

REFORM MOVEMENTS

US HISTORY I

Transcendentalism

- Revivalism was a “waste” of human rationalism
- Previous generations had not be rebellious enough
- Humans should lead a simple life, find truth in nature, use personal emotion and imagination
- Also advocated for social reforms (abolition & women’s rights)
- *“We will walk on our own feet; we will work with our own hands; we will speak our own minds...A nation of men will for the first time exist, because each believes himself inspired by the Divine Soul which also inspires all men.”*

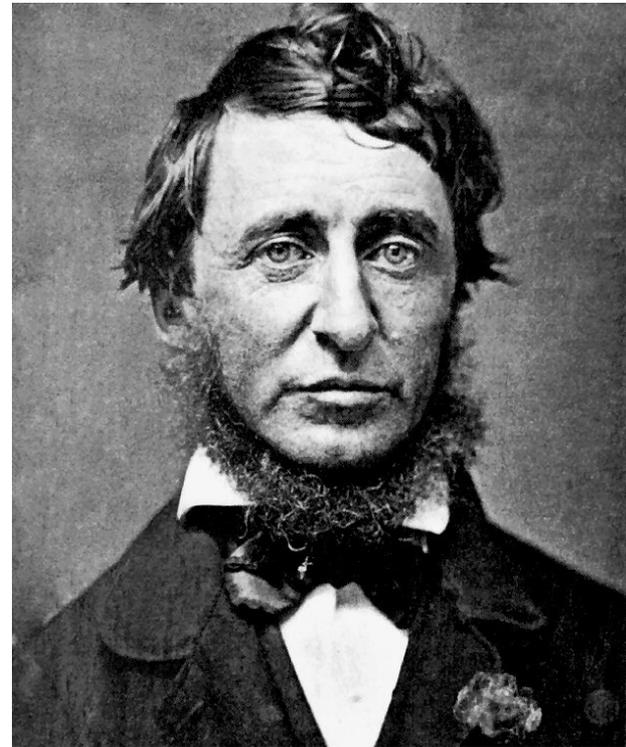
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Transcendentalism Literature

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Henry David Thoreau



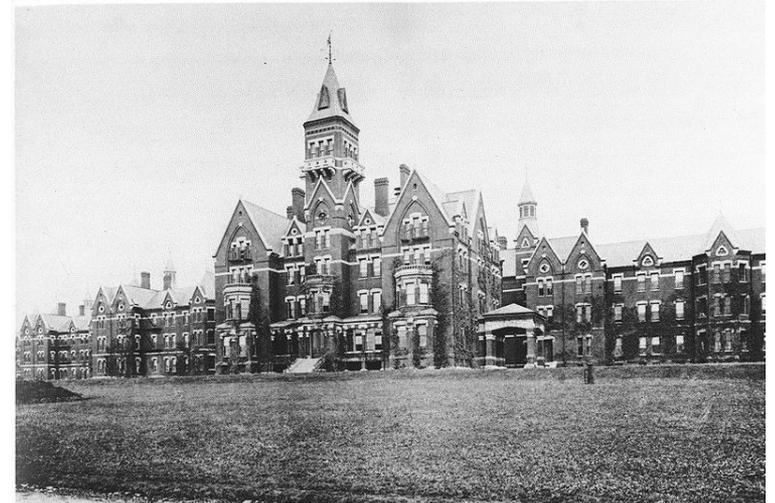
Utopian/Ideal Communities

- New Harmony (Indiana) - nonviolence
- Brook Farm (Boston) – liberal & “cultivated” persons, w/o competition
- Shakers (NY)
 - Celibacy
 - Gender equality



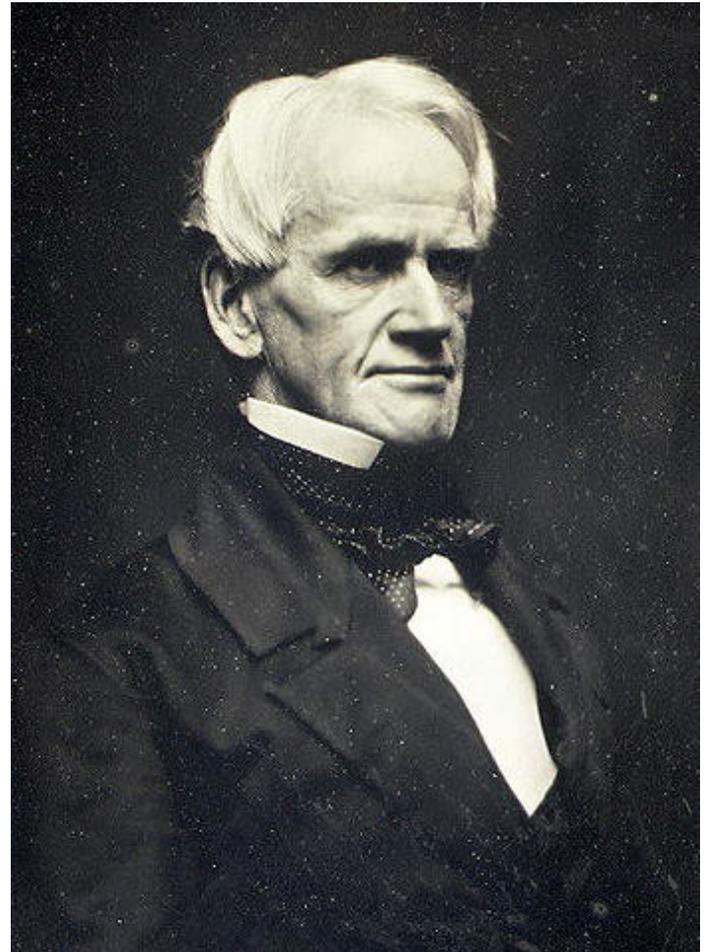
Prison Reform

- Dorthea Dix, reforms to remove the mentally ill from prisons
 - ▣ 1843 report on inhumane conditions
 - ▣ 1845-1852, convinced 9 Southern states to set up public hospitals for the mentally ill



School Reform

- Horace Mann
 - ▣ Massachusetts
 - ▣ Improved teacher training and resources
- Advocated for centralized, secular, & required public school
 - ▣ State vs. federal gov't control



School Reform

□ Girls Schools and Women's Colleges



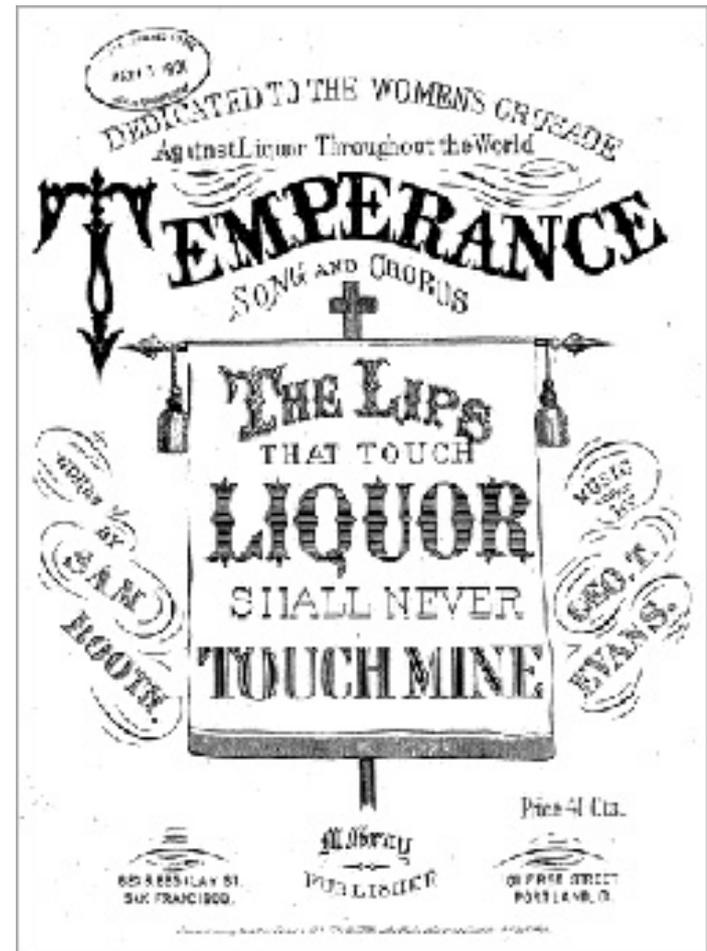
Temperance

- In the 1830s people drank about 7.1 gallons of *absolute* alcohol a year.
 - ▣ 2 absolute gallons = 40 gallons of beer
 - ▣ SO... people were drinking about 1,514 beers a year or 4 a day



Temperance

- Temperance movement tried to fix this problem
 - Join the "Cold Water Army" and pledge abstinence from alcohol
 - CT banned whiskey distilling
 - No alcohol sold on the Sabbath (Sunday)
- American Temperance Society
 - 1.5 million members by 1838
- By 1850 consumption down to 2.1 absolute gallons/year



Hudson River School

- Landscape artists, started by Thomas Cole
- American rather than European themes
 - ▣ Natural beauty of the outdoors co-existing w/ humans
 - ▣ 1825-1870





The Oxbow, View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm, 1836



The Catskills
Asher Brown Durand



Niagara Falls, Frederic Eric Church