

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

Spring 2005

Next Meeting

**Sunday, April 24
2:00 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.

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Annual Celebration to Feature Discussion of Non-Resistance

April 23 will be Adin Ballou's 202nd birthday. Friends of Adin Ballou will gather to commemorate the day on Sunday, April 24, at 2 p.m. We will read and discuss Ballou's essay "Non-Resistance in Extreme Cases" (1860). Written on the eve of the Civil War, this important essay gives the reasoning behind Ballou's decision to abide by his non-violent principles even as his fellow abolitionists were preparing for war.

An electronic text of "Non-Resistance in Extreme Cases" may be found on the Friends of Adin Ballou web site (<http://www.adinballou.org/extreme.shtml>). It is also included in the pamphlet, "On Non-Resistance" and in the recent edition of Ballou's *Christian Non-Resistance*.

Adin Ballou's Birthday Reflection

April 23, 1836. My thirty-third birthday. Went into serious scrutiny of last year's experiences, my present spiritual condition, and what improvements I ought to make in the future. As on preceding birthdays, I had to lament many shortcomings, form many resolutions of amendment, and implore divine strength to act more worthy of my high calling. My ideal is always far above my highest attainments, and (what is humiliating) I stand convicted before my own internal judgment seat of repeating sins against even former lower ideals... Therefore will I welcome every bright ray of light, and strive on and hope on, ever girding up my loins with the encouraging assurance: "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

adinballou.org Bookstore News

For those who did not have a chance to attend Kate Clifford Larsen's lecture on Harriet Tubman in November, we still have a few **signed copies** of Kate's book, *Bound for the Promised Land*. They will be available at the April meeting, or e-mail editor@adinballou.org.

And, don't forget to check out the new **lower prices** at our on-line bookstore! All of our books have been reduced by 15-30%.

Peter Hughes to preach on "Adin Ballou: The Milford Years"

On Sunday, April 24, in honor of Adin Ballou's birthday, our own Peter Hughes will lead the morning service at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Milford. Peter will highlight Ballou's relationship with the Milford church, which he served from 1824 to 1831. The service is at 10:30 a.m. and all are welcome to attend.

New on www.adinballou.org

- ❖ *Christian Non-Resistance*, chapter 2 – part of our program to make the entire book available in electronic form.

