



The Lorenzo

NEWSLETTER

History Revealed, One Collection at a Time

by Mark Musell

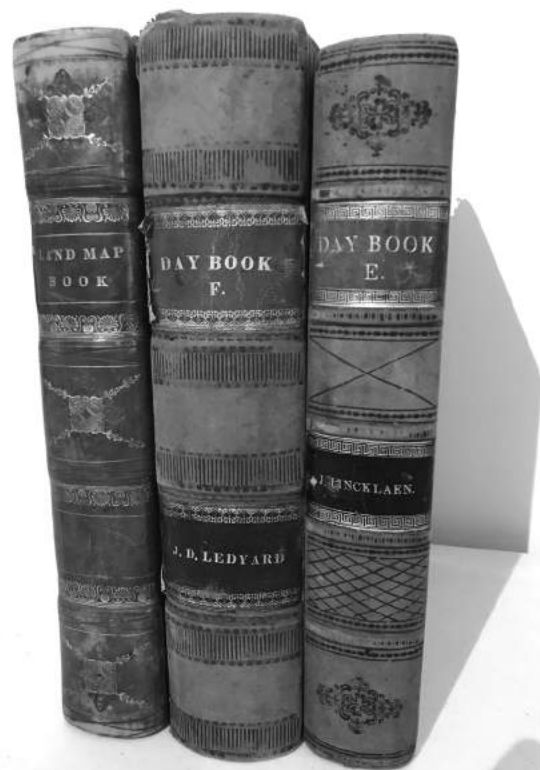
Progress continues on efforts to create electronic access to Lorenzo's vast archive of photos, letters, land records, and other historical documents. The project is funded by a grant to the Friends of Lorenzo from Parks and Trails New York, an organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the State's Parks and Historic Sites. Lorenzo's archive consists of almost 300 linear feet of material dating back to the 1790s. It is one of the largest in the NYS Parks system. The electronic catalogue will offer an easy, computer-based aid to navigating the archive and finding materials of interest. "It will make access to the archive's rich resources much easier," said site director, Michael Roets. Later stages of the project will entail adding digital images of documents.

Work on three collections from the archive has already been completed, and those will shortly be available through Empire ADC, an organization that hosts electronic files of archival material from across the state and helps libraries, researchers, history buffs, and other users. "Working with Lorenzo's collections has been a dream project," said lead archivist Lucy Bell. "What I love is the combination of both everyday items that speak to how lives were lived in Lorenzo and important documents that speak to larger historical events." Recent items processed, said Ms. Bell, included an appointment letter dated 1813 and signed by then President James Madison. Lucy holds an advance degree in information and library science from the University of Buffalo. Local resident Cara Howe, Assistant Director for Archives at Upstate Medical University, is also involved, offering her expertise to help guide the project.

Work is expected to be completed sometime early next year. Friends of Lorenzo will offer free access to the electronic finding aid through its website.



Archivist Lucy Bell organizing documents





From the President

A New Year – A Great Time to Get Things Organized!

by *Beth Race*

Welcome to Fall of 2021 Friends! We had drafted earlier Newsletter versions this year, but things kept changing so we decided to wait until now, when things were on more stable ground to connect. With the total shut down due to the pandemic in the rearview mirror, many of us are glad to have moved passed it and are hopeful things will remain open for the remainder of the year. During these trying times, Friends of Lorenzo pivoted to a workable model of online meetings and smaller more targeted collaborative groups in an effort to continue our mission of supporting Lorenzo State Historic Site. Thanks to that fluid approach, we are still very much an active organization. It is a true pleasure and an honor to be President of the Friends of Lorenzo for 2021! I would like to thank all of the Members and Board Members, as well as past Presidents that have helped me. Your commitment to this wonderful organization has kept the Friends of Lorenzo impactful throughout its existence. Last year, the Friends of Lorenzo President Kathleen Hoak referred to Lorenzo as the “jewel of our community.” and she couldn’t have been more right, it truly embodies the historic and architectural significance of Cazenovia... along with being a center point for community events throughout the year. The state has opened-up again which has allowed us to plan in person events for the last few months, and to look optimistically forward for the rest of the year, and the ability to hold an outdoor Christmas event.

Let’s recap 2021. Thanks to Kathleen Hoak’s quick thinking and Jackie’s hard work, we replaced the Garden Gala this year with a Garden Scavenger Hunt that allowed for social distancing. This fit in perfectly with bringing people onto the grounds while adhering to safety requirements. It turned out to be quite a success thanks to those involved in making it happen and in taking part. Community Day at the Rippleton Schoolhouse in September was our only traditional event so far this year. We were able to put together an abbreviated version of the event with pumpkin decorating, schoolhouse tours, games on the lawn, treats for the kiddos, and a decorated pumpkin raffle. We tied the event to a “Schoolhouse Scavenger Hunt” which sent families around the Cazenovia area in search of 7 one room schoolhouses still standing. Children who participated were given a coupon for a free ice cream from Cazenovia Sports Bowl. All of this was made possible with Community Bank’s sponsorship. They felt the name of the event made it a natural fit. Finally, we hosted the Dark Aisle Beer Tasting in the Formal Garden. The event was our only true fundraiser this year and, not surprisingly, it turned out to be great fun! We feel that this type of collaboration with a local business made it a success and look forward to other similar events in the future. Meier’s Creek is a great neighbor for offering such support to the Friends of Lorenzo and honoring Lorenzo’s Dark Aisle by naming a beer after it. Throughout all of these events, Joe and Beth Duffy and Kerry Woolbert were invaluable to their success.



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the Friends of Lorenzo
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**Help us in our
preservation efforts.**

Friends of Lorenzo Newsletter

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From the President

Continued from page 2

In the meantime, our Board time has been well spent. It has been fun discussing avenues for boosting membership engagement, retention, and more importantly, recognition. We are so grateful for all that our members do to support our cause and we would like you to know it! In addition, the Board took the time to evaluate some of the administrative tools to pinpoint a more efficient or effective way to do things, thereby optimizing our volunteers' time. The result was contracting through a service that provides a seamless transition to easier online membership payments for dues and events through our website. This service handles other administrative tasks as well. Another success is an updated and improved website that includes more details on the gardens and grounds along with more in depth information about Lorenzo's history and vast collections. Thank you to Kerry and McEwen for their meaningful input and to Mark who's hardwork and creativity made it happen. If you haven't already seen these website updates I strongly encourage you to take a look. Finally, we have received a grant from the State to create a digital finding aid for the archive. This will become a new resource for people interested in doing a deeper dive into our local history using easy to access technology. Once complete, there will be a robust search capability to all of Lorenzo's treasures. Thank you, Mark Musell for all of your hard work on these! Without Mark, these projects would never have happened. Last, but not least, we have completed the five-year plan along with its matching financial plan. Ben Sumner's expertise has helped put together a very easy to follow, straight forward financial plan that will allow the five-year plan to be easily accomplished.

Thank you also to Karinda, Vicki, and Dixie for their help with the gardens, the emails, and volunteering! An extra thanks to Joe as Vice President and his commitment to doing anything and everything necessary to get the job done. And, none of this would have happened without the commitment of Michael and Jackie and the Lorenzo team. Our small but meaningful group has accomplished a lot! It has turned out to be a great year to get organized. Now, we have been focused on finishing the year with some events and fun! Still, as the year plays out, please plan to enjoy the peacefulness of the gardens and grounds of Lorenzo. A little time well spent outdoors may do wonders for clearing the mind. And what a place to do it! I hope that everyone takes advantage of any good weather headed our way. Winter will bring some wonderful opportunities we have in the works.

If you know of anyone new, or not-so-new, to town who may want to join the Friends group please encourage them to do so. Input and volunteerism, along with any financial support is so appreciated and necessary. This support provides Lorenzo with critical annual maintenance of the gardens and landscape, specific maintenance projects, historic restoration projects, educational programs, and Christmas at Lorenzo (a showpiece of our community's holiday season). Visit 'www.friendsoflorenzo.org' or call (315) 655-3200 for more information. Please stay safe and healthy! We are thrilled to say we look forward to seeing you in person soon.



Lorenzo Illuminates the Dark Aisle 2021

Dark Aisle Holiday Celebration

Friday & Saturday, December 10 & 11, 7pm-9pm

Includes Lighted Walk, Wagon/Sleigh Ride, Music, & Wassail

Admission: \$5 each for persons 13 and older

Dark Aisle Lighted Holiday Walk

Sunday, December 12 – Sunday, January 2, 9am-9pm

Walk through this family (and pet) friendly holiday display on your own!

Admission: *Free*—Donations appreciated

For information or assistance, please call (315) 655-3200 or visit parks.ny.gov





From the Historic Site Manager

By *Michael Roets*

2021 began with a very successful ski season at Lorenzo! Thanks to the Friends of Stony Pond State Forest for loaning their snow grooming equipment, mother nature for providing good snow cover, and two dedicated volunteers, Scott Sellers and Don Feola, the grounds of Lorenzo were transformed into a local cross-country skiing and snow shoeing destination. Plans are underway to groom ski trails again this winter if the weather cooperates.

After a year off from doing indoor tours Lorenzo opened the mansion doors once again to eager and appreciative visitors. We were lucky to have our excellent interpreters Elizabeth Whiting, Charlie Albee, and Leslie Thurling return for another season and we welcomed a new interpreter, Alison Boissonnas who also serves as our Rippleton Schoolhouse school marm. While our normal school fieldtrips were cancelled Alison Boissonnas worked with the Fayetteville Manlius and Cazenovia School Districts to move the school program outdoors! These day-long, COVID friendly sessions took place in local parks. She saw thirteen 4th grade classes, and although everyone missed being in the schoolhouse, much fun was had outside.

Our historic landscape was also well used this season 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.

With 2021 still not a normal year the cancellation of the Eurocar Show, Craft Show, and the Garden Gala were unfortunately necessary. I am appreciative for the events that we were able to pull off and thank the Lorenzo Driving Competition Board for putting on a scaled down Horse Driving Competition, The Limestone Creek Hunt for holding their 'Blessing of the Hounds', and the Friends of Lorenzo for hosting Community Day at the Rippleton Schoolhouse, and a beer tasting event in the garden featuring the 'Dark Aisle Porter'. It was an honor to have our next-door neighbor, Meier's Creek Brewery, create a beer inspired by Lorenzo's Dark Aisle tree grove.

Looking forward I am happy to report that repair and restoration of the 1892 Carriage House is almost completed after the June 30th storm took out 12 major historic trees dropping one of them onto its roof. I am also pleased with the efforts of the current Friends of Lorenzo Board in working with me to develop a Five-Year plan of projects to undertake including landscape restoration work, restoring the wallpaper in the Study, updating the Carriage House Exhibit, and improving the Collection Storage Building for better climate control. If you have a special expertise or interest in any of these types of projects, please consider joining the Friends of Lorenzo Board.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in December as we take our Christmas at Lorenzo event outdoors again and illuminate the Dark Aisle.





Creating Personal Space in Your Home - 19th century style!

by Jacqueline Roshia

Interpretive Programs Assistant

With everyone spending more time at home there is a need to carve out specialty spaces in the form of home offices, virtual learning spaces, she-sheds, mancaves, playrooms, and more. It's not a new concept that members of a household have their own spaces for work, privacy, or play. However, in the not too distant past, it was most often a privilege of the wealthy who had the luxury of free time and space in their large homes. Lorenzo has several rooms that were traditionally designated for specific uses by different members of the household.



Due to health issues in 1815 John Lincklaen, Lorenzo's builder, remodeled the Study to be used as his office. A window where the door can be seen was removed to create a private entrance for his clients.



After John Lincklaen's passing the Study returned to being used in a manner akin to today's mancave! Instead of computers, TVs, and game consoles, there were books, journals, and chess sets. It would have also functioned as a home office. Photograph circa 1906.



By the late 1800s the ladies of Lorenzo appear to have created a she-shed in the second-floor hallway. It might have been set up as it is today with a cozy reading nook at one end, and a table in the center for games or tea.





Creating Personal Space in Your Home - 19th century style! continued



A home office would have been essential as the lady of the house would have run the household including staff schedules, menu planning, and fulfilling social obligations.



The south west bedchamber was thought to function as a nursery, playroom, and possibly school lessons for children raised here. The second-floor hallway or family dining room may also have done double duty for homeschooling.



An 1850's expansion of Lorenzo's Service Wing resulted in the creation of dining and sitting rooms for the servants. Today an exhibit about the enslaved and servants, 'Life in the Shadows', is on display there. Around 1900 a new entrance and porch was added to the west side of the wing where Suzanne Geymonat, her pup, and another staff member can be seen on a break in September 1920.





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