



about
ELDER JOHN KLINE

John Kline (1797-1864) devoted his entire adult life to the Brethren. He was born in Dauphin County, Pa., and in approximately 1811 migrated with his family to Rockingham County, Va., where he spent the rest of his life. He died during the Civil War when his commitment to his faith cost him his life.

As a congregational leader, Kline became a preacher and elder for the Linville Creek, Va., fellowship. His ordination came under the free ministry system, meaning that he received no pay and continued to earn his livelihood from his farm. Kline also donated land and money for the construction of Linville Creek's first meetinghouse. Kline's faith bore fruit.

As a missionary, Kline frequently traveled on horseback to western Virginia on lengthy and arduous mission trips. He visited Brethren families, preached, baptized, and organized congregations in the mountains. Kline served his present age.

As a denominational leader, four times Kline filled the role as the Moderator of the Brethren's Yearly Meeting. As Moderator during the Civil War, he crossed lines to preach and to preside over Yearly Meeting, and he helped prevent sectional conflict from dividing the Brethren, as it had most other fellowships. Kline was a good shepherd.

As a witness, Kline let faithfulness rather than conse-

(Continued on the back)

About John Kline (continued)

quences shape life. Living in the midst of slavery, he spoke against bondage, and in a society at war, he preached non-violence and assisted conscientious objectors. Kline let his light shine bright.

As a martyr, in 1862 Kline suffered arrest for his advocacy of non-resisters, and two years later irregular soldiers ambushed and assassinated him. Kline bore the cross.

We preserve this heritage site because the memory of John Kline will enhance the spiritual lives of current and future Brethren and others. Kline's extraordinary faith creates enthusiasm for core Brethren beliefs and motivates Brethren to imitate his example. Kline will be a role model for generations to come among all of the Brethren bodies descending from Alexander Mack and the Schwarzenau brethren.

Kline's homestead may soon lose its ability to inspire. The surrounding area is undergoing transformation, and zoning is a mix of commercial and residential, which enhances the pace of development. Unless we act quickly, the Kline Homestead may soon pass from existence.

John Kline Homestead Preservation Trust

The John Kline Homestead Preservation Trust is a Federal tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that has been established to receive contributions, to purchase the John Kline Homestead, and to administer its use.

Serving on the Board of Directors are Christopher Eads, John W. Flora, Ellen K. Layman, Stephen L. Longenecker, Paul W. Roth, Phillip C. Stone, Sr., Dale V. Ulrich, and Paul W. White.

MORE INFORMATION:

Funk, B., *Life of John Kline 1797-1864*, 1900
Nair, C. E., *John Kline Among His Brethren or How He Filled His Place*, 1997
Papers from the *Elder John Kline Bicentennial Celebration*, 1997
Sappington, R. E., *Courageous Prophet*, 1964

Preserve *The*
John Kline Legacy!
Save the Homestead!



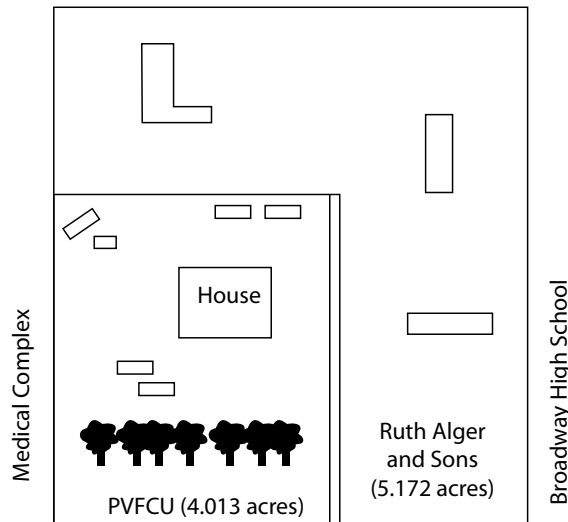
The
**JOHN KLINE
HOMESTEAD**
1822

Preserve *The* John Kline Legacy — Save the Homestead!

The JOHN KLINE HOMESTEAD Preservation Trust

The Homestead

John Kline, a farmer-preacher, constructed his home in 1822, and the building remains in excellent condition. It is located within the town of Broadway, and the land surrounding the house has been under development for some time. On one side of the property is the new Broadway High School, and to the west is a developing medical complex.



The nine-acre property has two adjoining lots for sale. (See drawing above.) One four-acre lot, recently purchased by Park View Federal Credit Union contains the Kline house and several outbuildings. Park View plans to build a branch office on one acre of this lot, and they hope for the Brethren to acquire the other three acres and the house. The additional five-acre lot is in private hands but will be sold soon.

It's Now or Never

The window of opportunity is small. Park View wants to close on the house by the end of 2009, and developers have inquired about the property. Your contribution will help determine the future of the John Kline Homestead.

Potential Uses of the Property

The immediate goal of the Board of Directors of the John Kline Homestead Preservation Trust is to save the John Kline House from development. Possession of surrounding acreage and creation of an endowment for property maintenance would also be very helpful.

The Kline House is one of the few remaining Brethren landmarks. Heritage sites contribute to religion through their ability to inspire, especially by reminding visitors of the faith of previous generations. Despite this, nearly all of the early Brethren meetinghouses and other historical locations have disappeared. But we still have a chance to preserve the Kline Homestead, and the John Kline Board seeks to accomplish this because it will reinforce core Brethren beliefs.

Potential future uses of the property include as a minimum a museum to teach about the life and legacy of John Kline which model Brethren values. But the immediate goal is to avoid the bulldozer, which is just over the horizon.

Financial Goals

To purchase the John Kline Homestead and provide an endowment for maintenance will require \$1.125 million. The project is divided into two phases:

- Rescue Fund**.....\$ 425,000
Purchase John Kline House and lot.
- Heritage Fund**.....\$ 700,000
Purchase two additional acres and provide endowment for maintenance and operations.

For additional information, contact:

Pastor Paul Roth, Linville Creek Church of the Brethren
409 Brethren Road, Broadway, VA 22815
540-896-5001, proth@bridgewater.edu

Donation/Pledge Form for the Rescue Fund

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I/We wish to contribute to the preservation and heritage development of the John Kline Homestead.

My/Our gift is: \$250 \$500 \$1,000
 \$2,500 \$5,000 Other _____

I/We would like to pledge: \$5,000 \$10,000
 \$25,000 Other _____

My/Our pledge will be paid by December 31, 2009.

I/We would appreciate a private visit to discuss this matter.

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

Please fill out this form, detach and return with your contribution, to:

John Kline Homestead Preservation Trust
P.O. Box 274
Broadway, VA 22815

Checks should be made payable to:
John Kline Homestead Preservation Trust

