



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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Spring 2004

**Next Meeting**

**Sunday, April 18  
3:00 p.m.  
Hopedale Unitarian Parish**

*The Friends of Adin Ballou celebrate the ideas and achievements of Adin Ballou and the original Hopedale Community, including non-resistance, social justice, and racial equality. Our mission is to promote the ideals of that cooperative community. We hope that this legacy may inspire and inform others in their own efforts for “the progress and redemption of humanity.”*

**April meeting  
to feature discussion of  
“Non-Resistance  
in Extreme Cases”**

April 18 at 3 p.m. at the Hopedale Unitarian Parish, in commemoration of Adin Ballou’s 201<sup>st</sup> birthday, Friends of Adin Ballou will host an open discussion of Ballou’s response to the Civil War, and the relevance of his ideas to today’s conflicts.

In 1860, with the nation descending into civil war, Ballou charted a course true to his abolitionist beliefs while preserving his cherished principle of non-resistance. In his pamphlet “Christian Non-Resistance in Extreme Cases,” he took up a challenge often put to pacifists: “Suppose a robber attacks you in some lonely place on this highway? Suppose you and your family are attacked by a gang who design to commit rape, robbery and murder? How can the downtrodden peoples of the earth ever gain their liberty without fighting to the death against their tyrants?”

Join us on April 18 to share your ideas about this important subject.

If you would like to read Ballou’s pamphlet on “Extreme Cases” before the discussion, you can find it on the FAB web site at <http://www.adinballou.org/extreme.shtml>. (It is also included in the Friends of Adin Ballou pamphlet *On Non-Resistance* and in the book *Christian Non-Resistance*, both available for sale from the FAB on-line bookstore.)

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## ***Adin Ballou Bicentennial Lecture***



In November, Friends of Adin Ballou sponsored a public lecture in honor of Adin Ballou's bicentennial. Hopedale historian Elaine Malloy spoke on "Hopedale Amusements." Using examples from the Hopedale Community's newspaper the *Practical Christian*, Adin Ballou's writings, and the reminiscences of community members, Malloy showed how the members of the original Hopedale Community blended entertainment, education, social action, work, and spirituality – which most of us think of as very different activities – into a unified way of life.

Whether they were celebrating holidays and birthdays, taking early-morning nature walks, attending lectures by abolitionists or spiritualists, or carrying on the ordinary business of the community, the people of Hopedale believed that even amusements should contribute to worthwhile goals; and that even difficult or disagreeable tasks, when done in a spirit of cooperation, contain elements of comradeship and fun. It was a thought-provoking message for all of us to reflect on as we approached the holiday season.

## ***Bylaws and Mission Statement***

The Bylaws and Mission Statement committee has been working to put into words the goals and purposes of Friends of Adin Ballou, and to define the tasks, procedures, roles, and activities that will best help us carry them out. One of the first fruits of their work is the new draft mission statement found on the sidebar of this issue. Comments are welcome; please send them to [editor@adinballou.org](mailto:editor@adinballou.org).

The committee has also been considering such issues as activities, dues and membership, officers and committees. One decision we made was to conduct our business meetings in accordance with the "By-law Prescribing the Manner of Calling, Notifying, and Conducting Business Meetings" adopted by the Hopedale Community at one of its early organizational meetings in 1841. In this way we hope to steer a middle course between complete informality (and disorganization) and the formality of parliamentary procedure. (You can see the "By-Law" on the FAB web site. From the "About Friends of Adin Ballou" page, click on the minutes for January 11, 2004 and follow the link.)



## ***Adin Ballou Park Ready for Spring***

Adin Ballou Park in Hopedale is in fine shape for Spring, thanks to the efforts of Hopedale park commissioner and groundskeeper Mark Sesona. So much so, that a planned cleanup/work day in the park has been canceled for lack of anything needing to be cleaned up!

On April 27, Friends of Adin Ballou will be planting three forsythia along the walkway, in honor of Adin Ballou's birthday.

## **“Thus Is Life”**

Adin Ballou wrote in the *Practical Christian*, October 16, 1847:

*If we die today, the sun will shine as brightly and the birds will sing as sweetly tomorrow. Business will not be suspended for a moment, and the great mass will not bestow a thought upon our memories. “Is he dead?” will be the solemn inquiry of a few, as they pass to their pleasure or their work. But no one will miss us except our immediate connexions, and in a short time even they will forget us and laugh as merrily as when we sat beside them.*

*Thus shall we all now in active life pass away... In a few years not a living being can say, “I remember him.” We lived in another age, and did business with those who have long since slumbered in the tomb. Thus is life. How rapidly it passes! O, blessed are they who are held in everlasting remembrance.*

We think Ballou would be happy to know that, more than 150 years after he wrote these words, people still gather in his name to discuss his ideas and honor his memory.

## **Some Things Never Change**

The following advertisement appeared in the *Practical Christian* on May 12, 1849:

### **The Book still on Hand, Awaiting orders.**

Do those interested know that we have two or three hundred copies of our work on Christian Non-Resistance, (the remains of the edition) all nicely bound and packed for sale? Who will buy any of them, either to sell again, to read, or to give away for the enlightenment of the world? They ought not to be idle. It is time a new and large edition was out and being scattered broadcast over the land. This is not a work for us to be ashamed of, or forgotten by our brethren. We feel no misgivings in throwing out this hint.

If Adin Ballou himself felt no misgivings about throwing out this hint, neither should we. Don't forget to **visit Friends of Adin Ballou's on-line bookstore** ([www.adinballou.org/catalog.shtml](http://www.adinballou.org/catalog.shtml)), where we have copies of *Christian Non-Resistance* and *Practical Christianity* and other books and pamphlets about Adin Ballou and Hopedale. New at the on-line bookstore – **“Hopedale Scenes” note cards** by FAB's own Marcia Matthews!

## **New on [www.adinballou.org](http://www.adinballou.org)**

Items added to our web site since the last newsletter:

- ❖ **The Furious Priest Reproved (1823)**  
*A rare early pamphlet by Adin Ballou, in which he rebukes a local Baptist minister for preventing him from preaching a Universalist sermon in the town meetinghouse in Bellingham, Massachusetts.*
- ❖ **Fourth of July Oration at Milford (1827)**  
*Meet Adin Ballou before he adopted the principle of non-resistance!*
- ❖ **Epistle General to Restorationists (1831)**  
*Describes Ballou's experiences as a Universalist minister, and his reasons for leaving the denomination in 1831.*

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**Questions? Comments? Suggestions? E-mail [editor@adinballou.org](mailto:editor@adinballou.org)**

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