

Abstract

This study examines the contribution of Sarah Pierpont Edwards and Sarah Osborn to the Great Awakening, a religious spiritual awakening, that happened in the Colonies in the eighteenth century. Sarah Pierpont Edward's name was lost in the shadow of his husband, who was a representative theologian during the First Great Awakening period. The second subject of this study, Sarah Osborn, was unknown till Professor Catherine A. Brekus shed light on her personal contribution to the rise of evangelicalism. As her presence as a female missionary and former boarding school director is of great importance, this paper will empathetically highlight these aspects of her life as well.

This is divided into three main parts. At first hand, it explores the roles of women in the preceding decades of the Great Awakening. Additionally, several related terms will be clarified, such as *religious pluralism*, *revivalism*, and *New Birth*. In the midst of the church and social changes, women were experimenting with how to give voice to their thoughts outside of the domestic sphere. The most significant instance of it was the attitude of the Quakers leaders towards women, who allowed them to preach.

Aside from the reaction of the communities of Sarah Pierpont Edwards and Sarah Osborn, this study will thoroughly elaborate on their personal lives, based on three aspects. First, their personal narratives since they both recorded their own spiritual pilgrimage. Second, as their narratives are one-sided, it is inevitable to take into consideration the reception of their Memoirs, letters, and diary entries. Amongst others, there were two important male characters in their lives, namely, Jonathan Edwards, the husband of Sarah Pierpont Edwards, and Joseph Fish, a minister, and a spiritual guide of Sarah Osborn, whose reconstructed opinion about the above-mentioned women will be detailed. Third, the contemporary influences that could be traced in their narratives, such as the Lockean Sensationalism. These ideas were supported by several significant contemporary scholars in this field, such as Catherine A. Brekus, Kenneth Minkema, Harry Stout, and Amanda Porterfield, just to mention some.

Thus, the investigation intends to shed light on the prospect of these women in the Great Awakening with a special focus on their hardships concerning their spiritual pilgrimage and a comparison of the revelations of Sarah Pierpont Edwards with Sarah Osborn's experiences.