Of the many dramatic embodied religious exercises that spread across the trans-Appalachian frontier and southern backcountry during the Great Revival (1799–1805), none drew more astonished commentary or more virulent opposition than “the jerks”: involuntary convulsions in which the subjects’ heads lashed violently backward and forward. In this illustrated lecture, University of Richmond historian Douglas Winiarski examines how the jerks emerged out a shadowy world of Scots-Irish signs and wonders that flourished in the Shenandoah Valley and East Tennessee. Radical Presbyterian “jerkers” fueled the explosive growth of the early Shaker communities in Ohio and Kentucky, and they played a crucial role in the development of the distinctive subculture that scholars have termed Appalachian mountain religion.