



Parks-Bentley Place

Where History Comes Alive!

The Historical Society of Moreau and South Glens Falls

A Room-by-Room Look at Parks-Bentley Place

Guided tours of Parks-Bentley Place are available from early April through early October on Saturdays from 1 - 4 pm. For the first time in 2018, tours will also be available from 1 - 4 pm on Tuesday in July and August. Groups of ten or more may schedule tours by appointment. We invite you to email us at parksbentleyplace@gmail.com or by calling 518-636-3856 or 518-792-1850. Parks-Bentley Place is located at 53 Ferry Boulevard, South Glens Falls, NY 12803.



The Keeping Room

The Keeping Room is the original log cabin built by Daniel Parks on an 800-acre farm circa 1766. This single room contains the fireplace built by the Parks family. Overhead is the loft area where the eight children of the family slept. Although not in use today, there was also a tunnel built as a safety exit during the French and Indian War. This room is furnished with many of the Parks' colonial era items.



The Summer Kitchen

In early times, many homes had a room, or even an unattached building, in which cooking was done during the summer months. Fireplaces, and even wood stoves, in the main house provided heat during the winter but, in the summer, made the interior living space much too warm. The Parks-Bentley Place summer kitchen houses a large wood stove that was originally used in the Mauney Tavern on Route 32 just outside of Gansevoort.



The "Main" House

The "addition" to the log cabin was built by the Benedict Brothers around 1830. The Benedicts owned a brick foundry on the property at the time and they added the large structure, greatly expanding the existing living space. The Victorian-style house features high ceilings on both floors and closets in each of the upstairs bedrooms. The original 800 acres was sold off bit-by-bit until only a few acres remained. The Bentley family bought the house and the remaining property in 1866.



The Gallery Room

Though this area was originally used as a bedroom, the ground-floor space is currently used for rotating exhibitions presented each year.



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The Parlor

The Victorian Parlor highlights many artifacts from the Bentley family, including a secretary desk, crazy quilts, a concertina, and clothing. Also on display are several paintings by Harriet Bentley.



The Slave Hold

Only accessible from a trap door in the floor of a closet that was located next to an exit door, this area is accepted as being a hiding place for slaves escaping captivity and traveling north on the Underground Railroad.



The Victorian Bedroom

Furnished with a beautiful Victorian bed and dresser gifted to the Historical Society by a local family, this room also features period artifacts from other families in the area.



The Children's Room

New for the 2018 season is the Victorian Children's Room. On display here are many clothes and toys that could have belonged to boys and girls of the era.



The Library

This room houses the Historical Society's large collection of reference books and journals, as well as articles and historic photographs of the Town or Moreau and the Village of South Glens Falls.



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Additional Buildings



The 1812 Schoolhouse

The One-Room Schoolhouse, originally School Number 8, was previously located on the corner of Route 9 and Nolan Road in the Town of Moreau. The exhibit space contains desks from the 1812 time period, as well as other antique school artifacts. Texts, slates, and even a dunce cap, are part of the collection.



A Simpler Time

The 1800s "technology" exhibit features household, farming, and logging tools and equipment. Take part in the Simpler Time guessing game, featuring some History Mystery items and see if you can figure out the uses for these old-time items.