

The Klein/Kline/Cline Family

Elder George Klein was born October 9, 1715, in Zweibrucken, Rhenish Bavaria, South Germany. He immigrated to Philadelphia on September 15, 1738, on the *Glasgow*, along with Dorothy Rehman and her father, Conrad Rehman. The master of the *Glasgow* was Walter Sterling who had sailed from Rotterdam, and later from Cowes, England, along with some 380 other passengers.

After landing in Philadelphia, George settled in Amwell, New Jersey. It is believed that George was a minister of the Lutheran faith when he came to America. At Amwell, he became acquainted with the Brethren, known as German Baptist at the time, and later known as Dunkard Brethren. He was baptized in their faith in 1739 by Elder Johannes Naas, and was soon elected to the ministry to assist Elder Naas.

George was married to Dorothy Rehman and had seven children. There were six sons: George, Jr., Philip, David, Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph; and one daughter, Sarah.

It is reported that during the next ten years he made numerous trips to Berks County, Pennsylvania. George moved his family to this area in 1750 to take charge of the Northkill Congregation. Church services were held in the home for a time. Elders Michael Pfaut and Martin Urner ordained him as an elder in the Brethren Church in 1757. He was also a farmer and a carpenter as he produced grain cradles.

His long and useful career in the Christian ministry, which was confined to Amwell (New Jersey), Berks, Lancaster, and Lebanon Counties came to an end on January 2, 1783. George and Dorothy's resting place was in the family plot located near Bernville, Pennsylvania.

The children of George and Dorothy Klein were:

1. George Klein, Jr., b. Dec. 19, 1740; d. Aug. 19, 1795 buried at Hay's Place, Broadway, Va.
m. Elizabeth Altaffer
2. Phillip Klein, b. June 17, 1742; d. May 9, 1815 buried in Klein Family Cem.
m. Elizabeth Stump
3. David Klein, b. Mar. 2, 1746; d. Jan. 28, 1814 buried in Klein Family Cem.
m. Elizabeth Brencison
4. Abraham Klein
m. Mary Dornback
5. Jacob Klein
6. Joseph Klein
7. Sarah Klein

George Klein, Jr., moved to Broadway, Va., in 1780. His oldest son, John, was born in 1763; died in 1844.

Elder John Kline, a son of John, born June 17, 1797, Dauphin Co., Pa., was martyred on June 14, 1864. In 1811, when he was fourteen years old, his family moved to Broadway. On March 10, 1818, John married Anna Wampler, whose father, Elder John Wampler, had moved from Maryland at about the same time the Klines came from Pennsylvania. The couple moved to a farm near the Kline homestead and lived there the rest of their lives.

John was active in the life of the church early in life. In 1830 he was elected to the ministry, and was ordained an elder on April 18, 1847. Of his ministerial career it was said that few persons at any time have more completely renounced material things and given themselves more wholeheartedly to the Christian ministry than did Elder John Kline.

John was also noted as a physician and was interested in the Tomsonian Theory of medicine, which was a vegetable or botanic method of treatment. In true missionary fashion, he prepared himself to be a healer of the body as well as of the soul. His medical practice continued for nearly thirty years with an extensive business. He compounded his own medicines from various herbs and plants. Lastly, he was also a skilled surgeon.

In 1835, he began to keep a most extensive diary, which recorded all that he did each day. He was also interested in education and was among the first of the Brethren to see the importance of training for the work of the ministry. Through his efforts, a school was established in advance of the common schools of that day among the Brethren in the Broadway area.

Unfortunately, Elder John Kline was ministering during the Civil War in an area that was a dividing line between the North and South. His loyalty was questioned several times by federal officers. His actions and whereabouts were always answered satisfactorily. But on the Wednesday morning of June 15, he left home to go to a blacksmith shop to have his horse, Nell, shod. While on his return home, he was ambushed by someone concealed in bushes.

Elder John Kline was buried at the Linville Creek Church Cemetery. A memorial has been erected at the site of his martyrdom. Sometime previous to his assassination, he stopped by the home of a friend on his way home from a conference for dinner. A discussion was held during that dinner concerning the danger of his position and he said, "I am threatened. They may take my life, but I do not fear them. They can only kill the body." What a statement by one who gave his life to his Lord.

- Francis Kline, 206 E. Penn Ave.,
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