



# The *Lorenzo* Newsletter

## Lorenzo Dark Aisle Illuminated for the Holidays

Join us for our holiday celebration reinvented! This year Lorenzo State Historic Site and our intrepid decorators will be moving our annual holiday celebration outdoors. With support from the Friends of Lorenzo, we will be lighting and decorating in the Dark Aisle! Over the past year fourteen new evergreens, courtesy of the Syracuse Garden Club, have been introduced into the Dark Aisle tree line surrounding the garden and they are perfect for decorating. Stop by to walk through this free, family (and pet) friendly display on your own! To enter, follow the path from the first lit tree that is visible from the parking lot.

**Dates:** *Saturday, December 12 through Sunday, December 27, 2020*

**Times:** *8:00am until 7:00pm each day*

**Admission:** *Free*

**Note:** *Masks required when social distancing is not possible. Please visit in small groups to avoid overcrowding.*

### Christmas at Lorenzo Themes of the Past

Since the early 1970s Christmas at Lorenzo has been a cherished tradition, where staff, volunteers, and Friends members decorate the mansion for the enjoyment of all. Beginning in the late 1990s themes were introduced to the celebration to tell a new story each year. Here is a recap of the past themes:



1986 – *The Dear Old Tree*

1995 – *A Night Before Christmas*

1997 – *An Angelic Host*

1998 – *25 Years Anniversary*

2000 – *Visions of Sugarplums*

2002 – *Trains*

2003 – *Snow Balls and Sleigh Belles*

2004 – *Mother Goose*

2006 – *The Roaring Twenties*

2007 – *35 Years – A Retrospective Christmas*

2009 – *Christmas Carols*

2011 – *O Christmas Tree*

2012 – *All Creatures Great and Small*

2013 – *Christmas Around the World*

2014 – *Birds of a Feather*

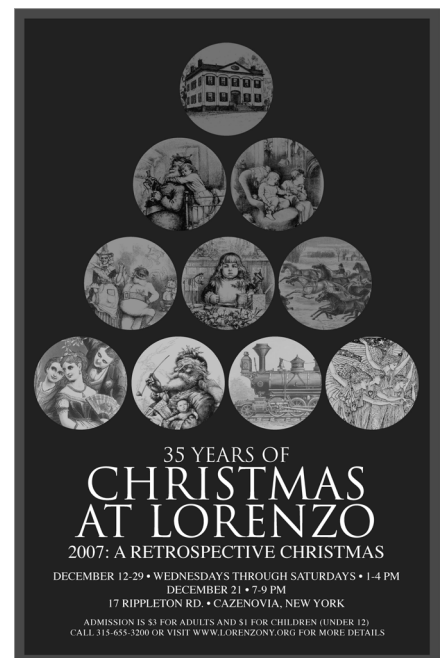
2015 – *Nutcracker*

2016 – *Dreaming of a White Christmas*

2017 – *Gilded Glamour*

2018 – *Musical Merriment*

2019 – *Candyland Christmas*





## From The President

Kathleen Conway Hoak

Gathering at our beautiful mansion has always been a treasured part of the calendar year here in Cazenovia. From the magnificent blooming gardens, to the changing leaves at Community Day, all the way to the glistening lights at Christmas, Lorenzo always finds a way to entertain. While 2020 was not the year we could have imagined, we all did our part as a community to come together and make the best of everything we possibly could.

While the Friends of Lorenzo could not have any of our traditional events this year, we were able to host a very successful Drive-In Movie night, right on the front lawn! We showed “Back to the Future” which was a hit with all generations. There were food trucks for everyone to enjoy dinner, snacks, ice-cream, and of course popcorn! Around 90 cars and 300 people (all socially distanced!) enjoyed the picture perfect night.



As we are nearing the end of this unprecedented year it has become obvious that we cannot hold our traditional Christmas Celebration at the mansion, but how could we let Christmas pass by? We just couldn't! Thanks to Lorenzo staff and a group of our talented decorators, The Dark Aisle will not be dark this Christmas! Our friends at the Syracuse Garden Club generously planted 14 new trees in the Dark Aisle this summer which are the perfect canvasses for our decorators to showcase their creativity.

I am happy to announce that the decorations will move outside and all are invited to see the “Dark Aisle Illuminated for the Holidays” which will be open free from December 12th – December 27th. In conjunction with this we are working on a special “Lorenzo Holiday Menu” at The Lincklaen House for take-out or dine-in, with a designated amount of proceeds going to The Friends of Lorenzo. Details will be posted on [www.friendsoflorenzo.org](http://www.friendsoflorenzo.org).

I would like to personally thank the Friends of Lorenzo Board, the staff at Lorenzo, and the Cazenovia community for all the continued support this year. Please consider renewing your membership or becoming a first-time member of the Friends of Lorenzo to keep the wonderful tradition going. Cheers to a strong, successful, and healthy 2021!





## From the Historic Site Manager

By Michael Roets

I am happy to report that while the indoor spaces at Lorenzo remained closed this season our historic grounds were well used and very appreciated by those seeking safe outdoor refuge. Our historic landscape tours were a hit and the Lorenzo staff did an excellent job keeping the grounds looking immaculate. Thank you to the Friends of Lorenzo for another year supporting the care and maintenance of the 1914 Ellen Biddle Shipman formal garden so that visitors could fully enjoy its spring to fall color during these uncertain times.

As we moved into fall our minds have been preoccupied with the recent election which inspired us to explore our collections and present to you some of the politics of Lorenzo's past. Most prominent are items associated with Charles Fairchild's political career which culminated with his service in the cabinet of President Grover Cleveland. Additionally, we uncovered an election ribbon and coin that were both for losing presidential campaigns. Finally, we examined numerous anti-suffrage objects and documents which illustrate that the right to vote for women wasn't given easily and that the Suffragists fought long and hard for the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

As we begin to plan for the holidays I am sad to say that we cannot do our traditional "Christmas at Lorenzo" event with guest decorators, musicians, and sleigh rides, but with the help of some of our decorators and the Friends of Lorenzo Board we will be offering an outdoor alternative so we hope that you will stop by and see our illuminated Dark Aisle.



*President Grover Cleveland, far left, with members of his 1880's cabinet. Lorenzo resident Charles Fairchild is seated next to him.*

## Friends of Lorenzo Newsletter

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# 100 Years of Votes for Women: A Look at the Opposition

By Jackie Roshia, Interpretive Programs Assistant



Women have not always had the right to vote in the United States. After decades of organizing, petitions, rallies and protests, with organizations forming on both sides of the debate, women won the right to vote one hundred years ago, when the 19th amendment to the U.S. constitution was ratified on August 18, 1920. Both

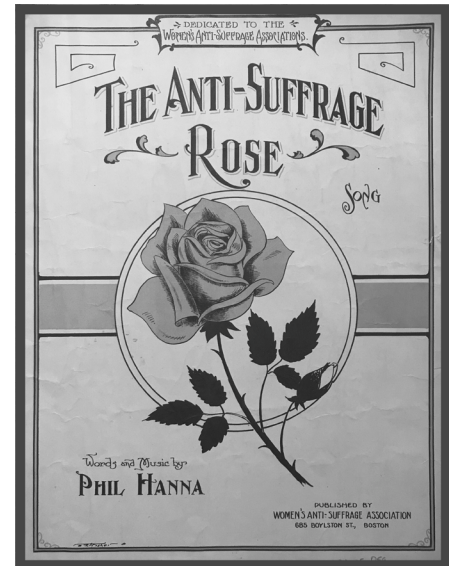
women and men took stands on the sides of suffrage and anti-suffrage.

The common view of men and women having separate roles in society remained strong well into the 1900s. It was thought that the personalities of men were best suited to business, politics and war; while women cared for the family and home, which would likely be eroded if she were overburdened with the responsibility of the vote. The reality was that at home women were under the complete authority of their husbands, with little legal recourse to leave even an abusive marriage. In the workplace they faced sexual harassment, low wages and poor working conditions. Suffragists saw the vote as opening an avenue to change laws and gain equality.

From our perspective today, it can be difficult to believe that women participated in the anti-suffrage movement. But many of the organizations formed against the push for women suffrage were led by women. Surprisingly many of these women were activists in charitable, educational, or religious organizations, but felt that being politically active would hinder their causes. At Lorenzo, owners Helen Lincklaen Fairchild and Jane Ledyard Remington, along with their husbands, participated in the anti-suffrage movement. Helen Fairchild served as president of the New York organization and Charles for the National Anti-Suffrage Association. All four were leaders in the Cazenovia movement.

In New York State women won the vote on November 6, 1917. As more and more states gave women the right to vote, men moved to the forefront of the anti-suffrage movement and re-organized at a national level. The anti-suffrage women now felt it was their civic duty to vote and used it to try to reverse women suffrage laws. The Woman Patriot, a national anti-suffrage publication, featured an article discussing “The Cazenovia Idea” on July 13, 1918. It reported that when the mayor of Cazenovia came out in favor of women suffrage, the “antis” registered as many women voters as possible and voted him out of office. The article goes on to speculate that this could happen throughout New York State, as the “antis” held that the majority of women did not want the vote.

Lorenzo’s historic collections contain anti-suffrage pennants, handbills, books, pamphlets and more belonging to the Fairchilds and Remingtons.



1915 Sheet Music



1912 Cazenovia Meeting Poster



## From the Collections: The Politics of Lorenzo

By Jackie Roshia, Interpretive Programs Assistant

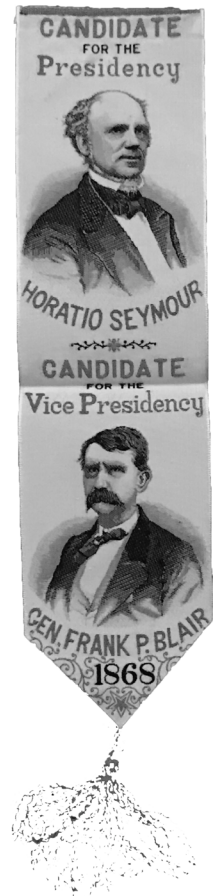


Commemorative coin of Henry Clay's 1844 bid for the Presidency. Clay was the leader of the Whigs, a political party formed in 1834 in opposition to President Andrew Jackson and the Jacksonian Democrats. The name, taken from an English anti-monarchist party, was an attempt to characterize Jackson as "King Andrew". The Whigs supported high tariffs, and relief legislation during periods of financial crisis. They had many abolitionist members, as Jackson was pro-slavery. By the 1850s this issue proved to be the end of the Whigs, with anti-slavery members founding the Republican Party in 1854.

Lorenzo owner, Ledyard Lincklaen, was active in the Whig Party, nominated to run for New York State Senate in 1849, he lost by only 101 votes out of 6625 cast.

Campaign ribbon for Horatio Seymour's bid for the presidency in 1868. Brother of Lorenzo owner, Helen Clarissa Seymour Lincklaen, he was born in Pompey Hill. Seymour served as governor of New York from 1853-1854 and 1863-1864. Prior to the Civil War he supported a compromise to preserve the union and avoid war. Although he backed the Union cause, he opposed President Lincoln's emancipation policy and draft laws. His sympathy for participants in the 1863 New York City draft riots is thought to have cost him re-election.

In 1868 Seymour accepted the Democratic nomination to run for president against Ulysses S. Grant. His running mate was Francis P. Blair, Jr. of Missouri. This was the first presidential election after the Civil War and the first that allowed African American men from the reconstructed southern states to vote. The Democratic election motto was "This is a White Man's Country; Let White Men Rule." Seymour received 47% of the popular vote, and only 80 of the 294 electoral votes.



A print of President Grover Cleveland was recently discovered in Lorenzo's archive. President Stephen Grover Cleveland was raised in Fayetteville, New York. Cleveland served as Governor of New York and was the first Democrat elected president after the Civil War. He was fiscally conservative, opposed high tariffs, and vetoed bills that he considered favors for economic groups, such as veterans pension and aid for drought-stricken farmers. He is the only president to serve two, non-consecutive terms, 1885-1889 and 1893-1897; and the only to marry while in office. Lorenzo resident Charles S. Fairchild served as secretary of the treasury during President Cleveland's first term.



## From the Desk of the Rippleton School Marm

By Alison Boissonnas

Rippleton Schoolhouse at Lorenzo stood eerily quiet this summer. Instead of being full of bustling children experiencing 1880s school-life, the building sat empty, much as it must have for over 60 years between its closure as a school in 1931 and its relocation and restoration in 1997. After spending last spring shadowing our much loved and newly retired school mistress, Barbara Cook, I envisioned a much different first season. I was looking forward to greeting new classes as School Mistress Mattie Buckland but, like everyone else, I needed to quickly reorganize my expectations. Slates remain neatly stacked on the shelf, the chalkboard is bare, and the organ's lid is tightly closed. Instead of learning to walk on stilts in lace-up boots, practicing Spencerian penmanship, or figuring out how to stay cool in a bustle and corset, I spent much of the summer learning about Cazenovia's early schoolhouses. (Some of the results of this research will be available in a driving tour soon.)

Many of Cazenovia's early settlers considered public education imperative for developing intellectual and moral fortitude. They were committed to creating an educated electorate capable of sustaining the nascent American Republic. We have record of there being a school in Cazenovia by 1798, just 6 years after John Lincklaen first imagined a settlement! By 1805,

the Cazenovia School District was established. In 1814 fifteen districts were formed, each with its own schoolhouse and trustees, growing to 22 districts by 1875. Consolidation began in the 1920s and was complete in 1982 when the New Woodstock school closed its doors. At that point all 22 districts had merged into the Cazenovia Central School District that we know today.

In decades past, the public-school year revolved around an agricultural calendar. Fall term began after harvest and spring term



ended before planting began. Later a winter term was added. Early teachers were often men, especially during the winter term when most students were at school. Trustees assumed men could better handle unruly students. Women who did teach were paid about half that of their male counterparts, and districts soon found employing women was economical. Eventually, most schools were taught by young unmarried women. Rippleton's own Miss Martha "Mattie" Buckland

came to teach at the District #7 schoolhouse in 1885 as a 25-year-old graduate of Oswego Normal School. She stayed for two years before getting married and moving West.

Before 1867 New York public schools were partially paid for by state and local funds but families were expected to pay some tuition. This meant school was unattainable for some local children. If public or private school was not an option, children learned at home through formal instruction or through the experience of living and working beside family members. Educating young people in Cazenovia has never been simple. Families have had to adjust to monumental changes in the past 200 years; unfathomable advances in technology, devastating wars, economic depressions, unpredictable weather, redistricting and consolidation, changing populations and regulations, and 59 presidential elections!

Whether huddled around a coal stove learning by candlelight, practicing the "three R's" while on a hay wagon, or sitting in a modern home learning online, our determination to prepare successive generations for their future has not wavered. Here's to families, teachers, and students who are writing the latest chapter in the ongoing saga of education in Cazenovia.





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