

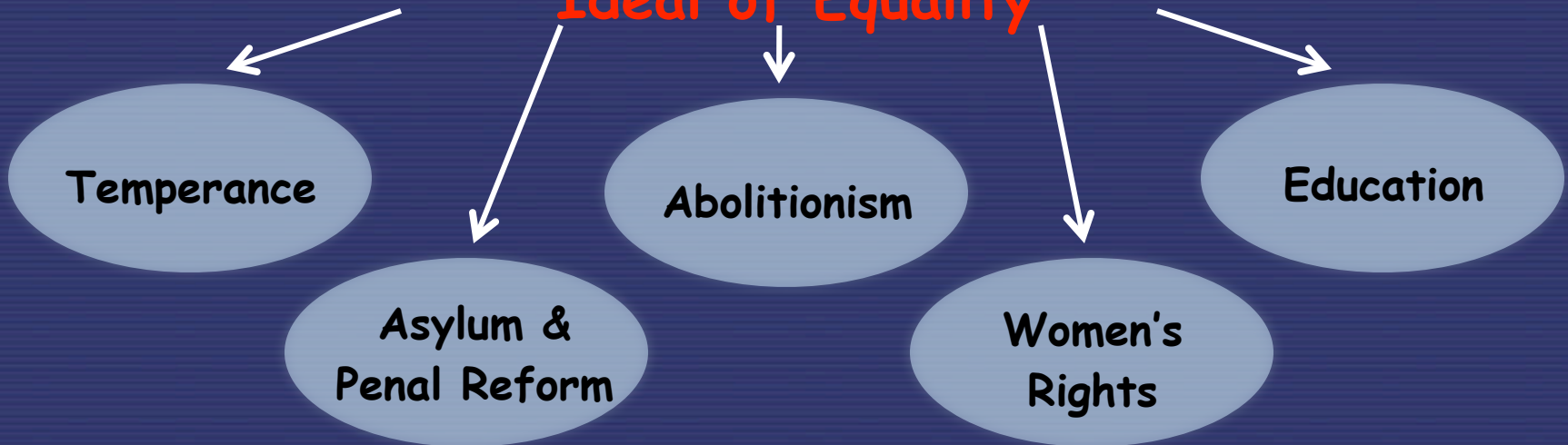
Antebellum America: Second Great Awakening & Transcendentalists

*Ms. Susan M. Pojer
Horace Greeley HS Chappaqua, NY*

1. The Second Great Awakening

"Spiritual Reform From Within"
[Religious Revivalism]

Social Reforms & Redefining the
Ideal of Equality



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

**“The Pursuit
of Perfection”**

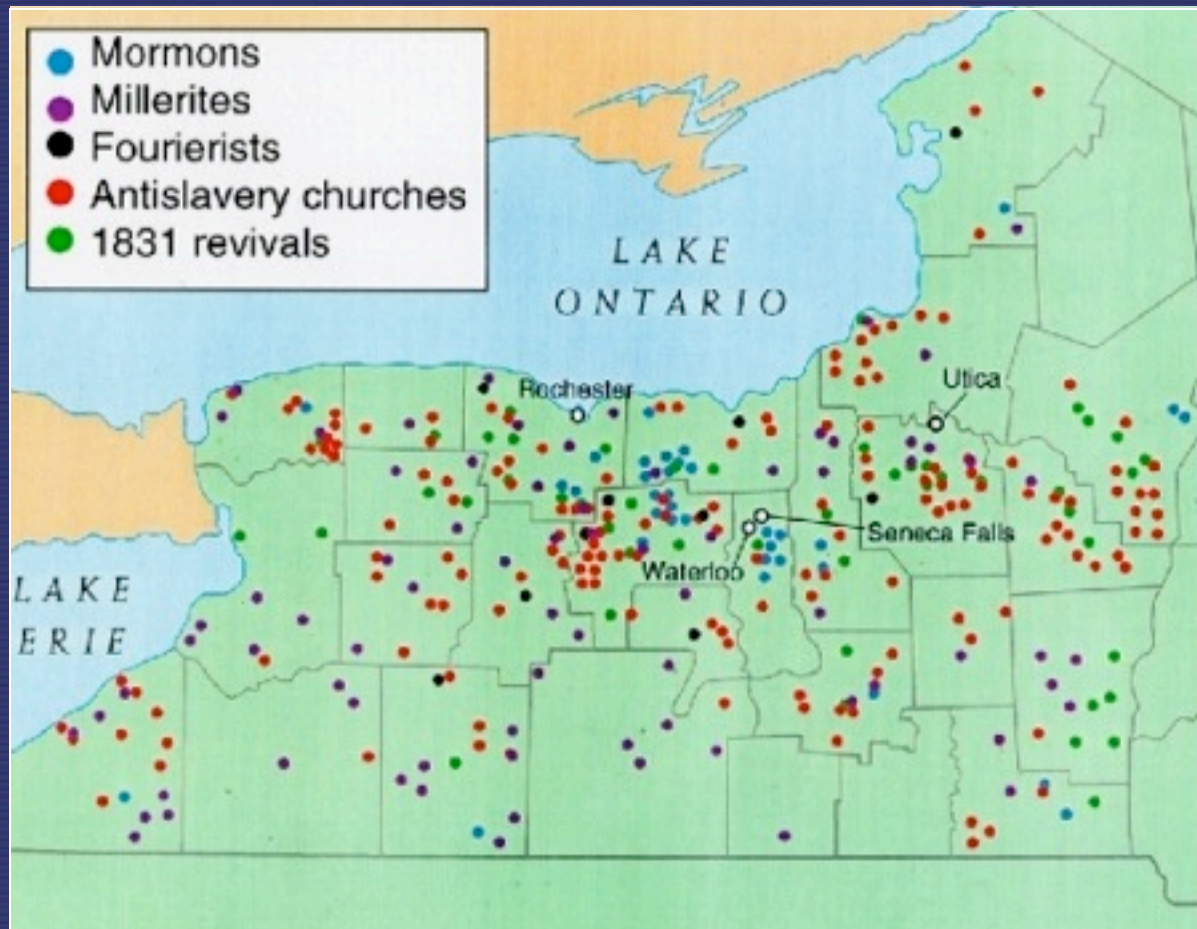
In

Antebellum America

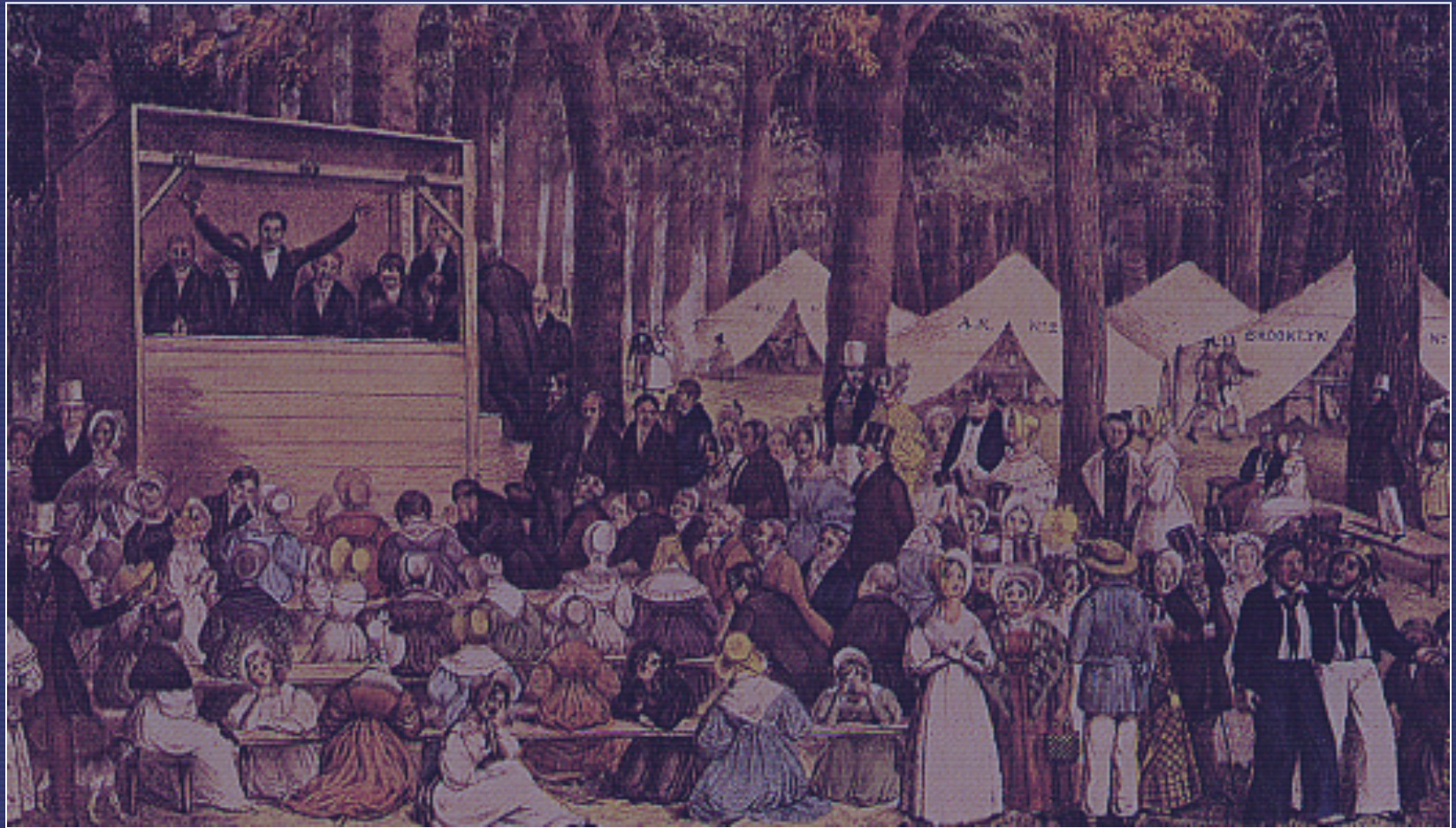
“The Benevolent Empire”: 1825 – 1846

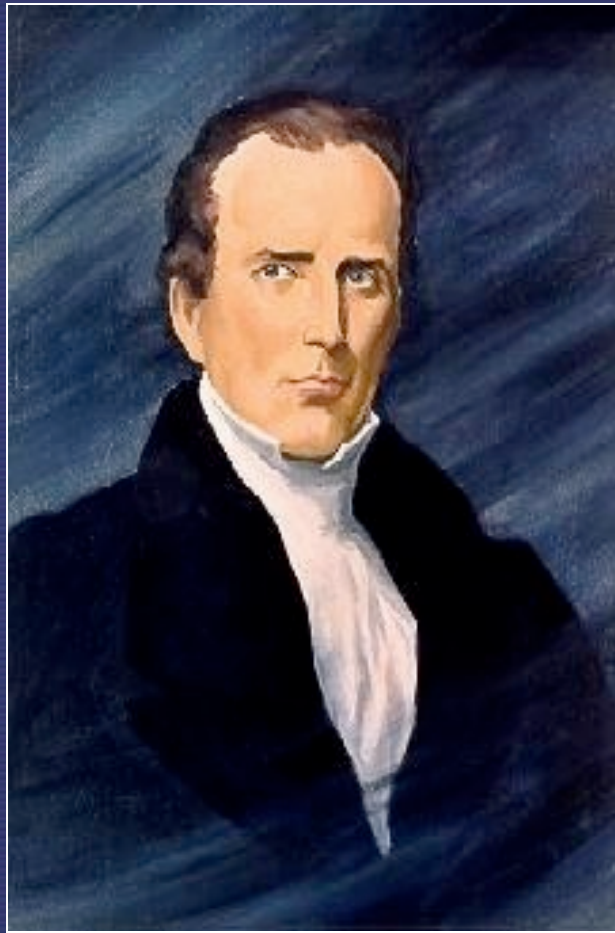


The “Burned-Over” District in Upstate New York



Second Great Awakening Revival Meeting





**"soul-shaking"
conversion**

Charles G. Finney

(1792 - 1895)

The ranges of tents, the fires, reflecting light...; the candles and lamps illuminating the encampment; hundreds moving to and fro...; the preaching, praying, singing, and shouting, ... like the sound of many waters, was enough to swallow up all the powers of contemplation.

The Mormons

(The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints)



Joseph Smith
(1805-1844)

- 1823 → Golden Tablets
- 1830 → Book of Mormon
- 1844 → Murdered in Carthage, IL



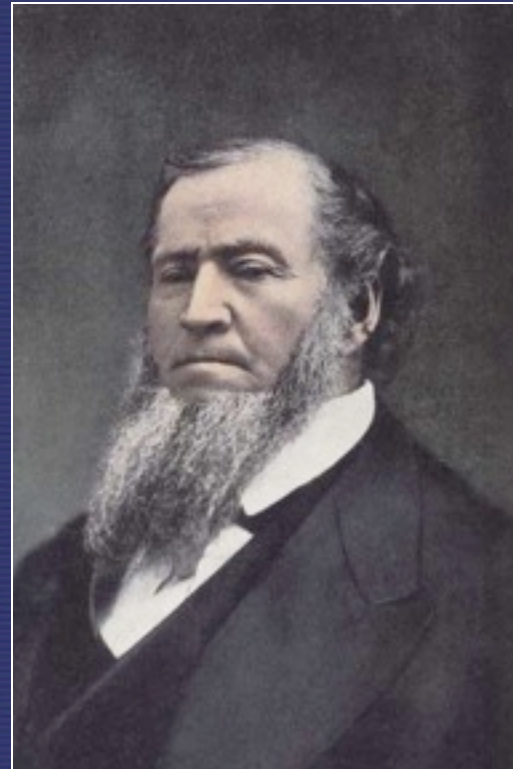
The Mormon "Trek"



The Mormons

(The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints)

- Deseret community.
- Salt Lake City, Utah



Brigham Young
(1801-1877)

Mother Ann Lee (1736–1784)

The Shakers

- e If you will take up your crosses against the works of generations, and follow Christ in the regeneration, God will cleanse you from all unrighteousness.
- e Remember the cries of those who are in need and trouble, that when you are in trouble, God may hear your cries.
- e If you improve in one talent, God will give you more.

Shaker Meeting





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.

Shaker Simplicity & Utility



2. Transcendentalism (European Romanticism)

- e Liberation from understanding and the cultivation of reasoning.”
- e “Transcend” the limits of intellect and allow the emotions, the SOUL, to create an original relationship with the Universe.

Transcendentalist Thinking

- Man must acknowledge a body of **moral truths** that were **intuitive** and must **TRANSCEND** more sensational proof:
 1. The infinite benevolence of God.
 2. The infinite benevolence of nature.
 3. The divinity of man.
- They instinctively rejected all secular authority and the authority of organized churches and the Scriptures, of law, or of conventions

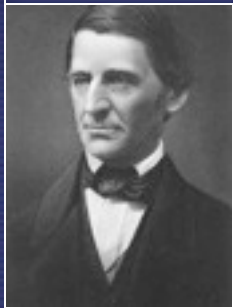
Transcendentalism

(European Romanticism)

- Therefore, if man was divine, it would be wicked that he should be held in slavery, or his soul corrupted by superstition, or his mind clouded by ignorance!!
- Thus, the role of the reformer was to restore man to that divinity with which God had endowed him.

Transcendentalist Intellectuals/ Writers

Concord, MA



Ralph Waldo
Emerson

Nature
(1832)

Self-Reliance
(1841)

"The American
Scholar" (1837)



Henry David
Thoreau

Walden
(1854)

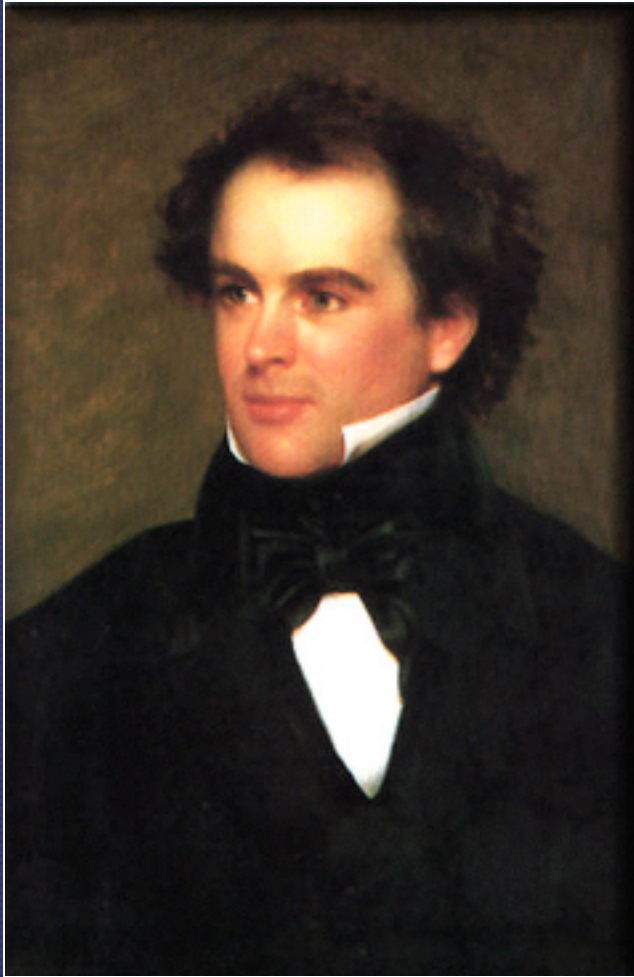
Resistance thru
Civil Disobedience
(1849)

The Transcendentalist Agenda

- Give freedom to the slave.
- Give well-being to the poor and the miserable.
- Give learning to the ignorant.
- Give health to the sick.
- Give peace and justice to society.

A Transcendentalist Critic: Nathaniel Hawthorne

(1804–1864)



- e Their pursuit of the ideal led to a distorted view of human nature and possibilities:
 - * The Blithedale Romance
- e One should accept the world as an imperfect place:
 - * Scarlet Letter
 - * House of the Seven Gables