

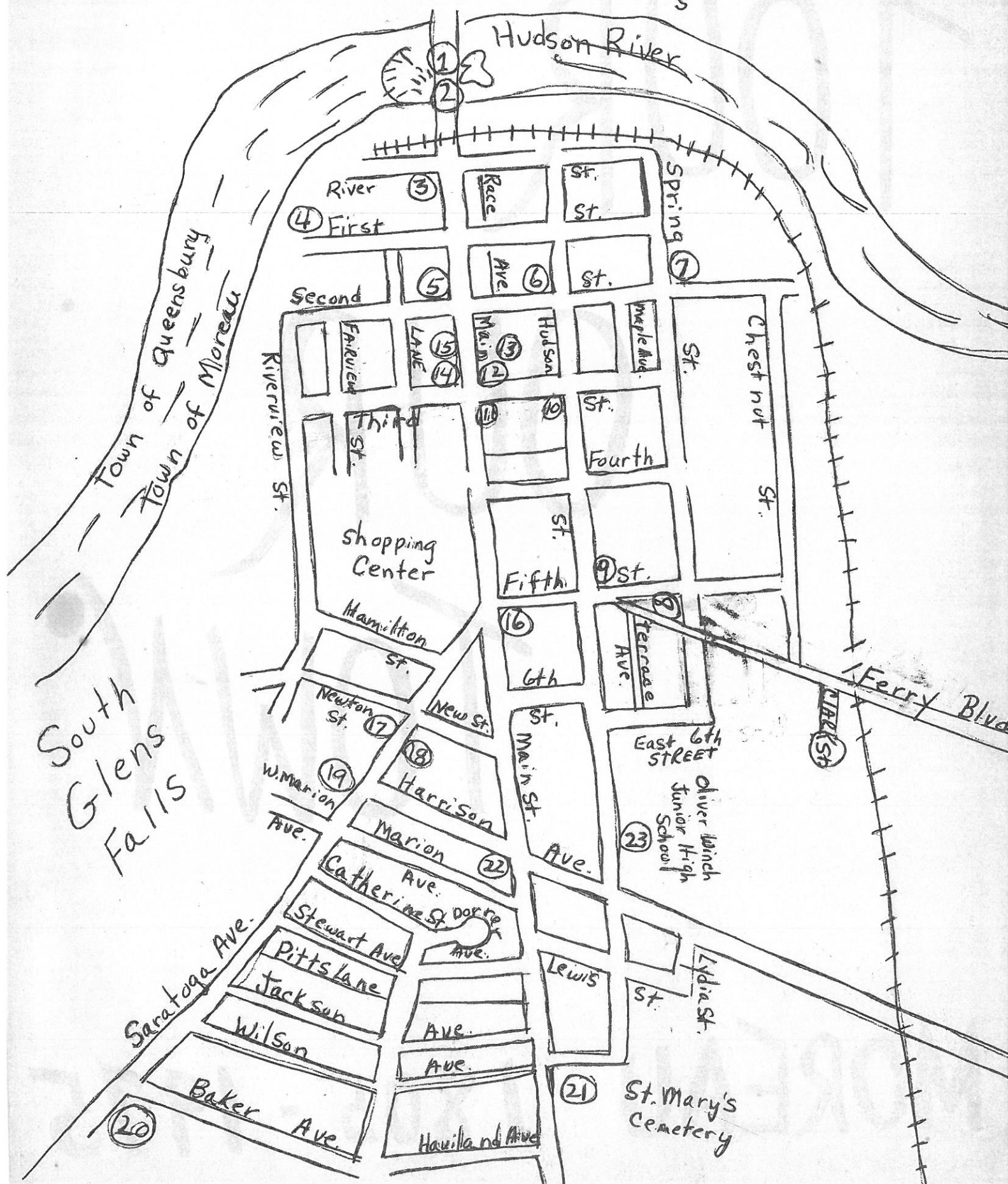
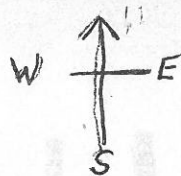
TOUR

OUR

TOWN

MORÉAU 1805-1975

Glens Falls



WALKING TOUR OF SOUTH GLENS FALLS

- 1 For the most breathtaking view of our own mighty Hudson River, walk to the center of the Westerly (left hand) side of the Walkway where you can get a panoramic view of the famous "Falls" from whence came the names of our sister communities - Glens Falls - South Glens Falls.

The Hudson traveling north drops approximately sixty-three feet at this point from the dam to the dark limestone below. Here it breaks into two channels partially covering the rocks when the water level is high. When these dark areas are dry, you can locate circular pot holes formed thousands of years ago by the abrasive action of boulders and pebbles rotated by swirling waters. One pot hole "Devil's Punch Bowl" is six feet in diameter and twelve feet deep. To the right of the crescent dam is a portion of the Feeder Canal. To the left of the dam you may see the water power turbine tubes and machinery that harnesses the energy of the Mighty Hudson.

- 2 Retrace your steps - back to the traffic light and cross the main highway - (obeying traffic signals) to the walkway on the East side of the bridge. Travel along toward the center and look toward the North bank. You can see the Finch, Pruyn Paper Mill. Behind you on the South bank sets our own Patrician Paper Company. In front of the Patrician can be seen a fine old brick building, an office of the International Paper Company. Viewing the Hudson at this point you can well imagine why it was the source of major industries and attracted many early settlers to this area. Here they established lumber and grist mills as early as the 1760's.

If you looked along the railing line of the bridge at the lower level you can see remnants of these past mills. In the distance at the right, at the bend in the river, can be sighted one of several man-made cave openings in the rock strata. Here is where lime rock and black marble were once quarried. Remains of a former bridge can be seen in the middle of the river when the water level is low.

Looking directly down from the bridge a limestone island houses the site of the noted "Cooper's Cave". It received its name from a portion of James Fenimore Cooper's book, The Last of the Mohicans. This limestone island, once named Bishop's Island boasted a toll house for an earlier bridge. In this toll house was born Charles Reed Bishop, son of Samuel and Maria Bishop on January 25, 1822. Charles Bishop later became a wealthy banker and married a Hawaiian Princess, Bernice Pauahi Paki. The Charles Bishops played an important role in Hawaiian history.

- 3 On the southwest corner of Main and River Streets is the Folsom House. John Folsom bought the Glenn property at the falls in 1806 and built the house in 1811. Mr. Folsom sold the house and property to Julius H. Rice in 1839. Mr. Rice, an unforgettable community leader, was responsible for surveying and planning Main, Hudson, Springs Streets and Saratoga Avenue. At one time many fine maples and elms enhanced the beauty of these streets. Now, very few remain.

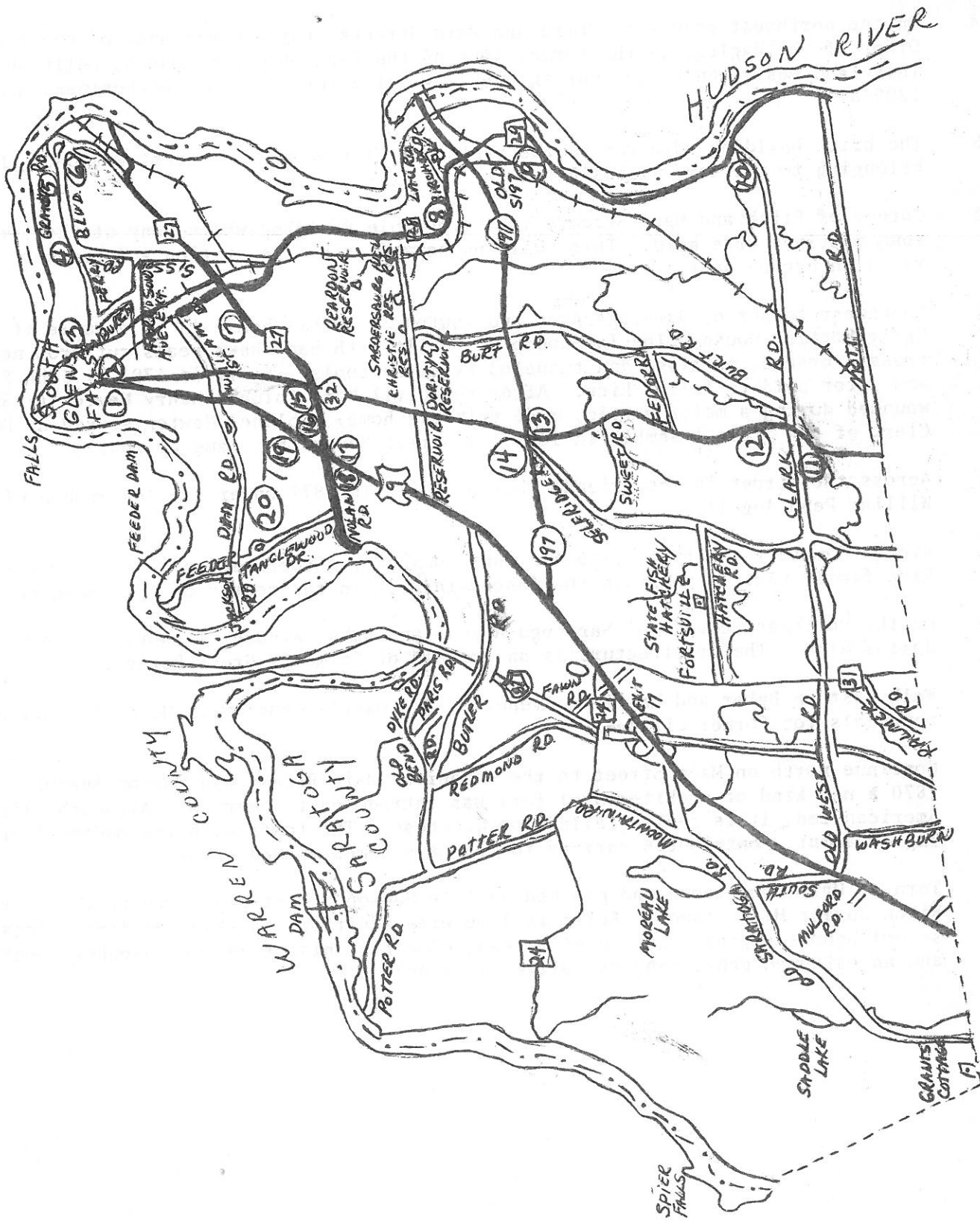
- 4 At the extreme end of First Street, close to the Hudson River, lie moss-covered millstones, remnants of mills of an earlier era. Near by is the South Glens Falls Sewage Disposal Plant.
- 5 On the northwest corner of Main and Second Streets is the Dr. Gilbert Spooner House. This story and a half house was built in 1843 and was typical of many homes built during this period. The house was based on a frame of large timbers, mortised, tenoned and pinned to the sills with wooden pins.
- 6 Again cross Main Street and go East on Second Street past the St. George Orthodox Church and stop at the Northwest corner of Second and Hudson Streets. This one and a half story home was once a grammar school.

On the southeast corner a hitching post awaits the arrival of a horseman or a horse and buggy, as in bygone days.
- * 7 Cross Second Street to Spring Street. On the northeast corner of Second and Spring Streets is a brick home. This was the home of Thomas Reynolds of the Reynolds, Dix and Company which operated a marble and stone quarry near the Hudson River in 1872.
- 8 Go north on Spring Street. The triangle between Fifth, Spring Streets and Ferry Boulevard was the former site of the Union Free School. In 1880 a second story was added. In 1894 it was abandoned and later burned. A grade school was built in 1906; the building, owned by the village, was torn down in 1970.

In the spring of 1971 a Citizens group was given permission by the Village Board to solicit local funds for the creation of a Village Park. This community-wide effort resulted in the attractive oasis you now behold. Formally dedicated on June 19, 1974, it is with pride that it can be said it was accomplished almost entirely without the use of local tax dollars.

It is a living testimony to the dedicated teachers of yesterday, who were an inspiration to many of our present community leaders.
- 9 On the northeast corner of Hudson and Fifth Streets is Moreau's Town Hall. The town officials voted to build a Town Hall in 1857. The building was finally erected in 1941.
- 10 Southwest corner of Hudson and Third Streets was the former site of the first Methodist Chapel, built in 1869. The Joy Store Warehouse now occupies this space.
- 11 On the south east corner of Third and Main Streets a large elm tree was planted on the Hundredth anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence. The First National Bank of Glens Falls now rests on this honored site.
- 12 The Coca-Cola Bottling Company has replaced the former South Glens Falls High School building which was erected in 1893. It existed until 1937.
- 13 Adjacent to this property is a brick building which was once South Glens Falls' first bank.

- 14 On the northwest corner of Third and Main Streets, the present home of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, is the former site of the First Baptist Church, built in 1859. This land was given to the parishioners by Julius Rice, prominent business man of the 1800's.
- 15 The brick building adjacent to the Eagle's building on Main Street was once the store belonging to the same Julius Rice.
- 16 Corner of Fifth and Main Streets is the Whipple Building where many of the earlier town meetings were held. This building served as a fire station and trooper's barracks in bygone days.
- 17 Southwest corner of Saratoga Ave. and Newton St. This house is an example of the Early Settler House. The farmhouse was built with hand-hewn beams cut from nearby trees - braced, mortised and tunneled by crude tools. Built in 1792 by John Folsom and later sold to Julius Rice. After the Civil War, Colonel Henry Newton (1834-1901) wounded during a major battle, made this his home. Colonel Newton served as Deputy Clerk of the State Assembly in 1881. A street honors his name nearby.
- 18 Across the street is the Friends Church, built in 1877 under the leadership of William Penn Angell.
- 19 Rice's Cemetery, resting place for many community leaders and citizens. The Julius Rice family plot lies within the fenced-in area in the center of the cemetery.
- 20 On the southeast corner of Saratoga Avenue and Baker Avenue is another home built by Julius Rice. The architecture is an example of Farmer's Greek Revival.
- 21 Walk east on Baker and Haviland Avenue to St. Mary's Cemetery. Here you will see memorials for former citizens.
- 22 Continue north on Main Street to the corner of Main Street and Marion Avenue. In 1870 a new kind of architectural form was introduced to America. Although slightly Americanized, it is really called Neo Jacobean. The tower with its medieval cresting ornament, contributes variety to the many homes viewed today.
- 23 Turn at Harrison Avenue and proceed east to Hudson Street and north to the Oliver Winch Junior High School. Built in 1936 with additions in 1946 and 1951. This school honors a great citizen of Moreau, educator, historian, philosopher, poet, and an esteemed gentleman, Mr. Oliver W. Winch.



BICYCLE - AUTO TOUR

- 1 Begin at the northeast corner of Hudson and Fifth Streets. This is the location of the Town Hall building for the Town of Moreau. It was erected in 1941.
- 2 Proceed east on Fifth to the triangle junction of Fifth and Spring Streets and Ferry Boulevard. Here is the former site of School Number 10. In 1872 the district became Union School District No. 1. The first structure burned and in 1906 a two story brick building was constructed. It was in use until 1970. A beautiful Park now has replaced the former center of knowledge. Our Park was dedicated June 19, 1974.
- 3 Traveling east on Ferry Boulevard you cross the railroad tracks and proceed to the junction of Van Buren Street and Ferry Boulevard. On the left is an old brick farmhouse with white trim. This was once the Bentley House on the old Daniel Parks place. The brick came from a brick yard on the farm.
- 4 Continue east on Ferry Boulevard until you reach an extended fenced-in area all of which is marked DANGER, KEEP OUT. Through the fence you are able to see the large limestone quarry complex. This industry started operations in the early 1800's and is still producing lime from the rock strata. The Glens Falls Portland Cement Company, a Division of the Flintkote Company, owns this land.
- 5 Turn north at Grant Street in Fenimore and at the far end of a cobble-lined pathway you will see a few gravestones marking the Daniel Parks Cemetery. The Parks family settled in this area in 1766. In 1773 Daniel Parks built a sawmill at the falls. During the Revolutionary War, Indians devastated the countryside. Elijah Parks, Daniel's father, and Elisha, Daniel's brother, were killed. Daniel's brother, Issac, was carried captive to Canada. The rest of the family escaped to the home of Daniel Parks at Stop 3, later escaping to Baker's Falls (Hudson Falls). Daniel Parks escaped and later came back with the American Army. His tombstone reads: "Daniel Parks who departed his life March 3, 1818 aged 78 one of the veterans of the Revolutionary War." He was the man that took the keys from the British Officer at Lake George in 1775. According to Epaphras Bull of Hartford, Conn., his journal of this period mentioned that when he arrived at Fort George with a body of British prisoners at 9:00 p.m., May 11, 1775 he met Captain John Stephens and several area soldiers, among them Lt. Daniel Parks, who took over Fort George from Captain John Nordberg. Also buried in this small cemetery is Solomon A. Parks who started the first hospital in Glens Falls in 1900.
- 6 Follow the Fenimore Road to the junction of Fenimore, Hudson Falls and Bluebird Roads. The brick building on the northeast corner was once the Fenimore School, part of the South Glens Falls Central School District. Built in 1919 the building is now a warehouse.

- 7 Travel west on Bluebird Road to the southwest corner of Bluebird and Sisson Roads. The Bonzinski farmhouse and barns are visual reminders of farm and pasture lands which contributed much to economy of the town.

Proceed south on Sisson Road making a left turn at the junction of Sisson and Fort Edward Roads. Continue east on Fort Edward Road toward Fort Edward.

- 8 At the bluff on the north side of Fort Edward Road facing the Hudson River near the Hudson Estates Road was the site of the Royal Blockhouse, a very prominent part of the Fort Edward Complex of the French and Indian Wars located across the River from Fort Edward.

- 9 Make a right turn at the junction of Fort Edward and Reynolds Road, proceed north a few hundred feet, then make a left turn at the West River Road. Proceed south across the tracks. On the left are sludge beds. In the center of the sludge is a cemetery containing the graves of one of Moreau's distinguished families, that of Colonel Thomas Rogers, first supervisor of the Town of Moreau from 1805=1808.

Nearby stands the remains of what was once the fabulous Rogers Mansion. The mansion was built in the 1780's by Halsy Rogers, third son of Colonel Rogers. When it was completed, it ranked as one of Moreau's finest dwellings. The property once boasted a porter's lodge, coachman's house, boathouse, laundry, and greenhouse. Hedges and gardens enhanced the drives and walks.

The site is also remembered for its occupants prior to the Roger's family. In 1768 the site was settled by Widow Sarah Dunham Jones and her six sons. A son, David, was engaged to Jane "Jenny" McCrea who was massacred on July 29, 1777 by a party of Indians led by LeLoupe. "Jenny's murder" played an important role in recruiting local colonists to the American Army in order to defeat General Burgoyne's advancing British Army.

- 10 Continue south on West River Road. At the corner of West River Road and Clark Road, where the Snookill River joins the Hudson River was the former site of "Fort Miskeeter" (Mosquito) which was a French and Indian War outpost.
- 11 Travel west on Clark Road to Clarks Corners where Clark Road and Gansevoort Roads meet. On the southwest corner the site of a former schoolhouse. A monument commemorating the 1808 Moreau Gospel Temperance Union founded by Dr. Billie J. Clark. This was the first Temperance Society in the world.
- 12 Proceed north on Gansevoort Road (route 32). On the left, shaded by the trees, the Mawney House, a tavern of stage coach days stands. It was here in this building where the National Temperance Organization was formed in 1808 by Billie Clark, Gardiner Stow, James Mott, and Lebbeus Armstrong. The house is still occupied by members of the Mawney family.

- 13 Continue north on the Gansevoort Road to the red blinker light at the junction of Gansevoort and Reynolds Roads (route 197). This is historic Reynolds Corners. At the southeast corner stands the former Methodist Church, now a beautiful home. In 1877, General James C. Rogers of Sandy Hill gave a deed of the site to the Methodist Church. The old building that faced the east-west road was torn down and used in the construction of the new church which faced the north-south road.
- 14 On the northwest corner stands the Reynolds House. George Reynolds built this house in 1800. It was used as a tavern during the stage coach days on the crossroads running from Saratoga Springs to Fort Edward and from Gansevoort to South Glens Falls. It was an outstanding meeting place for political and social groups. Town meetings assembled here to perform their legislative functions.
- 15 Continue north on Gansevoort Road to the traffic light. On the northwest corner of Gansevoort and Bluebird Roads is the Jacobie Farmhouse. The building is another reminder that agriculture was one of the largest industries in the town.
- 16 Turn west on Bluebird Road (route 27). A new Liberty Pole erected in 1974. Take time to read and think about the words inscribed on the Liberty Pole. They are just as timely and significant today as they were 200 years ago.
- 17 Continue west on Bluebird Road. On the southeast corner of Bluebird and Saratoga Roads is the South Glens Falls Central School Administrative Center. This building was a former elementary school called the Bluebird School or School Number 8.
- 18 On the southwest corner stands the original school house built in 1822. This was formerly School Number 8 and also called the Bluebird School. Bluebirds still frequent this area in Spring and Summer.
- 19 Go north on Saratoga Road (Route 9) to the southwest corner of Saratoga and Jacobie Roads. An old brick farmhouse belonging to the Jacobie family stands majestically recalling its earlier and prosperous years. The attic windows are interesting and decorative.
- 20 Turn west on Jacobie Road, past the newly constructed Methodist Church on the left to Washington Street. Go south on Washington Street to Merritt Road. Make a right turn on Merritt Road and travel west to the South Glens Falls Senior High School, the final stop on this tour. This High School was built in 1965.

Itinerary and Historical

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Compliments of

Town of Moreau Bi-Centennial Committee