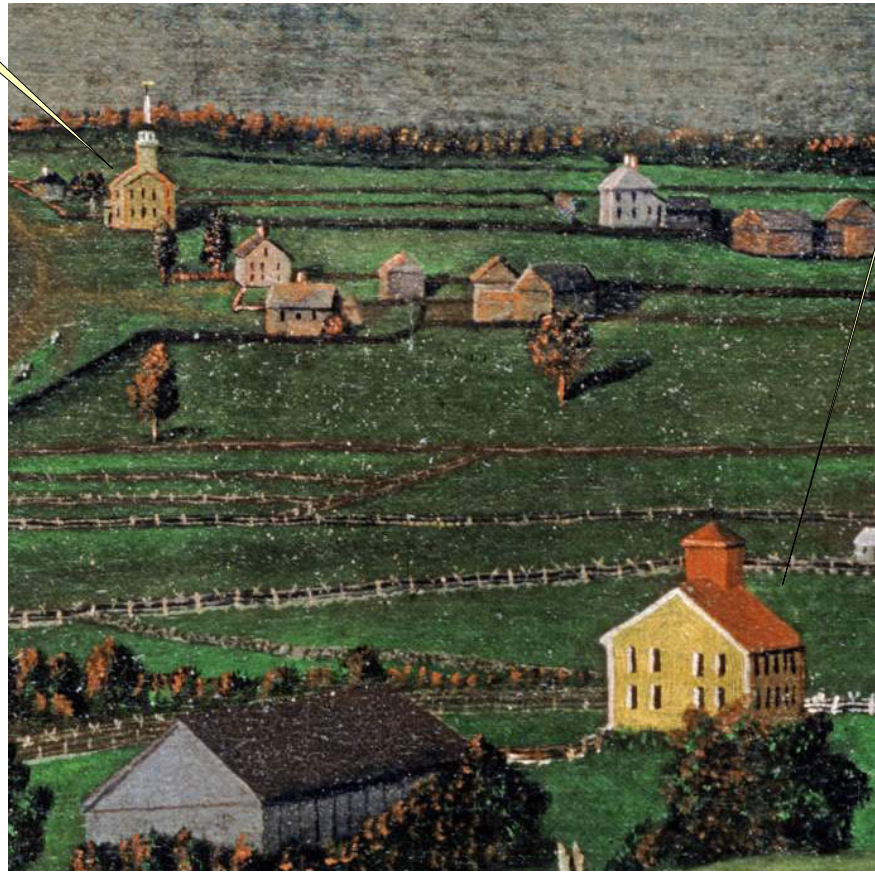


## A view made poignant by memory

Congregational Church 1792

A crisis in the church occurred when a large group of parishioners broke away from the Congregational Church to form the Baptist Church in a dispute over the correct form of baptism.



Baptist Church 1817

*This day 18 persons, 12 males, 6 females, all but one members of my church, were gathered into a Baptist church by Mr. Case and Mr. Merrill. To me a mournful event. But the Lord Reigneth!*

From the diary of Jonathan Fisher, February 13, 1806<sup>9</sup>

The divide in the church meant more than a difference in sacramental form. The Congregational Church enjoyed the support of public taxes, and its practice of infant baptism reinforced a patriarchal culture. The Baptist belief in adult baptism allowed a personal expression of religious faith that represented a cultural shift toward individualism.