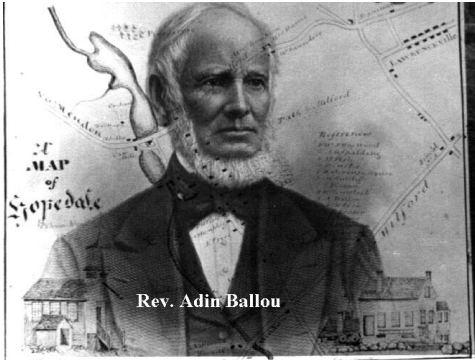


# ESSAY CONTEST



## *THE FRIENDS OF ADIN BALLOU*

are sponsoring an essay contest for students in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade

First prize winner will receive \$100

Second prize - \$50

Honorable mention - \$25

Write a 250-word original essay on one of the following topics:

**What does peace mean to me?**

**How can one person help spread peace?**

**What I will do for peace!**

Email your entry by April 23, 2014 to: [Editor@adinballou.org](mailto:Editor@adinballou.org)

Please include your name, phone number and date of birth when you submit your essay

**The winning essays will be published on the Friends of Adin Ballou website**

Visit our Website at <http://www.adinballou.org>

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*Friends of Adin Ballou*



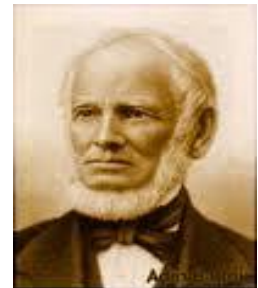
**History of the Peace Picnic:** The Anti-Slavery Picnic, commemorating the emancipation of slavery in the British Empire on August 1, 1834, was one of the most beloved traditions of the Hopedale Community. The first was held in 1842, only four months after the Community took up residence in Hopedale. The members, still living in cramped and uncomfortable quarters, set



aside a day for an event that was part celebration, part demonstration against social injustice. The Community's newspaper, the *Practical Christian*, reported, "In a humble manner a few names gathered beneath a rude bower in His temple who fills all space, to commemorate the glorious First of August." The event grew until, by the mid-1850s, it was attracting between one and two thousand people, with well-known speakers such as Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass.

Friends of Adin Ballou revived the tradition with "Poetry for Peace in the Park" in 2010. The "Picnic in the Park" is a family event with an open mike to speak on social issues, play music, share poetry or other readings. Like the Hopedale pioneers, in August we gather "in a humble manner, beneath a rude bower" to express our visions of peace and our aspirations toward justice.

**Fall Lecture 2013:** "Clouds of witnesses" and forty-plus earthly attendees heard Michael Boover carve out a place for peace at the Fall lecture in the Hopedale Unitarian Parish Hall. In a talk entitled "HOPING STILL: Carrying Adin Ballou's Peace Torch into the Twenty-First Century", Boover invoked Adin Ballou, whose writings were admired by Tolstoy, who then influenced Gandhi and Dorothy Day, among other peace activists.



The lecture also included a Round Table Discussion on Peace, which addressed concerns that Ballou had in the 19th century: war resistance and the building of a culture of peace. Several well-known pacifists and authors spoke boldly to these selfsame concerns. Peace-makers on the round table included Chicago author Rosalie Riegler, and Brayton Shanley and Suzanne Belote Shanley of the Agape Community. This was also an official event celebrating the Centennial of the Peace Palace in the Haig, for which Friends of Adin Ballou has been designated a Point of Light!

The Fall Lecture is held each year in late October. Past lectures include "Abolitionism in Hopedale", recounting how Ballou embraced the cause of abolition of slavery; "Women in the Early Hopedale Community", focused on prominent women and the powerful role they played; "The Tragedy of Adin Ballou", which highlighted Ballou's frustrations and failures; "Theorists of Nonviolence: Ballou, Tolstoy, Gandhi & Sharp", which described Ballou's influence on some of the greatest peace advocates of modern times.