

**HT 502**

**Class 6**

**Christianity in the New American Nation (1776–1880)**

**A. The Rise of Religious Change.**

**B. The Emergence of the Theological Seminary.**

**C. Second Great Awakening**

# OUTLINE OF AMERICAN CHURCH HISTORY

## Historically

<b>Colonial Era</b>	<b>1776</b>	<b>National Era</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>Modern Era</b>	<b>1963</b>	<b>Post-Modern Era</b>
<b>Age of Divine Sovereignty</b>		<b>Age of Biblistic Rationalism, Common Sense</b>		<b>Age of Biblistic Rationalism, Common Sense</b>		<b>Age of Privatism, Despair, Self</b>
<b>Theocentrism</b>		<b>Biblicistic Rationalism</b>		<b>Autonomous Rationalism</b>		<b>Individualism</b>

## Theologically

# Course Overview

- I. Christianity and the Age of Enlightenment in Europe (1600–1800)
- II. Christianity in the Era of British Colonialism (1600–1776)**
  - \*The Rise of Pietism**
- III. Christianity in the National Era (1776–1880)**
- IV. Christianity in the Modern Era (1880–1963)
- V. Christianity in the Post-Modern Era (1960–2021)

## **E. The 18<sup>th</sup> Century Evangelical Reaction: The Rise of Pietism and Revivalism.**

### **1. The rise and influence of Pietism.**

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#### **a. Pietism: Its meaning.**

## **E. The 18<sup>th</sup> Century Evangelical Reaction: The Rise of Pietism and Revivalism.**

- 1. The rise and influence of Pietism.**
  - a. Pietism: Its meaning.**
  - b. Pietism: Its characteristics.**
  - c. Pietism: Its history.**

**“In the first place, I wished to withdraw the minds of students and preachers from an inordinately controversial and polemical theology which has well-nigh assumed the form of an earlier scholastic theology. Secondly, I purposed to conduct Christian believers from lifeless thoughts to such as might bring forth fruit. Thirdly, I wished to guide them onward from mere science and theory to the actual practice of faith and godliness. And fourthly, to show them wherein a truly Christian life that accords with true faith consists, as well as to explain the apostle’s meaning when he says, ‘I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.’ etc. (Gal. 2:30).”**

**~John Arndt, *True Christianity***

## **E. The 18<sup>th</sup> Century Evangelical Reaction: The Rise of Pietism and Revivalism.**

- 1. The rise and influence of Pietism.**
  - a. Pietism: Its meaning.**
  - b. Pietism: Its characteristics.**
  - c. Pietism: Its history.**
  - d. Pietism: Its results.**



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THE NATIONAL PERIOD  
OF AMERICAN  
CHURCH HISTORY

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Religious Change in  
New England: Theological  
Divisions within Congregationalism

- A. The Effect of the War on Religion [Background]
- B. Religion and the Constitution of the United States (1789).
- C. Religion as a Result of the War for Independence.
- D. The Rise of Religious change in New England:  
Theological Dissension within Congregationalism.**
  - 1. The roots of religious change in New England
  - 2. The radical division in New England Calvinism: the rise of Unitarians and Transcendentalists.
  - 3. The moderate division in New England Calvinism: the rise of “consistent Calvinists” or New England Theology.**
- E. The Emergence of the Theological Seminary.**
- F. The Second Great Awakening in America.**
- G. The Old School/New School Schism in Presbyterianism.**
- H. Charles G. Finney and Finneyism.

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# THE FIRST GREAT AWAKENING

## The Dissolution of Theological Consensus

Congregationalist  
Calvinism

Age of Reason  
Pietism

1743

1750

"Seasonable  
Thoughts"

*Old Calvinists*  
(Creedalists)

Ezra S. Stiles  
Samuel Niles  
John Porter

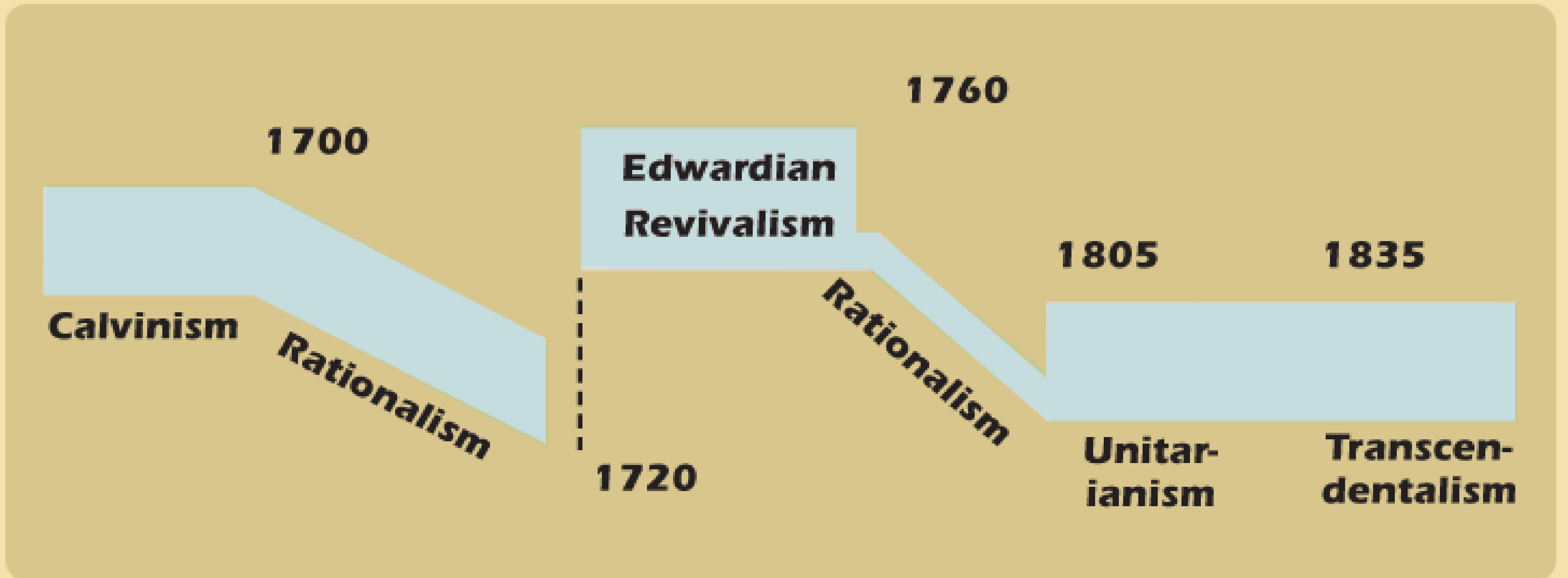
*Strict or Consistent  
Calvinists*  
(New England  
Theologians)

Samuel Hopkins  
Joseph Bellamy  
Nathaniel Emmons  
Timothy Dwight

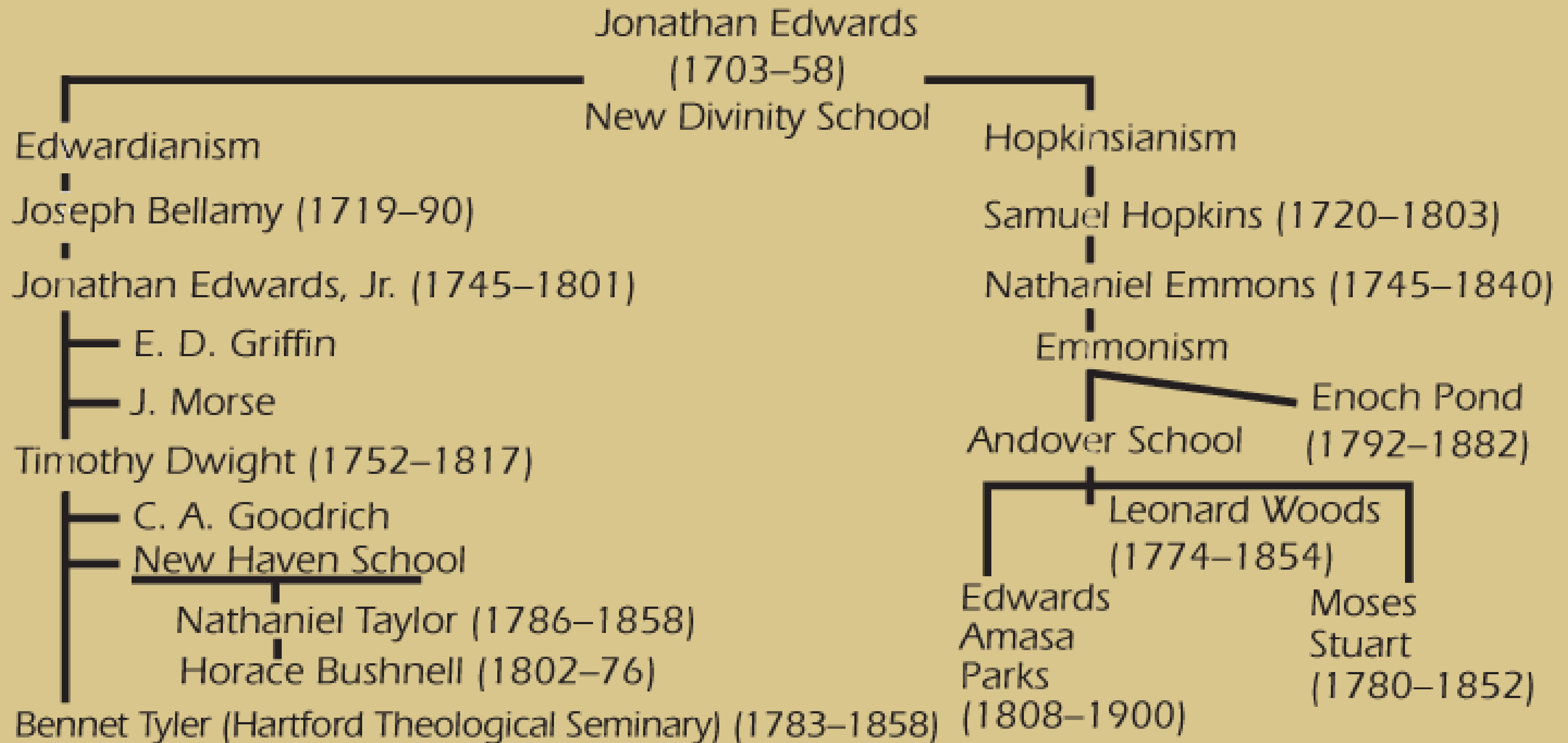
*Liberal Calvinists*  
(Unitarians)

Charles Chauncy  
Ebenezer Gay  
Jonathan Mayhew

# The History of Theological Change in New England



# The Development of New England Theology



# **Governmental View of the Atonement [Hugo Grotius]**

- **God: Administrator, Judge, Sovereign Ruler**
- **Sin: A Violation of the Moral Order**
- **Man's Need: A Demonstration of How Seriously God Looks upon Sin**
- **Christ's Death: To Sustain God's Moral Universe**
- **The atonement of Christ was to demonstrate God's divine justice, an example to man of how seriously God looks upon sin, and argues that moral obedience merits commendation and disobedience merits condemnation. [works salvation]**

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The Second Great  
Awakening, the Rise  
of Seminaries, and the  
Protestant Missionary  
Movement

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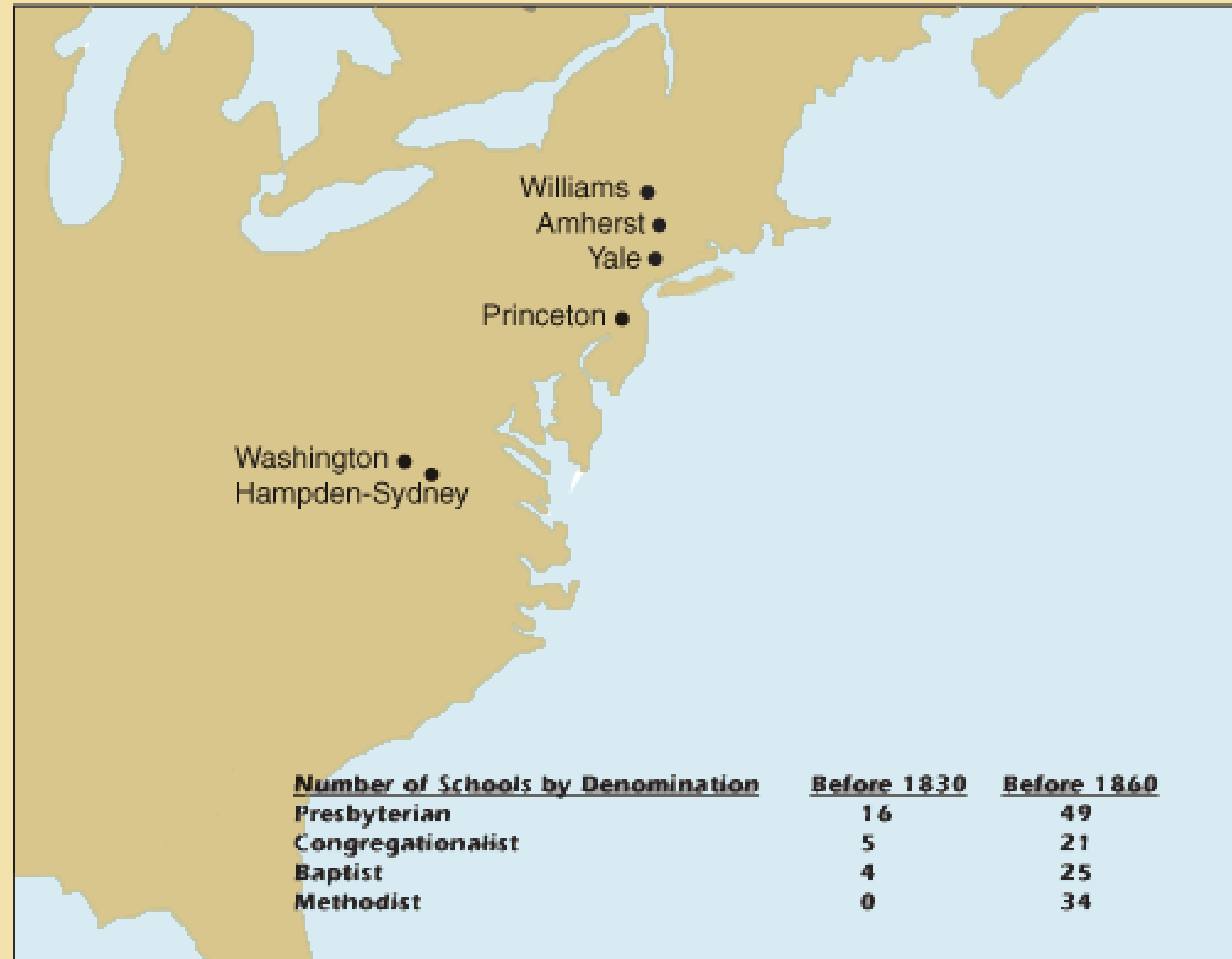
**“When formidable innovations in Europe threaten destruction to morals and religion, we perceive with pain and fearful apprehension a general dereliction of religious principles and practices among our fellow citizens. ... A visible and prevailing impiety in contempt of laws and institutions of religion and an abounding infidelity, which in many instances tends to atheism itself, the profligacy and corruption of the public morals have advanced with a progress proportioned to our declension in religion.”**

**(He is actually quoting the General Assembly minutes of the Presbyterian Church of 1798.)**

**“The advance of irreligion and indifference must be checked, the champions of orthodoxy chorused. The forces of religion met the challenge, with the result that from one end of the United States to the other, in all denominations, evangelical Protestantism appeared during the closing years of the eighteenth and early years of the nineteenth century in what may be called the Second Great Awakening.”**

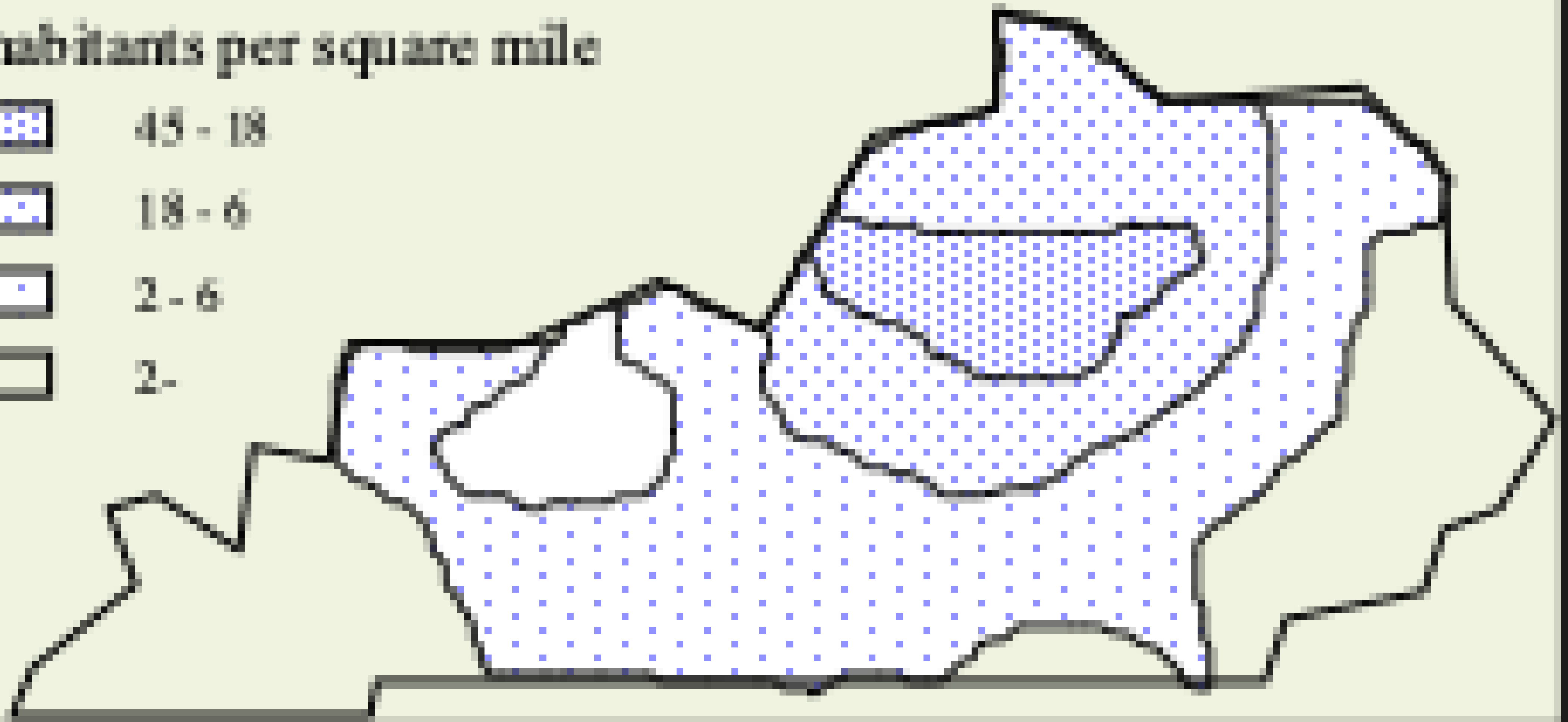
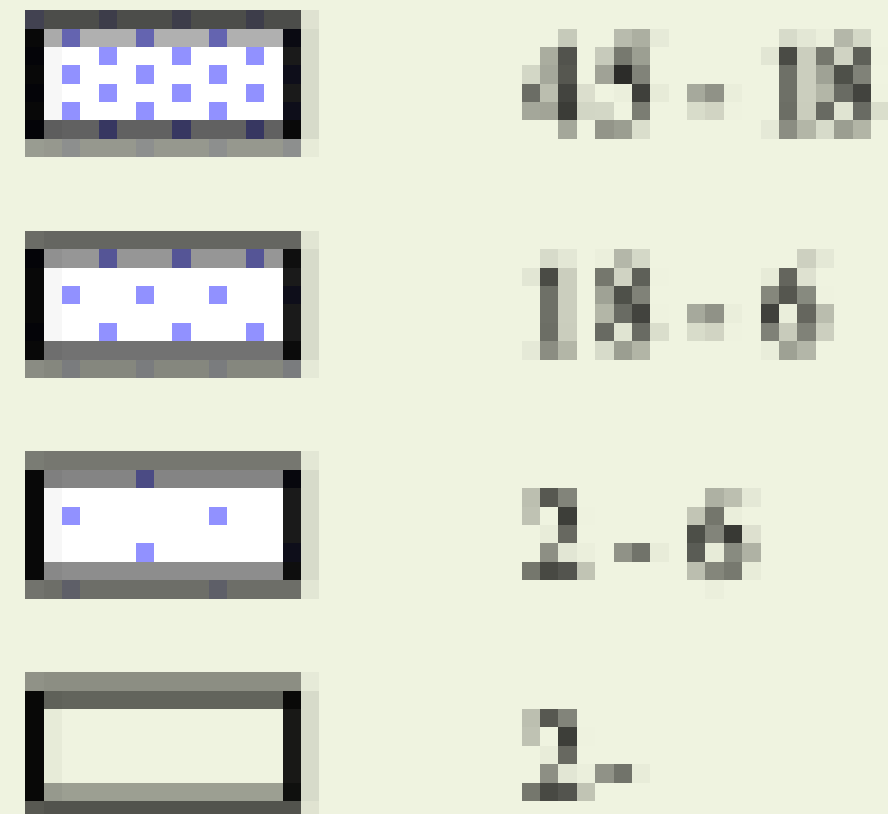
**~Charles Roy Keller, *The Second Great Awakening in Connecticut*.**

# The Eastern Phase of the Second Great Awakening: The Colleges

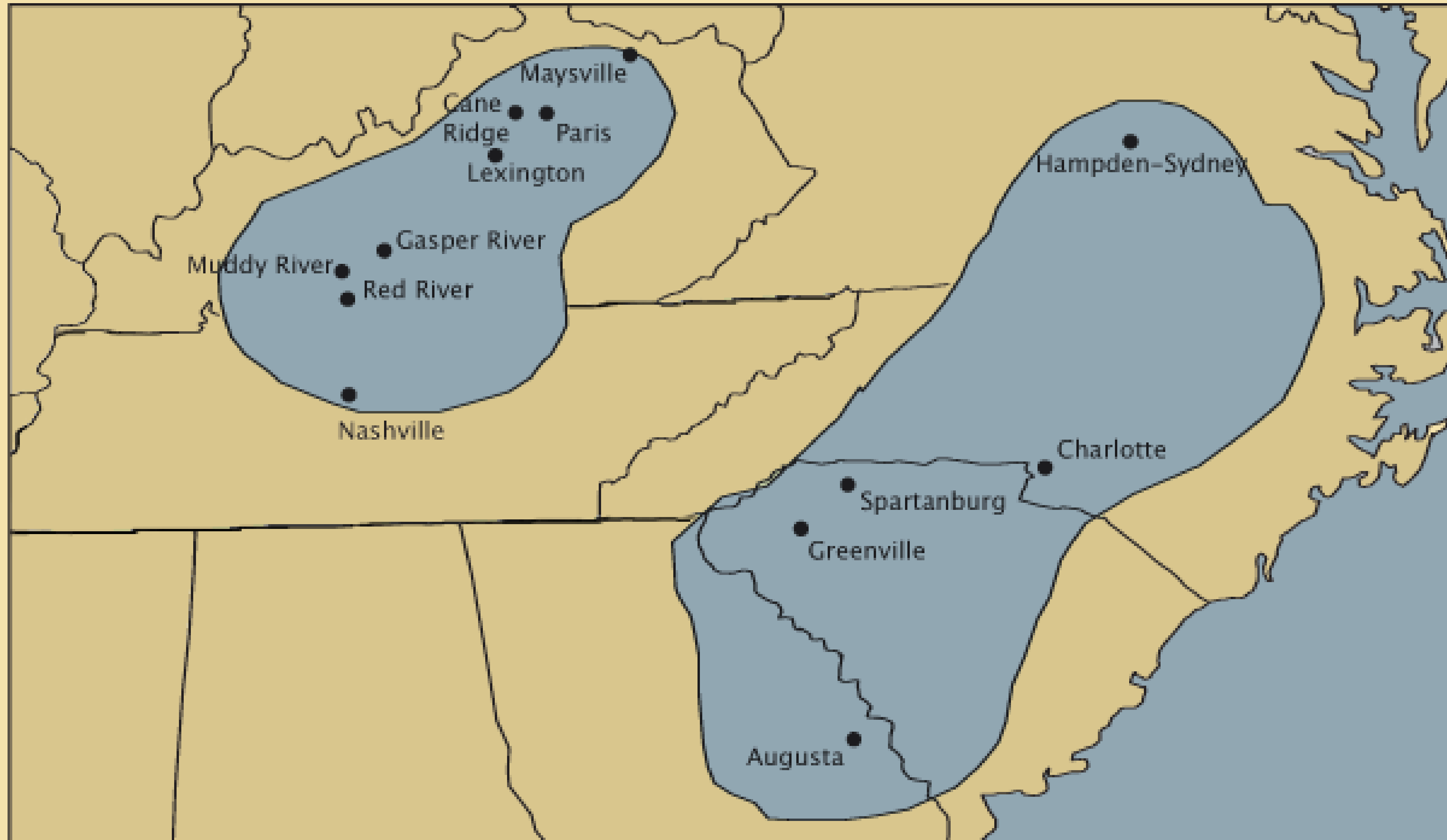


# Population Density in Kentucky, 1800

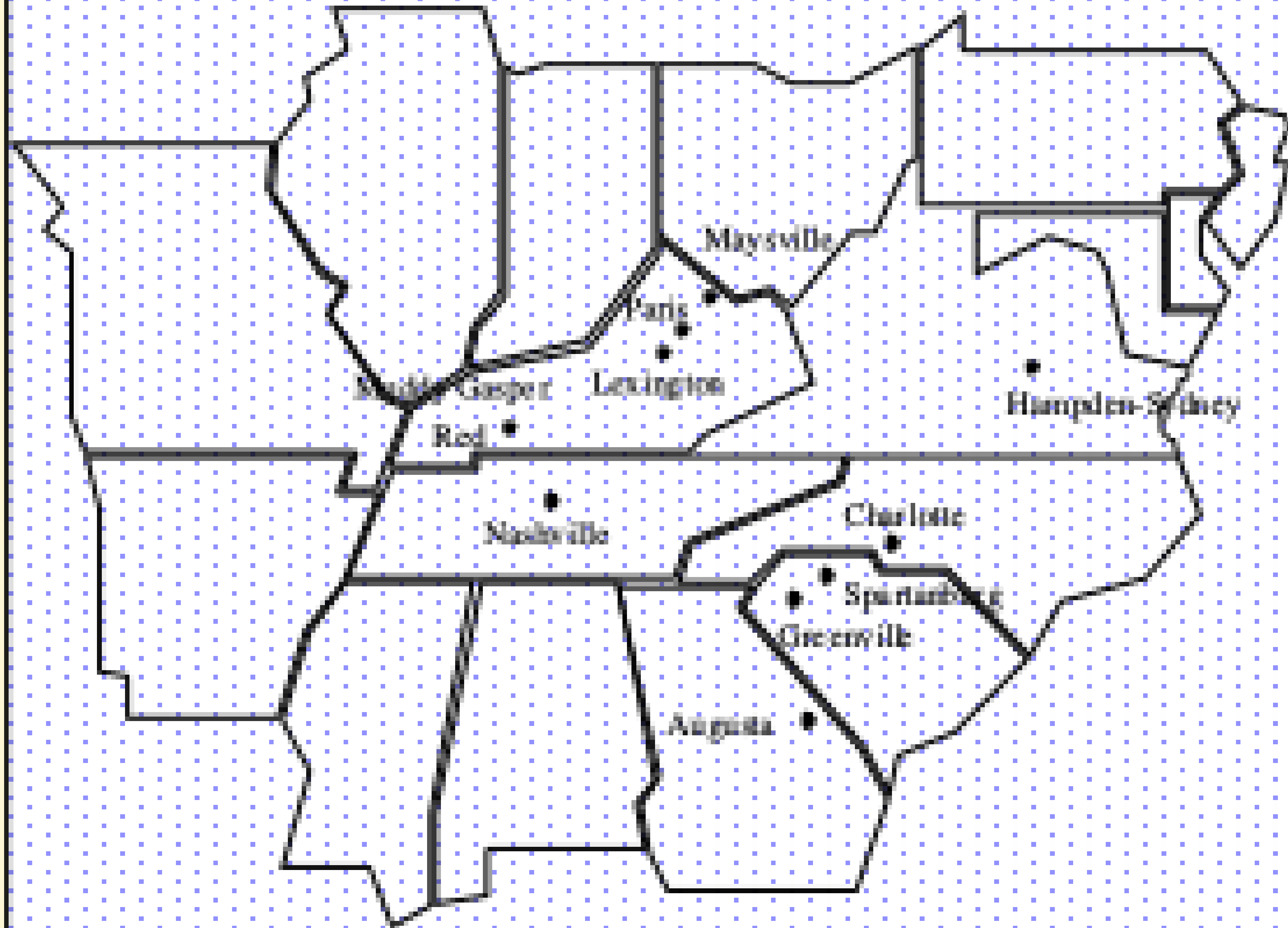
Inhabitants per square mile



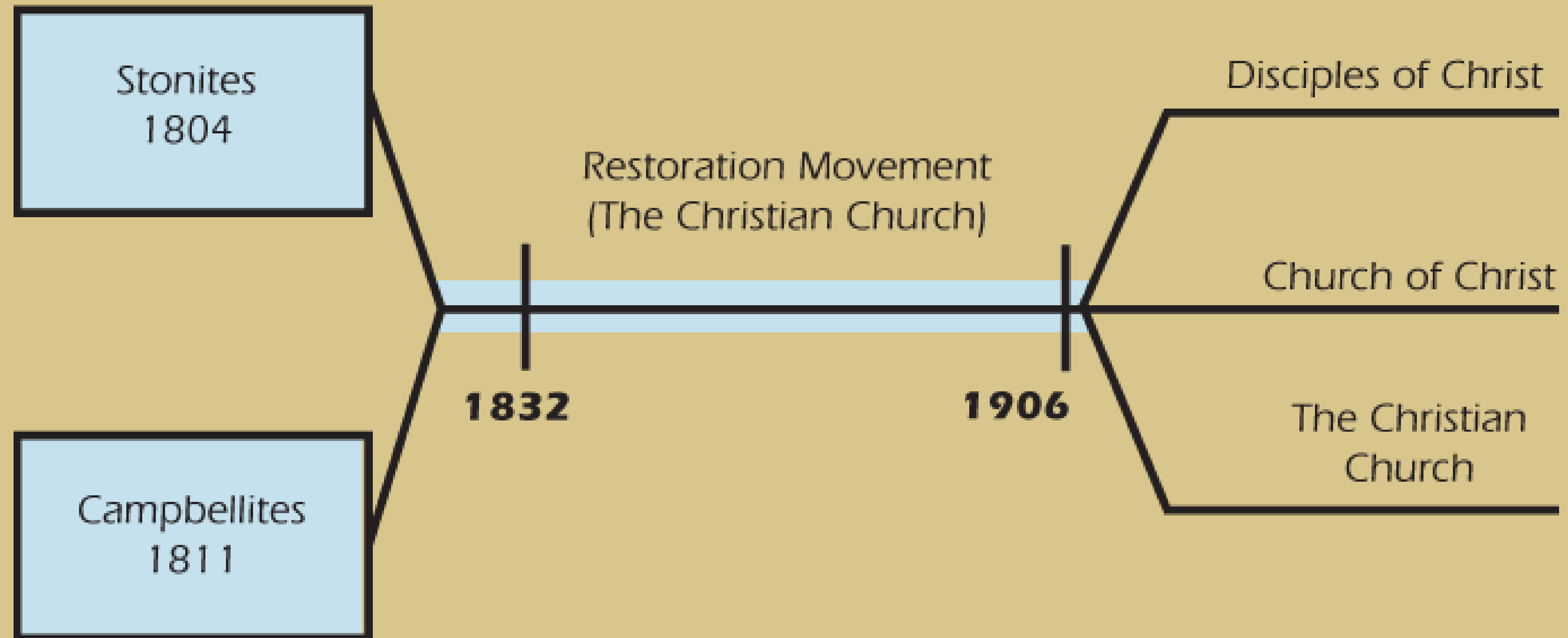
# The Rural Phase of the Second Great Awakening: Camp Meetings



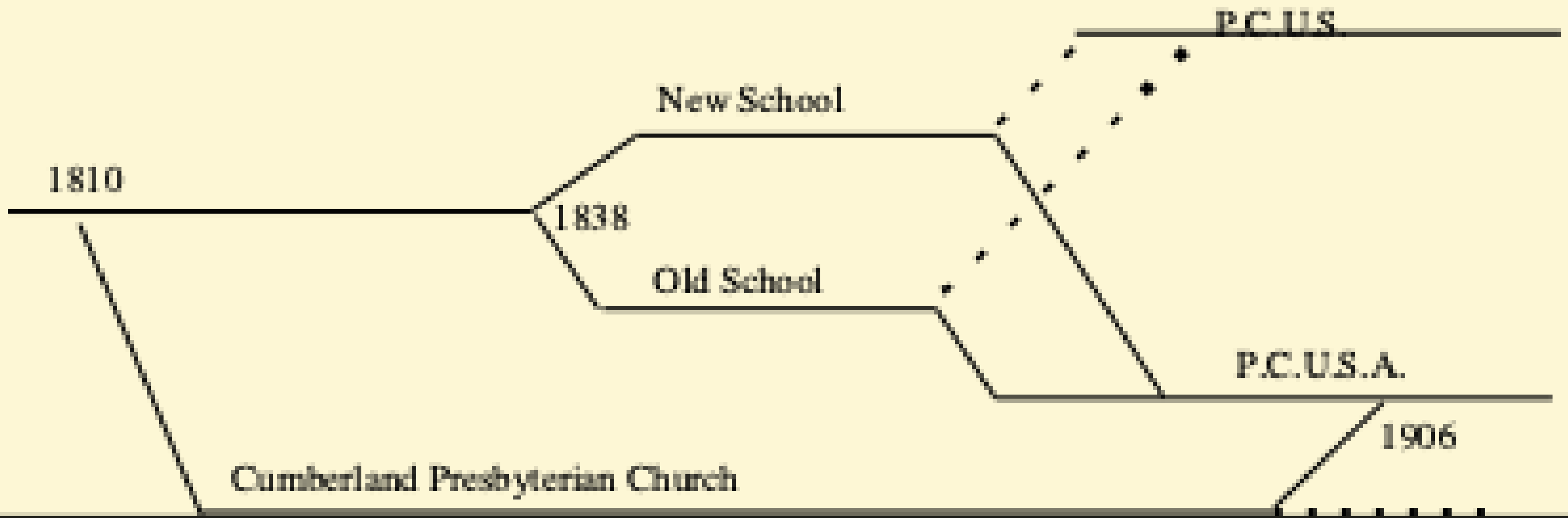
# The Second Awakening



# History of the Restoration Movement (The Christian Church)



# History of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church





# Changes in Gospel Preaching: The Great Awakenings Compared

## FIRST GREAT AWAKENING

## SECOND GREAT AWAKENING

**Nature**

Proclamation,  
theocentric

Persuasion,  
anthropocentric

**Illustrations**

Biblical,  
to illustrate

Stories,  
to convince

**Application**

Wait for mercy

Immediate  
decision

**Preachers' View of  
Congregation**

Should have faith . . .  
but can't (inability)

Can have faith . . .  
but won't (stubbornness)

# The Rise of Theological Seminaries

