



# Vine and

# Fig Tree

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*Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid. – Micah 4:3-4*

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April 2001

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## **Next Meeting**

**Sunday, April 21, 2002**  
Business meeting 6:00  
Program 7:00  
**Hopedale Unitarian Parish**

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**Friends of Adin Ballou honors the life and legacy of Rev. Adin Ballou (1803-1890). Best known as the founder of the utopian community at Hopedale, Massachusetts, Ballou was a minister and theologian, a tireless reformer, and a leading nineteenth-century exponent of pacifism.**

**The goals of Friends of Adin Ballou are to research and study the words and deeds of Adin Ballou and the Hopedale Community, and to find ways to keep their legacy alive in the modern world.**

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Newsletter editor: Lynn Gordon Hughes  
(Lynn\_Hughes@brown.edu)

## **At Our Next Meeting**

### **What Happened to Hopedale?**

At the annual meeting of the Hopedale Community in 1856, the Community President, Ebenezer Draper, expressed his hope that Hopedale would “become more and more a light to those around us, proving to the world that Christian Socialism opens a more excellent way.” So successful did the Community appear that plans were made to start another community in Minnesota, then just being settled.

Yet just six weeks later, that same Ebenezer Draper announced that the financial state of the Community was “so desperate and hopeless” that he and his brother George, who together controlled 3/4 of the community’s stock, had decided to withdraw their assets. Thus ended the great experiment, that was to have shown the world a new and better way to live.

After the calamity, Adin Ballou resolved “to search out the errors and mistakes which had caused it,” and to publish his findings “as admonitions and warnings to philanthropists and social reformers in coming generations.”

Did he succeed? Do we now understand what happened? Come to our next meeting and find out.

### **Bicentennial Plans**

April 23, 2003 will mark Adin Ballou’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. In the spirit of the Hopedale Community, which celebrated an assortment of “entertainments, festivals, and gala-days,” we hope to arrange a celebration that will honor his memory, introduce his ideas to as many people as possible, and (as he put it) “gratify and delight whomsoever might be in attendance.”

Right now we are in the dreaming/brainstorming phase, but we will have to move into the planning phase very soon. For the moment we are entertaining all suggestions, however impractical they may seem at first glance.

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## ***Bicentennial Plans***

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Here are some of our ideas so far:

- a concert featuring works on the theme of “Peace”
- an exhibition of art works on themes of peace, hope, unity, etc.
- a one-man show “featuring Adin Ballou”

Do you have other ideas? Do you have any talents, skills, or contacts that could help make one of these happen, or do you know someone who does? **Join us at the meeting on April 21** to discuss these and any other ideas. If you can't be there, e-mail your suggestions to [Lynn\\_Hughes@brown.edu](mailto:Lynn_Hughes@brown.edu).

### **✂ Web Site Under Construction ✂**

Work is underway on a Friends of Adin Ballou web site. We need your suggestions! What would you like to see on-line?

## ***Work in Progress***

A walking tour of historic Hopedale... a marker at the site of the abolitionist picnic... plaques and benches at the Adin Ballou statue in the park... a new, easy-to-read version of Adin Ballou's *Practical Christian Socialism*...

**It's all part of the effort to bring Adin Ballou and his ideas into the tumultuous world of the 21st century, which is in such great need of peacemakers.**