

## **Links to two interesting Michigan personages who reflect different aspects of the Second Great Awakening**

### **Elijah Pilcher, Methodist Circuit Rider**

An important way that the Second Great Awakening was spread across the country was by Methodist circuit riders. Usually young men, deeply committed to spreading Christianity among frontier and rural Americans, circuit riders experience untold hardships as they travelled their "circuits" that often covered hundreds of miles. One of the significant early circuit riders in Michigan was Elijah Pilcher. Below is a link to his story as published in the Ann Arbor Observer.

<https://annarborobserver.com/circuit-rider-elijah-pilcher/>

### **Uriah Adams, Millerite**

Following the War of 1812, William Miller, Vermont Baptist endeavored to research the Bible in search of evidence as to when the Second Coming of Christ would actually occur. By the mid-1820s Miller was confident he had discovered the approximate date. In the 1830s his findings became increasingly popularized and eventually on October 10, 1844, was announced as the date the Second Coming would occur.

Millerite teaching was spread across the country, but was especially influential in western New York and, of course, found its way to Oakland County. One of the more eccentric local Millerites was Uriah Adams, who lived in Rochester, Michigan. His story is told by the Van Hoosen Museum in the link below.

<https://cms9files.revize.com/rochesterhillsmi/Museum/LocalHistory/UriahAdams.pdf>

It is worth noting that while most Millerites probably returned to their previous churches following the "Great Disappointment", some of Miller's followers eventually gathered to establish the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church. Originally formed in Rochester, New York, the Seventh Day Adventists relocated to Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1863.