



May 15, 2021

Dear Friends,

Over a century ago, 125 years this March to be exact, the State of New York was gifted the Adirondack home of John and Mary Brown on the condition that it be used “for the purpose of a public park or reservation forever.”

It was a gift from prominent journalist Kate Field and nineteen friends she had persuaded some years earlier to contribute \$100 each to purchase the farm when the home, gravesite and more than 200 surrounding acres were about to go on the market.

Field wanted John Brown’s home “to be held as sacred ground, as proof that even in the nineteenth century there is such a thing as poetic justice.”

As the NYS Friends Group of the John Brown Farm, we see ourselves as inheritors of her legacy and that of many other farsighted descendants, abolitionists, activists, political leaders, scholars, caretakers, artists, writers, and others whose care, vision, advocacy, and art have protected, preserved, and interpreted the history and meaning of this sacred site and human rights destination over these many years.

Today, we embrace this 125 year-milestone as a call of duty to project the John Brown Farm far into the future. In this era of Black Lives Matter, we ask ourselves what can and must we do now to ensure that the home of John and Mary Brown will be of use and inspiration to all New Yorkers, and to freedom-loving people everywhere for generations to come.

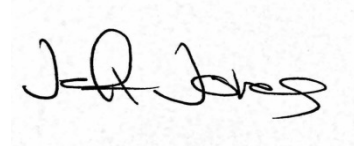
It is our privilege to invite you join the 125th John Brown Farm Honorary Anniversary Committee, co-chaired by artist and historian Nell Painter and writer Russell Banks. We hope you will accompany us, share your vision for the site, and support our efforts with a personally meaningful anniversary contribution that will help us reach our ambitious \$125,000 goal.

Members of the Anniversary Committee will be recognized and celebrated as our anniversary year program unfolds, including the reopening of the Memorial Field for Black Lives on Juneteenth, a remembrance and presentation on July 4 of the five Black men who rode with John Brown into Harper’s Ferry in October 1859, and a rededication of the John Brown Farm on July 17 coupled with our annual Spirit of John Brown Freedom Awards celebration.

To become a member of the 125th John Brown Farm Honorary Anniversary Committee, please complete the information on the next page and return to Melanie Reding, Communications & Development Director at mreding@johnbrownlives.org by June 15th.

Your support will help usher John Brown Lives! and the John Brown Farm into the next 125 years of education, action and solidarity.

For poetic justice,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "J".

Jeff Jones
Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha Swan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "S".

Martha Swan
Executive Director

125
YEARS

John Brown Farm State Historic Site
where history and human rights meet



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**



John Brown Lives! (JBL!) for freedom, human rights, and climate justice. We use the lens and lessons of the past to inform and inspire civic action to address urgent issues today. To join the 125th John Brown Farm Anniversary Committee please complete the information below and return to Melanie at mreding@johnbrownlives.org by June 15th. The Honorary Committee will be acknowledged in 125th Anniversary of the John Brown Farm promotional materials (print and digital), including a July 17th commemorative program, social media and on a donor recognition wall on our website at:

<https://johnbrownlives.org/about-jbl-events/125th-anniversary-events/>

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email: _____

Select your sponsor level below.

- Friends of John and Mary Brown \$12,500
- New York Abolitionists Circle \$6,250
- Kate Field and Friends Circle \$2,000
- Timbuctoo* Settlers' Circle \$1,250
- Shields Green & Fellow Raiders Circle \$500
- Freedom Seekers Circle \$250
- Friends of the John Brown Farm \$125

Total due \$ _____

Check here if you will be paying online _____

You can pay for your ad with a check or online at <https://johnbrownlives.org/donate/> with credit card or Paypal. Please make checks payable to John Brown Lives! and send to PO Box 357 Westport, NY 12993

Your support will help usher John Brown Lives! and the John Brown Farm into the next 125 years of education, action and solidarity.

info@johnbrownlives.org 518-744-7112 PO Box 357 Westport NY 12993

www.johnbrownlives.org