Lavier's Primary School: Trafton School-1912

# Free School for a Free People

- Free public education triumphed in 1825 with the Jackson electorate.
- Ill taught & ill trained teachers
- **Horace Mann** fought for better schools
- Too expensive for many communities; blacks exempt from education.
- **Noah Webster** (dictionary);
- Ohioan **William H. McGuffey**-McGuffey's readers)



# Higher Goals for Higher Learning

- 2nd great awakening led to building of small schools in S & W (mainly for pride)
- Mainly on Latin, Greek, Math, moral philosophy (boredom)
- 1st state supported university. in N. Carolina by Jefferson (dedication to freedom from religion and politics)
- Women thought to be bad if too educated
- Emma Willard-established Troy Female Seminary (1821) & (Mount Holyoke Seminary (1837)
- Libraries, public lectures, magazines flourished



# An Age of Reform

- Reformers vs. tobacco, alcohol, profanity, transit of mail on Sabbath, women's rights, polygamy, medicines
- Optimistic for a perfect society (women important in reforms)
- Naïve & ignored problems of factory
- Fought for no imprisonment for debt (poor locked in jail for less than \$1)-gradually abolished
- Criminal codes soften & reformatories added
- Mentally insane treated badly (ex. **Dorothea Dix** fought-classic petition of 1843)



# Demon Rum-The “Old Deluder”

- Drunkenness was widely spread
- American Temperance Society formed at Boston 1826
- Stressed
  - 1. Temperance (individual will to resist)
  - 2. Legislature-removed temptation- Sponsored Maine Law of 1851-prohibited make, sale liquor (follow by others)



# Women in Revolt

- Women stayed home, w/o voting rights, (19th century)- better than Europe
- Gender differences sharply with raising economic role
- Women weak physically & emotionally but fine for teaching
- Men strong but crude if not guided by women



# Women in Revolt

- Joined abolishing of slavery, touched by reform
- Women's movement led by **Lucretia Mott**, **Susan B. Anthony** (Suzy Bs), **Elizabeth Candy Staton**, **Elizabeth Blackwell** (1st female medical graduate), **Margaret Fuller**, **Grimke sisters** (anti-slavery), **Amelia Bloomer** (semi-short skirts)



# Women in Revolt

- Women's Rights Convention (1848)-Seneca Falls-NY
- Declaration of Sentiments-  
"All Men & Women are created equal"
- Demanded ballot for women
- Launched modern women's rights movement
- Temperately eclipsed by slavery but conditions improved





# Wilderness Utopias

- Robert Owen founded New Harmony (1825)→ confusion
- Brook Farm-Mass. (1841)-20 intellectuals committed to Transcendentalism (lasted till 46)
- Oneida Community- practiced free love, birth control, eugenic selection of parents to produce superior offspring
- Shakers-communistic community (led by Mother Ann Lee)-1770 (can't marry so extinct)



# The Dawn of Scientific Achievement

- Early American interested in practical science rather than pure
- Jefferson & the plow
- Nathaniel Bowditch- practical navigation & oceanographer
- Matthew Maury-ocean winds, currents



# The Dawn of Scientific Achievement

- Writers concerned basic science
- Most influential US scientists:
- Benjamin Silliman (1779-1864)-pioneer in chemistry, geology (taught in Yale)
- Louis Agassiz (1807-1873)-served at Harvard, insisted on original research
- Asa Gray (1810-1888) Harvard-Columbus of botany
- John Audubon (1785-1851) painted birds



# The Dawn of Scientific Achievement

- Medicine in US was primitive, bleeding used for cure; smallpox & yellow fever kill many
- Life expectancy low
- Self-prescribed patent medicine common (often harmful)
- Surgery tied people down



# Artistic Achievement

- U.S. imitated Europe on styles
- 1820-50 was Greek revival (independent from Turkey)→ later gothic forms
- Thomas Jefferson most ablest architect of generation (Monticello & University of Virginia)
- Artists were few because no leisure time; suffered from Puritan prejudice of art as sinful waste
- Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828)-painted Washington & competed w/ English artists
- Wilson Peale (1741-1827) painted 60 portraits of Washington



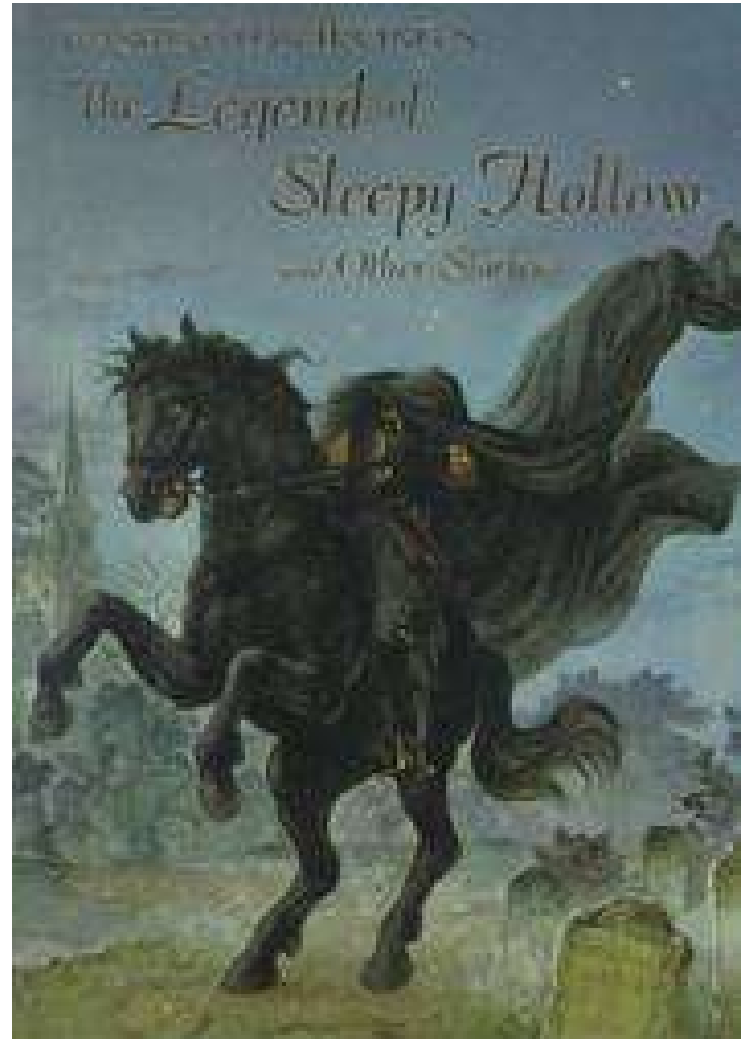
# Artistic Achievement

- John Trumbull (1756-1843)- captured Revolutionary War in paint
- During nationalism upsurge after war of 1812 -US painters portrayed human landscapes & romanticism
- Music shaken off because puritans frowned on non-religious singing
- “Darky” tunes popular- Stephen Foster-“Old Folk at Home” (most famous)



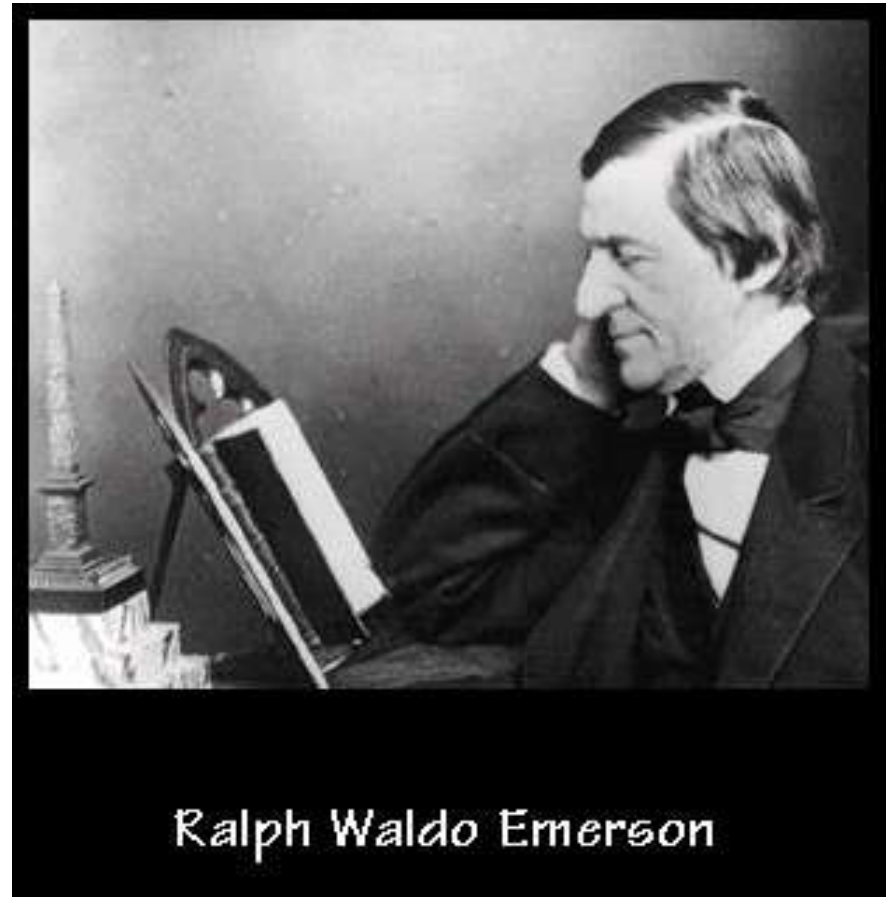
# The Blossoming of a National Literature

- Reading plagiarized from England
- Poured literature to practical outlet (ex. *Federalist*, *Common Sense* (Paine), Ben Franklin's *autobiography*)
- Literature revived after war of independence & especially after War of 1812
- **Knickerbocker** group in NY
- Washington Irving (1783-1859)-1st American to have international acclaim (*The Sketch Book*)
- James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851)-1st US novelist-*leatherstocking tales* (pop in Euro)
- William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878)-*Thanatopsis* (1st high quality poems in US)



# Trumpeters of Transcendentalism

- Literature dawn in 2nd quarter of 19th century w/ transcendentalist movement (1830)
- vs. Locke (knowledge from reason); truth not by observation alone but w/ inner light
- **Ralph Waldo Emerson** (1803-1882)-popular because ideal reflected US
- Urged US writers throw off European tradition
- Most influential as practical philosopher (stressed self-gov, reliance, etc.)

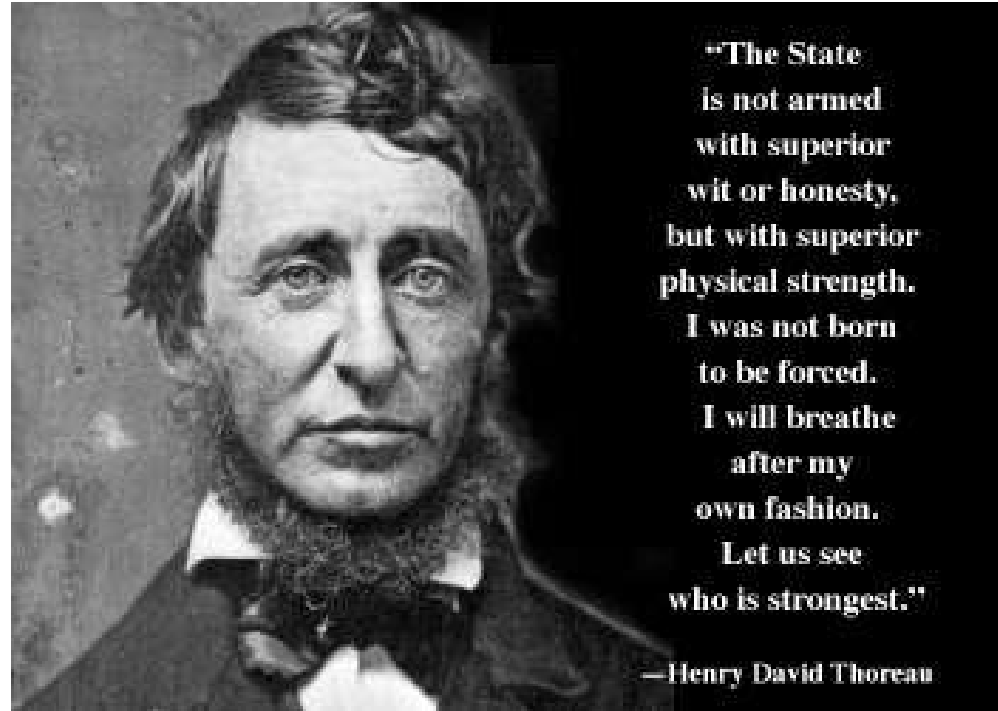


Ralph Waldo Emerson

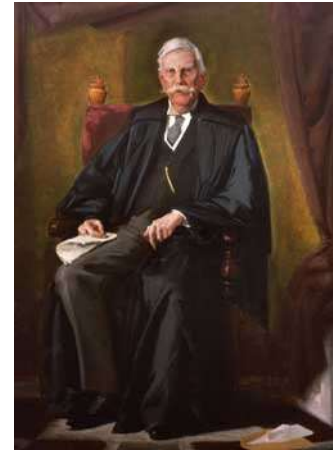
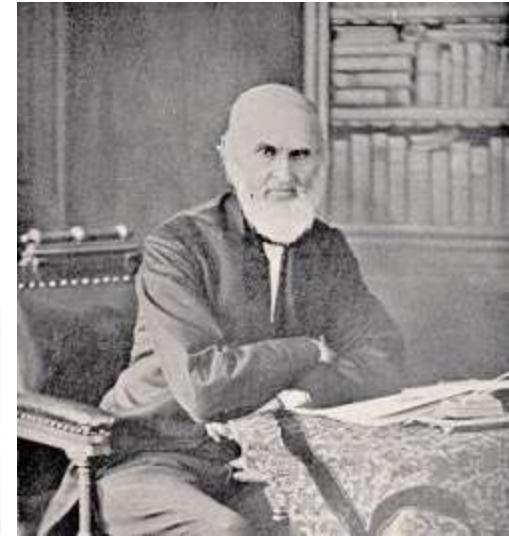
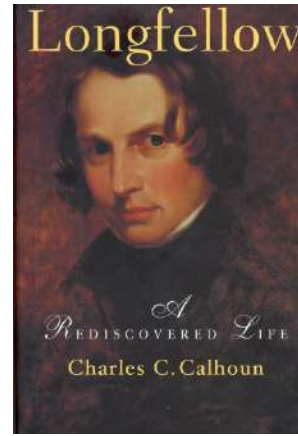


# Trumpeters of Transcendentalism

- **Henry David Thoreau** (1817-1862)-  
condemned slavery :  
*Walden: Or life in the Woods*
- Walt Whitman(1819-1892)-*Leaves of Grass* (poems) “Poet Laureate of Democracy”...title given to him



# Glowing Literary Lights(not associated w/ transcendentalism)



- **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow** (1807-1882)- wrote poems popular in Europe “Evangeline”
- **John Greenleaf Whittier** (1807-1892) -poem cried vs. injustice, intolerance, inhumanity (social influence)
- **James Russell Lowell** (1819-1891)-political satirist-*Biglow Papers*
- **Oliver Wendell Holmes** (1809-1894)-The Last Leaf

# Glowing Literary Lights(not associated w/ transcendentalism)

- Women writers:
- **Louisa May Alcott** (1832-1888) – MA. (w/ transcendentalism)-Little Women
- **Emily Dickinson** -theme of nature in poems
- Southern literary figure - **William Gillmore Simms** (1806-1870)-“the cooper of the south” (many books about life in frontier, south in Rev. war)



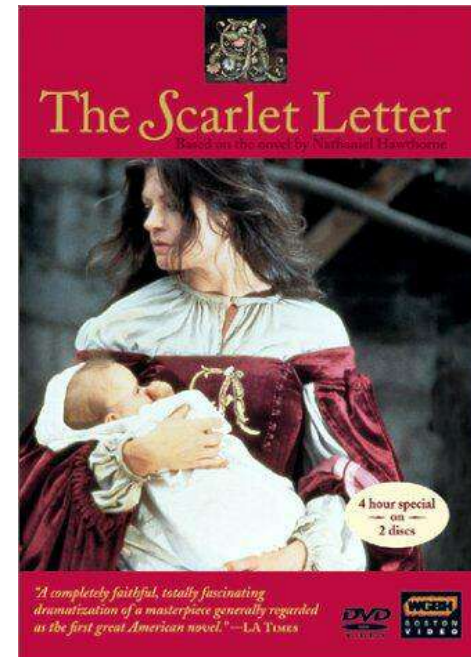
# Literary Individualists and Dissenters

- **Edgar Allan Poe** (1809-1849)- “The Raven”
- Invented modern detective novel
- Fascinated by ghosts-reflect morbid sensibility (more prized by Europe)
- Reflected Calvinist obsession on original sin & struggle between good & evil



# Literary Individualists and Dissenters

- **Nathaniel Hawthorne** (1804-1864)- The Scarlet Letter (psychological effect of sin)
- **Herman Melville** (1819-1891) -Moby Dick - between good & evil told in whale captain



# Portrayers of the Past(historians)

- **George Bancroft** (1800-1891)-  
founded naval academy-published  
US history book
- “Father of American History”
- **William H. Prescott** -published  
conquest of Mexico, Peru
- **Francis Parkman** -published  
struggle between France & Eng in  
colonial N. America
- Historians all from New England  
because had most books (anti-  
south bias; antipathy w. slavery)



























