

# Charles of the second s

#### Religion in Early America

#### Barton W. Stone

Wilbur Reid

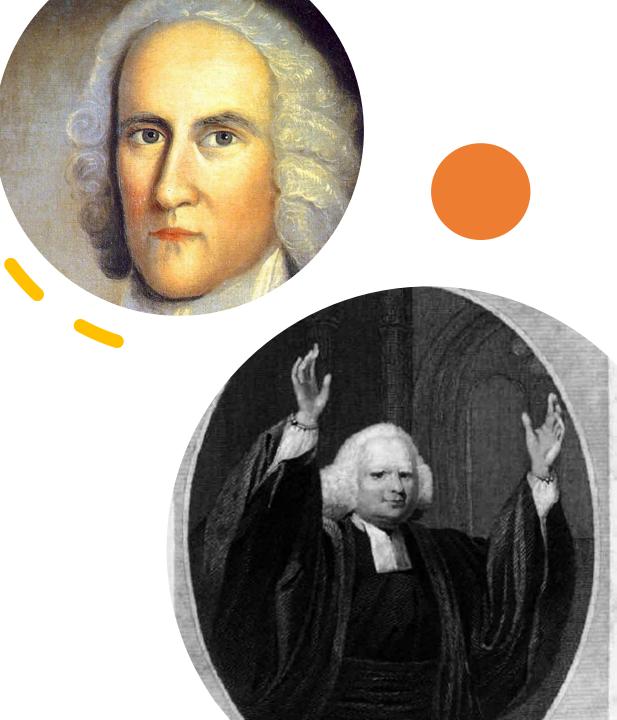
#### Review: History of Christianity

- 1<sup>st</sup> Century:
  - Jesus' prayer for unity
  - Struggle for unity in early church
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Century
  - Emergence of the Church
  - Heresies
  - Bishops / Patriarchs
- 4<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Legalization and Canon
- $5^{th} 15^{th}$  Century
  - Growth and the Great Schism
  - Rise of the Roman Catholic Church
- 16<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Reformation
  - Printing Press



#### Cycles of Religion in America

- Original settlers
- The Great Awakening (1720 1750)
  - Jonathan Edwards: Congregationalist.
    - 'Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God'
  - George Whitefield: Methodist
- Deism, 10%, Calvinism, the mourner's bench, independence from Europe, schisms
- The Second Great Awakening (1790 1840)
  - Restoration Movement Barton Stone, Campbells
  - Personal piety and work ethic
  - Social causes: slavery, prison reform, women's suffrage, temperance



## 1806

• Colonial Big Three (1700s): Congregational (Puritan) / Presbyterian / Episcopal

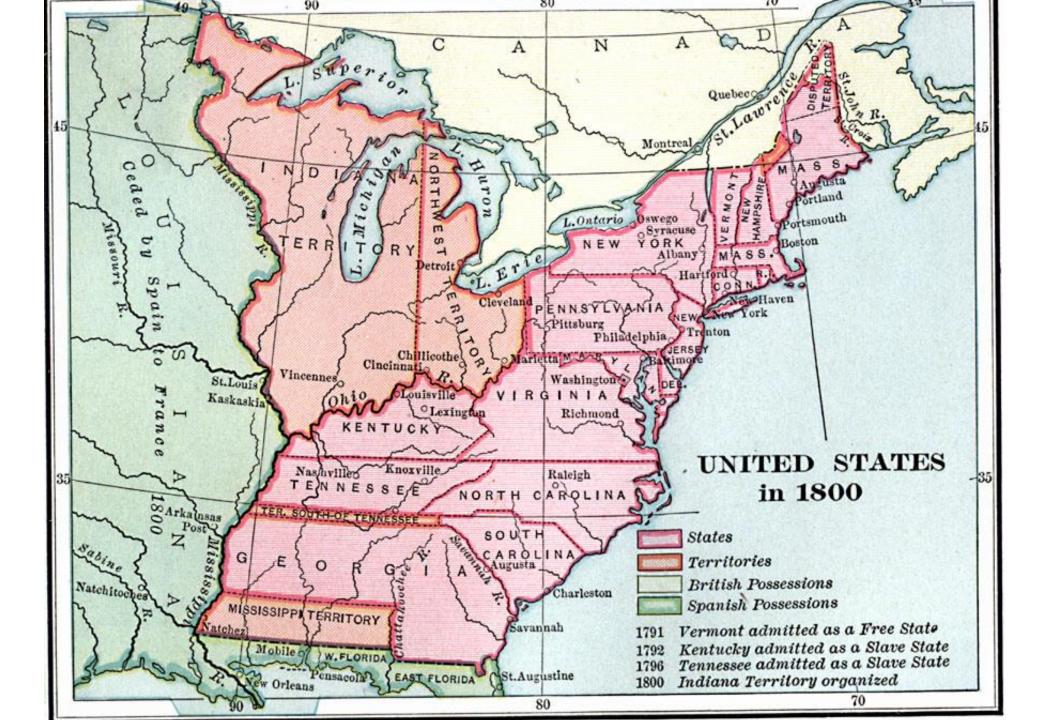
• Frontier Big Three (1800s): Baptist / Methodist / Restoration Movement

Anglican

Census Pop. per sq. mile

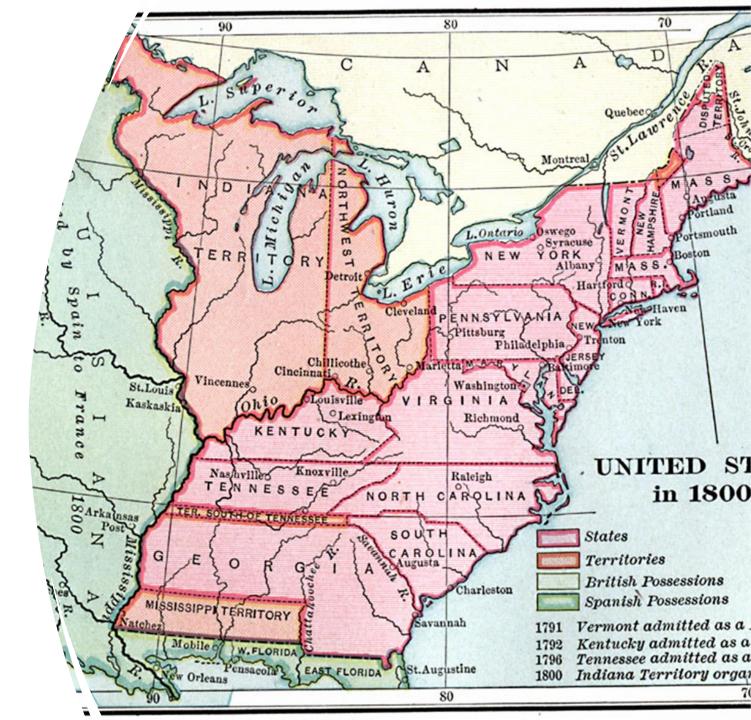


2020 Knox County = 526 people per square mile



#### Early 'Christian Church' movements

- James O'Kelley Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia.
  - Republican Methodist Church (1792)
  - First 'Christian Church' 10,000 members
- Abner Jones and Elias Smith, Baptists, New England
- Rice Haggard Biblical names:
  - Disciples of Christ: <u>Matthew 28:19</u>, <u>Acts</u>
     <u>6:1</u>
  - Christian: <u>Acts 11:26</u>, <u>Acts 26:28</u>, <u>I Peter</u> <u>4:16</u>
  - Church of Christ, <u>Romans 16:16;</u> also Church of God

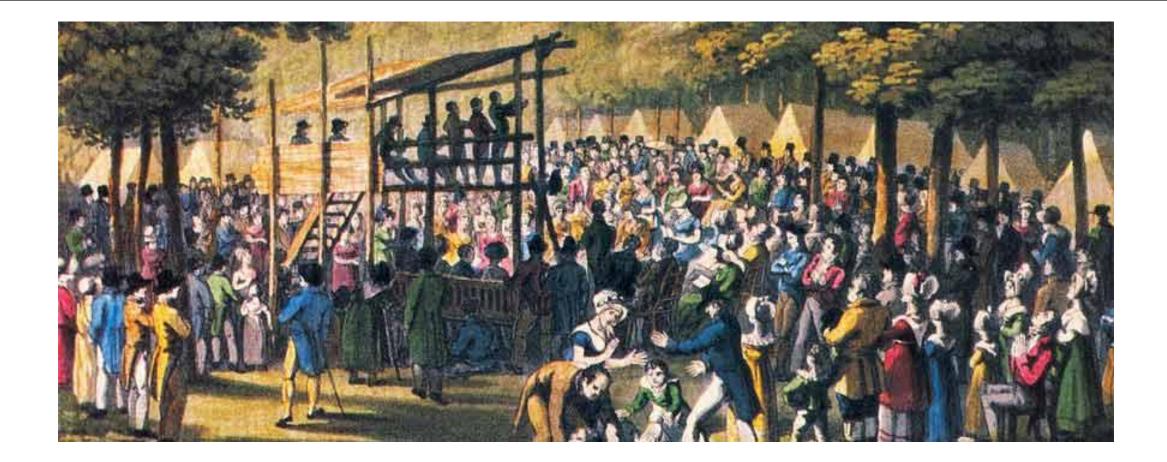




#### Barton W Stone

- (1772 1844), primarily in Kentucky
- Struggled with conversion process as a young man looking for a sign
- Ordination as a Presbyterian minister, 1798
  - Struggled to reconcile church doctrine (Westminster Confession) and Bible: i.e.: total depravity/original sin, predestination, trinity
- Preaching on the frontier (including Knoxville)
- Cane Ridge Revival (near Lexington KY)
  - 1801 (29 years old)
  - Significant impact: about 20,000 people, Unusual manifestations, Unity, Morality
  - Criticisms: Manifestations, Lay Preachers, violate Westminster

#### Cane Ridge Revival (1801)



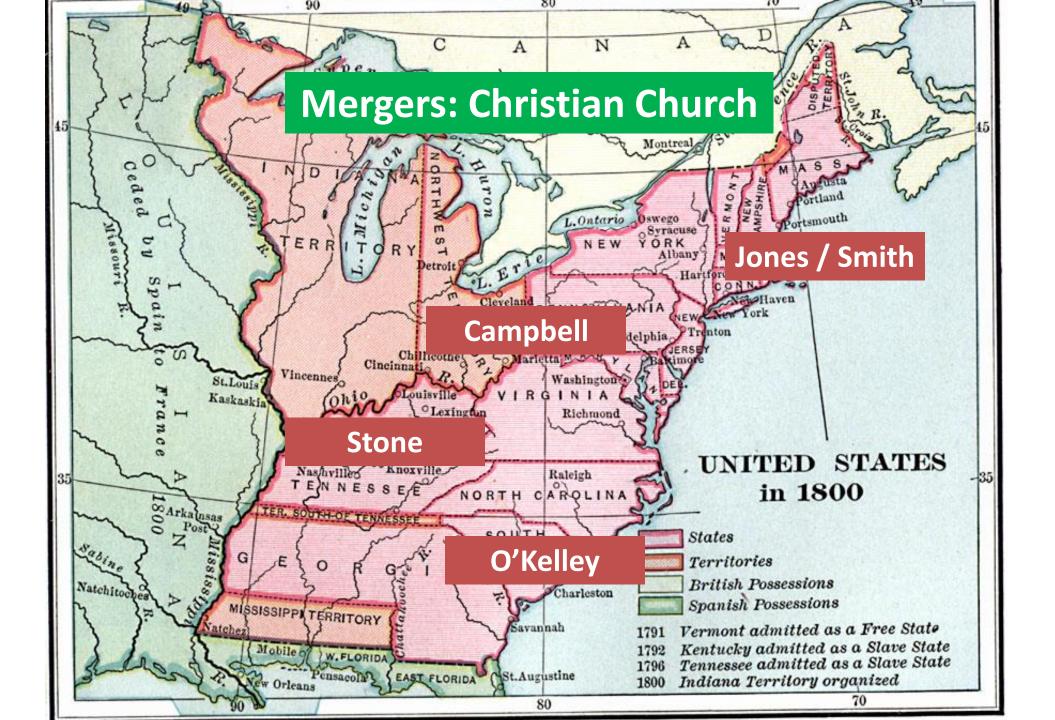


### Springfield Presbytery

1804: The Last and Will and Testament...

## Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery (1804, excerpts)

- *Imprimis*. We will, that this body die, be dissolved, and sink into union with the Body of Christ at large; for there is but one body, and one Spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our calling.
- *Item*. We will that our name of distinction, with its Reverend title, be forgotten, that there be but one Lord over God's heritage, and his name one.
- *Item*. We will, that our power of making laws for the government of the church, and executing them by delegated authority, forever cease; that the people may have free course to the Bible, and adopt the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.
- *Item*. We will, that the church of Christ resume her native right of internal government,--try her candidates for the ministry, as to their soundness in the faith, acquaintance with experimental religion, gravity and aptness to teach; and admit no other proof of their authority but Christ speaking in them.
- *Item*. We will, that the people henceforth take the Bible as the only sure guide to heaven; and as many as are offended with other books, which stand in competition with it, may cast them into the fire if they choose; for it is better to enter into life having one book, than having many to be cast into hell.



#### Barton W Stone

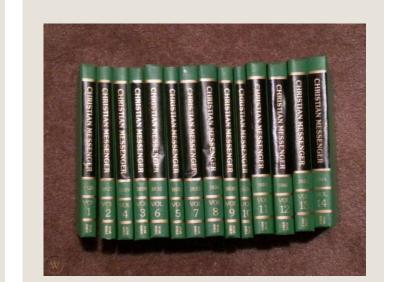
#### THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

BY EARTON W. STONE, AN ELDER IN THE CHURCH OF CHRIST. "Prove all things: hold fast that which is good."—PAUL. Vol. 1] GEORGETOWN, KX NÖVEMBER 25, 1826. [No 1

To illustrate lengthily the importance of the object contemplated in this work, would be unnecessary. Of this the public will judge, to whom the work is now presented.

It is universally acknowledged, by the various sects of Christians, that the religion of Heaven, for conturies past, has failen far below the excellency and glory of primitive Christianity. The man, who honesily inrestigates the cause of this declension, and points the proper way of reformation, must certainly be engaged in a work, pleasing to God, and profitable to man. This is our design, and to accomplish this desirable end, shall our best exertions be enlisted and engaged. That these exertions may be better calculated to effect the elject contemplated, we invite and solicit the ard of qualified brethren, who feel as we do, an ardent desire for the restoration and glory of the ancient religion of Christthe religion of love, peace, and union on earth.

That there are errors in the doctrines, as well as in the lives and practices of the various religious denominmions now living, I presume, no Protestant will deny. Their various, jarring creeds—their bitter strile and ancharitable opposition to one another—their multiplied divisions and disunion among themselves—their pride and worldly spirit—their death and cold fermality these are undeniable evidences of the melar cheir pride these are undeniable evidences of the melar cheir pride these are undeniable and removed from the church; and to have truth restored in her heaveuly, captivating robes, unadorned with the times of human wisdom, are certainly the pious wishes of every honest Christian. Therefore, unappalled at the dargerous attempt, not discouraged at the attendant difficulties, we will boldly, though humbly. Advance to the vork. As

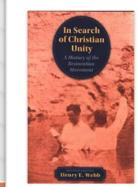


#### • Doctrinal highlights

- The Bible is the sole authority for the church
- Christ died for all sinners, not just a selected few.
- Believer's immersion for the remission of sins
- Communion with all followers of Christ; the church neither invites nor debars
- The Christian Messenger, 1826 1844, a 24-page monthly paper
- Union with the Campbell
  movement in 1832
  - more about this next week
- Moved to Illinois in 1834 poor health – died in 1844

Bibliography – Resources for Restoration Movement:

Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Protestantism



In Search of Christian Unity: A History of the Restoration Movement Paperback – July 1, 2003 by Henry E. Webb ~ (Author) \*\*\*\*\* 19 ratings

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#### QUESTIONS?

Next week: The Campbells and Explosive Growth

