



Marker #24

"After 30 years of wandering Jacob Crounse came home," wrote former Guilderland historian Arthur Gregg. Jacob Crounse had opened inns in Rhinebeck N. Y. and in Sharon, N. Y., but the pull to the Hellebergh area was strong in the Crounse family. At 50 years of age, Jacob Crounse returned to the land of his birth in the shadow of the mountains, to open another inn down the road from where his son, Frederick, had recently started a medical practice.

In his lifetime, Jacob served five years as a captain in Rowley's Regiment in Schoharie. He was an active member in the beginnings of the Lutheran church movement. Jacob had two wives and a total of 14 children. Three of his sons became doctors.

Jacob's inn, where the stagecoaches relayed their horses, was built on a foundation of bluestone dragged from Howe's Caves by teams of horses. The lumber for the inn was cut from the Hellebergh forests.

Jacob Crounse became commissioner of schools in Guilderland in 1838 and superintendent from 1844 to 1845. The next history annals note that Jacob, a Whig, drove a successful campaign and beat his Democratic son, Christopher, for justice of the peace. He was postmaster when Altamont was called Knowersville.

In his waning years, "Yaup" Crounse, as he was affectionately called by townspeople, went to live with his son Dr. Frederick. He made coffins in the building behind his son's office and sold them for \$15. He died in Clarksville at 94 years of age.

Jacob Crounse was a man large in physical stature and personal commitment. Pioneer, father, churchman, businessman, politician and community leader, Jacob Crounse was a symbol of grit and fortitude in the infant days of Guilderland. The blue and gold marker on Route 146 east of Altamont, in front of Jacob's Inn, recalls for us this heritage.