



Vine and

Fig Tree

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

April 2003

Next Meeting

**Sunday, April 13
7:00 p.m.**

Hopedale Unitarian Parish

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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Adin Ballou: American Pacifist

Friends of Adin Ballou secretary to address
Unitarian Universalist Historical Society

Lynn Gordon Hughes, secretary of Friends of Adin Ballou and editor of Ballou's works for Blackstone Editions' Hopedale Collection, has been invited to speak on Adin Ballou's pacifism at the annual lecture of the Unitarian Universalist Historical Society. The lecture will be held at 7:30 on April 24, 2003 at First Parish in Cambridge, 3 Church Street, Cambridge, MA.

The lecture will trace the roots of Ballou's pacifism, the ways in which he transformed the ideas that he inherited, and the ways in which his ideas were themselves transformed by Tolstoy and later theorists of pacifism.

Friends of Adin Ballou will have a chance to **preview Lynn's lecture** at the April 13 meeting.

Hopedale Historic District and Ballou Bicentennial Celebration

Saturday, April 26 will be a gala day in Hopedale, as the town celebrates the addition of the Hopedale Village Historic District to the National Park Service's Register of Historic Places – not to mention Adin Ballou's 200th birthday. As our contribution to the festivities, Friends of Adin Ballou is organizing a **historical re-enactment of the Hopedale Community May Festival** from 1848. You won't want to miss it!

Upcoming Publications

Two new volumes in Blackstone Editions' Hopedale Collection are coming out in May.

Christian Non-Resistance. Last published in 1974 and long unavailable except through fortunate finds at used book stores, *Christian Non-Resistance* is Adin Ballou's classic exposition of his philosophy of non-violence. He begins with a simple principle – “resist not evil with evil” – and applies it to a vast range of human experience, from international relations to humble, homely stories in which neighbors resolve disputes over hay, manure, and livestock; quarrelling friends and estranged brothers are reconciled, and bullies come to see the error of their ways. By honoring the practice of non-resistance in everyday life, “where people pass through a thousand trials ... unnoticed, unsympathized with, unpitied and uncared for,” Ballou challenges his readers to begin living it now, even if they are never menaced by an armed robber or an invading army.



Susie delivers the mail to Adin Ballou

To Live a Truer Life. This 32-page picture book, written by Lynn Gordon Hughes with illustrations by Pennsylvania artist Lindro, presents a day in the life of the Hopedale Community through the eyes of the community's mail carrier, eight-year-old Susie Thwing.

The book explains “non-resistance” in language a child can understand:

Resist means *fight back*. Non-Resistant means we don't fight back – no matter what! Everyone who lives in Hopedale has to promise never to kill, hurt, or hate anybody, even their worst enemy.

Christian Non-Resistance and *To Live a Truer Life* will be available in mid-May from the Friends of Adin Ballou on-line bookstore at www.adinballou.org.

New on www.adinballou.org

Items added to our web site since the last newsletter:

- ❖ Substantial excerpts from *Christian Non-Resistance* by Adin Ballou
- ❖ Pamphlet, “How Many Does It Take?” by Adin Ballou. (This was one of the works that Tolstoy had translated into Russian.)
- ❖ Article, “Adin Ballou, Tolstoy” and Gandhi” by James D. Hunt
- ❖ Article, “A Child of My Own Begetting”: Adin Ballou as an Educational Reformer” by Lynn Gordon Hughes

What cannot be done uninjuriously can scarcely ever be done at all.

- Adin Ballou, Christian Non-Resistance

What Did You Do...

These are hard times for the cause of peace. How have Friends of Adin Ballou responded to the present emergency?

We don't all think alike, let alone act alike. Some of us are pacifists, some are not. Some support the present war, some don't. All of us have to find a way to live out the principles that mean the most to us. What are we doing? We would like to collect members' stories for a new section on the Friends of Adin Ballou web site, "Living the Legacy."

The stories don't have to be very exciting or heroic. Here's mine:

I thought the time to protest the war was before it started. Now that it has, I've concluded that the most positive outcome would be a relatively quick victory for the U.S.-led forces. At the moment, I'm contributing toward humanitarian aid and doing a lot of praying.

I think the U.S. needs to learn to work more effectively within the community of nations. To that end I have lobbied my elected representatives – unlike Adin Ballou, I do believe in voting and taking part in government, despite its willingness to use deadly force on occasion. The highlight of my anti-war action was twice being part of a delegation to present petitions to Rhode Island senator Lincoln Chafee. It was heartening to hear all the delegates' expressions of love and concern for our country and our world, and Sen. Chafee (a Republican who opposed going to war) was more than gracious. But in the end what most sticks in my mind is a comment one of my fellow delegates made in the elevator: "I can't support any war I wouldn't want my granddaughter to fight in."

- *Lynn Gordon Hughes*



Candlelight vigil in Providence, RI

To be part of this project, send your stories and pictures to editor@adinballou.org.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? E-mail editor@adinballou.org
