

Joanna R. Kelley Ballou of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Born: 1802. Johanna Ballou was 48 at the time of the 1850 National Woman's Rights Convention held in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Died:

Married: To Amos Ballou

Mrs. Ballou was Abby Kelley Foster's older sister. She and her husband joined the Hopedale Community in Milford, a Christian socialist community founded by Amos' cousin Adin Ballou. Hopedale was a community of Christian nonresistants who shared the work and slender profits of the enterprise. Amos Ballou was superintendent of agriculture and animals. Men tilled the fields under his direction or worked on the mill they had built on the banks of the river running through the property. The women kept house and took care of the children. Members pledged to withdraw from all worldly government and to support temperance and antislavery.

Prior to living in Hopedale, the Ballous had lived three miles from Elizabeth Buffum Chase in Valley Falls, Rhode Island. Joanna was "loquacious" according to the Wymans.

Sources:

Sterling, Dorothy. *Ahead of Her Time* (170, 189)

Wyman, Lydia and Arthur. *Elizabeth Buffum Chase, vol. 1.* (121)