



Marker #19

On the bend of Route 146 past French's Hollow Road and before the Helderberg Reformed Church in Guilderland Center, sits the barn-red Freeman House. It is said to be the oldest frame house in the Town of Guilderland and was built by Robert Freeman. The house was enlarged in 1755. No historical data has been found on Freeman.

In 1788, the Freeman House became the property of Barent Mynderse, a Lieutenant in the 3rd Albany Militia during the Revolutionary War. Mynderse was one of two officers who interceded for several of his neighbors when they were captured and jailed as Tories at the Battle of the Normanskill. The neighbor men were released when the respected Lieutenant Mynderse vouched for their loyalty to the American cause.

Most prisoners, after a battle, were made to sign an "allegiance" document and swear that they "would not comfort, aid or assist any of the enemies of the United States and to make known all persons coming from the enemy who secrete themselves in the woods during the continuance of the present War with Great Britain."

Mynderse apparently detected a glimmer of patriotism in his captured neighbors, Anthony Winne and Jacob Mann, for later government records reveal the two men were listed as soldiers in the 3rd Regiment of the Militia.

Like Barent Mynderse, such were the men of Guilderland who fought for their freedom. The Freeman house hugs the side of the road in Guilderland Center proudly displaying the history it holds. The historic marker close by is a talisman to its historic value.