



### **Marker #25**

Benjamin Knowler, creator of Knowler Hats in the early days of Guilderland's history, began his business life as a hatter and a mechanic, and through his personal integrity and community service soon became a bank president, and then secretary of the Treasury of New York State.

Knowler built a mansion on property that had once been owned by Patroon Stephen VanRensselaer. His fashionable hats were water-proofed by a "secret process" of immersion in the Bozenkill Creek behind the Knowler place, and sold in Knowler's Store at the corner of Hudson Avenue and Broadway in Albany N.Y. Knowler became active in the management of the Mechanic and Farmer's Bank from 1817 to 1834 and was named state treasurer in 1824. Upon his death in 1840, the West Guilderland Post Office was designated Knowlersville and remained so for 47 years.

The Knowler House was the scene of a noted wedding when Cornelia, Knowler's eldest daughter, married soon-to-be Governor William L. Marcy.

A blue and gold marker stands on Route 146 just outside the village of Altamont reminding residents of this historic site.