



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

Fall 2004

Next Meeting

Sunday, November 14
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 theorist of non-violent resistance to evil.

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

Newsletter Editor: Lynn Gordon Hughes
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Friends of Adin Ballou 2004 Fall Lecture

“Bound for the Promised Land”

Author Kate Clifford Larson reads from her biography of Harriet Tubman on Sunday, November 14 at 7 pm



Americans think they know about Harriet Tubman (1820-1913): slave, conductor on the Underground Railroad, abolitionist, spy, nurse, and suffragist. One of the most famous women in our nation's history, her secret, successful journeys into the slave states to rescue bondwomen, men, and children have immortalized her in the minds of Americans for over 130 years. More myth than reality, this

historical image has not always been representative of Tubman's real life nor revealed the extent of her remarkable accomplishments.

In the first biography of Harriet Tubman published in 60 years, Kate Clifford Larson breaks new ground with **BOUND FOR THE PROMISED LAND** and presents a fascinating portrait of this American legend and the times she lived in.

Through the use of long discarded and obscure historical records, and archival material unavailable to earlier biographers, Larson exposes never before revealed details of Harriet Tubman's long life and that of her family and her community. She also brings to light for the first time some of the intimate details of Tubman's famed rescue missions on the Underground Railroad, which earned her the title "Moses."

The Underground Railroad in Hopedale?
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The Underground Railroad in Hopedale

from Anna Thwing Field, "Anti-Slavery and Other Visitors to the Community" in *Hopedale Reminiscences* (1910)

Many escaped slaves lived in the families of Hopedale. My father had a colored man called John who did some work about the place, but never went alone from the house. At night he was there, in the morning gone. I was too young to be entrusted with important secrets. In the opposite house a man, woman and two children, all black, dwelt one winter in the cellar kitchen and one summer in the attic. The oldest girl went to school and learned to read and write. Another neighbor had as a guest Lizzie Hall, a handsome mulatto young woman with a history somewhat like Eliza of Uncle Tom's cabin, though Lizzie Hall was her master's daughter. She stayed till after her little child was born; then she too, had gone away. Several others there were who lived among us for weeks or months. They were fed, clothed, and sheltered. We knew them and saw them moving in and out, one day here, the next, gone. Sometimes we heard they had reached Worcester, Boston, New York, or the Mecca of their wanderings, Canada.

There can be no doubt that the early inhabitants of Hopedale were earnest and conscientious in their devotion to convictions of duty, whatever its cost and penalties.

The Slave Mother

Abby H. Price

from the *Practical Christian*, March 4, 1843

I pity the slave-mother, care-worn and weary,
Who sighs, as she presses her babe to her breast;
I lament her sad fate, all so hopeless and dreary--
I lament for her woes, and her wrongs unredressed.

O, who can imagine her heart's deep emotion,
As she thinks of her children about to be sold!
You may picture the bounds of the rock-girdled ocean,
But the grief of that mother can never be told!

The mildew of slavery has blighted each blossom,
That ever has bloomed in her path-way below;
It has froze every fountain that gushed in her bosom,
And chilled her heart's verdure with pitiless woe.

Her parents, her kindred, all crushed by oppression;
Her husband still doomed in its desert to stay;
No arm to protect from the tyrant's aggression--
She must weep as she treads on her desolate way.

O, who will pour balm o'er her cup-full of sorrow
Where, where is the hand that is stretched out to save?
Dawns not for that mother one happy to-morrow,
Ere she lays herself down in a merciless grave?

O, slave-mother! is there no vision of gladness,
In the far-coming future, to light up thy sky?
Is there nothing for thee but hard-toiling and sadness
No repose for thy form, but to lie down and die?

O, slave-mother hope! See -- the nation is shaking!
The arm of the Lord is awake to thy wrong!
The slave-holder's heart now with terror is quaking--
Salvation and Mercy to Heaven belong!

Rejoice, O rejoice! for the child thou art rearing,
May one day lift up its unmanacled form,
While hope, to thy heart, like the rainbow so cheering,
Is born, like the rainbow, 'mid tempest and storm.

Abby H. Price was the unofficial Poet Laureate of the Hopedale Community. In addition to writing for the Community's newspaper, the *Practical Christian*, she composed poems on themes of peace, anti-slavery, nature, and in commemoration of Community events.

Buy your holiday cards now at www.adinballou.org!

The Friends of Adin Ballou on-line bookstore offers a variety of note cards suitable for year-round use, but at this time of year we'd like to call your attention to two designs that are particularly appropriate for holiday greetings.



The Red Shop in Winter
by Marcia Matthews

Peace on Earth
by Lynn Gordon Hughes

All books in Blackstone Editions' Hopedale Collection (*Practical Christianity*, *Christian Non-Resistance*, and *To Live a Truer Life*) are now available at a **10% discount** when ordered from the FAB on-line bookstore.

New on www.adinballou.org

Items added to our web site since the last newsletter:

- ❖ Autobiography of Adin Ballou – chapters 2, 3, and 4
- ❖ Anti-Slavery poetry by Abby Hills Price

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