



Marker #35

The many generations of the Crounse family in Guilderland had their beginnings from a Polish nobleman named Krownsky who fled to Germany for political reasons. After several generations in Germany, one member of the family, Frederick Crounse, born in 1714, came to America.

In the early 1750s, Frederick, a shoemaker, journeyed with his wife and seven-year-old son to the colonies across the Atlantic Ocean. On their route, they stopped in Rhinebeck-on-the-Hudson before continuing their pilgrimage to Schoharie seeking a Palatine settlement. They settled instead on a farm at the foot of the Hellebergh Mountains near the Jacob VanAernam lands. There, Frederick Crounse built a house for his family of hemlock bark and sod.

This earliest of Guilderland's pioneers is buried at the foot of the same mountains, on the land where he struggled to eke out a living for his kin. His simple gravestone reads "Frederick Crounse, Ap. 9, 1777, ae 63."

The Crounse family tree lists well over 600 names. The blue and gold historic marker on Route 156, south of Altamont, pays tribute to generations of a pioneer family whose contribution to the new American colony was to pave the way in the wilderness of the Helleberghs for future generations to enjoy.