



The Lorenzo

NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2016
Vol 18., No. 2

Aglow in Candlelight, Festive In Its Holiday Finery, Lorenzo Dazzles at Christmas

by Janis Barth

The treetops are glistening and everyone is listening for sleigh bells in the snow. We're *Dreaming of a White Christmas at Lorenzo*, because this year the lyrical notes of the beloved carol inspire the decorations in each room of the mansion.

From flowers made of sheet music in the formal dining room, to trees tipped with white and the pale gleam of polished silver, the artistry of Lorenzo's volunteer decorators bring the theme to life in dazzling detail. Look for the mannequin bedecked in Victorian holiday finery in the lady's bedroom. And could that possibly be a celebrity sighting – Bing! Is that you? – at the festively set state table.

"I took the theme of Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas' literally," said Elizabeth Whiting, who is decorating the formal dining room with her mother, Nancy. Their hand-crafted flowers will be accompanied by sheet music snowflakes, white frosted greens and a few dinner guests taking a break from their on-screen duties in the movie *White Christmas*.

Come join them, and make your days (and a couple of evenings) merry and bright.

Lorenzo will shimmer throughout the holiday season, beginning Dec. 1 with the annual Friends of Lorenzo "Preview Party" for members and guests. The party is a fundraiser for the Friends, whose support makes the Christmas program possible. The mansion will also be aglow for the celebration of "Christmas by Candlelight at Lorenzo," Thursday and Friday, Dec. 8-9, from 7-9 p.m. each night.

Beginning Dec. 8, each day will have a different musical backdrop. On Thursday

night, it will be Eileen Rose on dulcimer in the mansion's upstairs hall. The rich tones of the Belle Aire Hand-Bell Trio will fill the hall on Friday night, while Bells & Motley will transport the weekend's visitors to a Christmas of long ago.

On the mansion stage in the laundry wing, guests – especially the younger ones – will delight to Merry Mischief as Mr. and Mrs. Claus on Thursday and Friday night. Saturday, the stage will be filled with the music of the St. James Children's Choir, under the direction of Joan Stoker. The weekend will end on a festive and fashionable note, as Victorian Whispers offers guests the chance to have their portraits taken in vintage finery.

Wassail, peanut brittle and sweets will be served in the kitchen Thursday and Friday evening and throughout the weekend, while the Visitor Center will see a flurry of snowflake magic, as dancers from the Cazenovia School of Ballet perform and greet guests.

And what of those sleigh bells? That's a special weekend treat, as the gentle Belgians of Lamplit Farms take visitors on a horse-drawn sleigh ride. On Sunday, ride from the mansion to the one-room schoolhouse where youngsters can make Christmas crafts and enjoy delicious treats before hopping onto the sleigh for the return trip.

The holiday mansion will also be open for tours Monday-Friday, Dec. 5-9, from

1-4 p.m. daily. Weekday tours of the Mansion will be available throughout December, by advance reservation only, for groups of 12 or more.

"It's a great way for families to spend a wonderful time together," said Barbara Bartlett, director of the Lorenzo State Historic Site. The holiday tour, including refreshments and sleigh ride, costs \$6 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. "The whole experience transports you to a time when we thought life was simpler and when traditions were honored steadfastly."

For more information about Christmas at Lorenzo activities, check out the flyer in this newsletter, call (315) 655-3200 or visit www.lorenzoNY.org.





From the President

As Summer's Times Become Memories, Christmas and a Bootleggers Ball Beckon

by Kate Schwartz

We have certainly enjoyed a glorious spring/summer here at Lorenzo in scenic Cazenovia!

The Friends kicked off the season with the annual Garden Gala. Board member Kaleen Sessler was at the helm and made it an extra special evening. A silent auction featuring items donated by talented local artisans was an enormous success, as was the ever-popular raffle. Carol and Craig Buckhout were delighted to win the coveted prize of dinner for eight in the formal garden, exquisitely catered by Suzanne Munger. We were pleased to have Mary Ryan in attendance, as the Friends paid tribute to her father, the late State Sen. John Hughes. Senator Hughes helped make possible the acquisition of Lorenzo by the state of New York, and Mary was one of the original Friends of Lorenzo board members.

Lorenzo welcomed many visitors to other Friends-sponsored events, too. The Red House Arts Center presented a free performance of *Romeo and Juliet* on the lawn the last Thursday in June, and in early July, *Symphoria* returned to the historic front lawn of the mansion and thrilled the crowd with their



Friends master gardener Janine Golub with volunteers Jane Mistur, left, and Jill Ryan, right

brilliant music. The Friends also proudly supported the 40th annual Lorenzo Driving Competition in July, and later that month, board member Pat Hill headed up the Rippleton Schoolhouse camp. Local



Friends President Kate Schwartz with Mary Ryan at the June Garden Gala.

children were encouraged to forgo their modern-day amenities and distractions to experience what it may have been like to live as a youngster a century ago. The Friends were also pleased to sponsor the annual preservation program in May (this year's program took place nearby, in historic Peterboro), and two docent programs that were opened up to the public in May and September.

Additional exciting community activities at the site included the EuroCar Show on Father's Day, the CAVAC arts and crafts show in July, and Limestone Creek Hunt's Opening Meet and Parade of Hounds.

I want to express my gratitude to all of the dedicated volunteers and Lorenzo site staff who helped make each occasion so memorable. I would also like to recognize Janine Golub and her amazing volunteers who maintain the beautiful gardens and keep them in such fine form.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the fall season at Lorenzo will be upon us. Community Day, led by board members Jessica Johnson and Pat Hill, drew a crowd of more than 900 patrons to enjoy a fun-filled afternoon featuring wagon rides, old-fashioned crafts and games, refreshments and entertainment, all free of charge.

As the vivid leaves begin to crunch at your feet, preparations will already be underway for what always proves to

be a splendid evening, the Christmas Preview Party, which will be chaired by board member Karen Southwick. Make sure to join us at the mansion on Dec. 1, and see Lorenzo dressed to the nines in holiday finery.

Looking to 2017, I am excited to announce that the Friends' biennial fundraiser will be held on Feb. 4 in Cazenovia. You won't want to miss the "Bootleggers Ball," a rip-roaring good time, reminiscent of the days when Prohibition was law and speakeasies began to flourish. Be sure to check social media and our website (LorenzoNY.org) for updates.

If you ever need a gentle reminder of how beautiful our historic spot is here in Cazenovia, I encourage you to visit the Lorenzo estate. No matter the season, the view from the sweeping front lawn is always spectacular. You may see snow covered trees and a sparkling, icy lake. Or, perhaps it will be a blooming landscape outlining a bustling oasis filled with picturesque sailboats and summer revelers. Each scene is worthy of a painter's brush. My favorite time to stop by is autumn. I can look out over the glistening water and see miles of gorgeous foliage and breathe in the air, just beginning to take on a brisk edge.

Thank you so much for your generous support of Lorenzo, a community treasure. See you soon!



Friends of Lorenzo

Newsletter

Editorial/Design/Production

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Barbara Bartlett

Andrew Lewandowski

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P.O. Box 4

Cazenovia, NY 13035

www.lorenzoNY.org

For site information, please
call (315) 655-3200

From the Director

Plans Underway for Restoration of Mansion's Main Roof and Ornamental Balustrade

By Barbara Bartlett

As reported in earlier issues of the newsletter, we have been very fortunate to have the roofs of the Visitor Center, Church Cottage, South Cottage, the icehouse and the secondary roofs of the Mansion re-shingled with wood in recent years.

Of remaining concern has been the main roof at the Mansion, and our Central Region Capital Facility Unit has been able to advance the project this fiscal year. Plans and specifications are now being developed by Beardsley Architects and Engineers, along with preservation consultants Crawford & Stearns. The project also includes examination of roof drainage options, as well as reconstruction of the crowning roof balustrade.

The Mansion roof was originally clad in wood shingles. Two receipts from 1807, show that more than 50,000 wood shingles were purchased, and a third receipt that year references soldering "on the roof of the House," presumably for the flashing and valleys. The following year, \$57.24 was spent for gutters and downspouts. Subsequent receipts in

metal roof was installed sometime in the 1860s, and remained in place until state ownership, when it was replaced with wood shingles in the early 1970s.



Randy Crawford of Crawford & Stearns, shown here and below, observes cornice, balustrade and roof details at the Mansion.

Documentation shows that 14 surmounting urns for the wood balustrade were purchased from local cabinet-maker Nehemiah White in 1808, and the balustrade is also featured in the c. 1821 naïve depiction of Lorenzo by Caroline Betts. Wholesale replacement of the balustrade and cornice was recorded in the Lorenzo "Housebook" in 1892, but it is assumed that the present metal urns replaced the original wood turnings when the metal roof was installed in the mid-19th Century. Under New York State ownership, two major repair campaigns have focused on the balustrade, but the time for needed work has returned.

If all goes according to plan, a new roof and balustrade will be in place by this time next year. In the meantime, Erin Moroney of our Agency's Peebles Island Resource Center is preparing plans and specifications in anticipation of the reconstruction of the Mansion front porch — so stay tuned for further restoration updates in 2017.

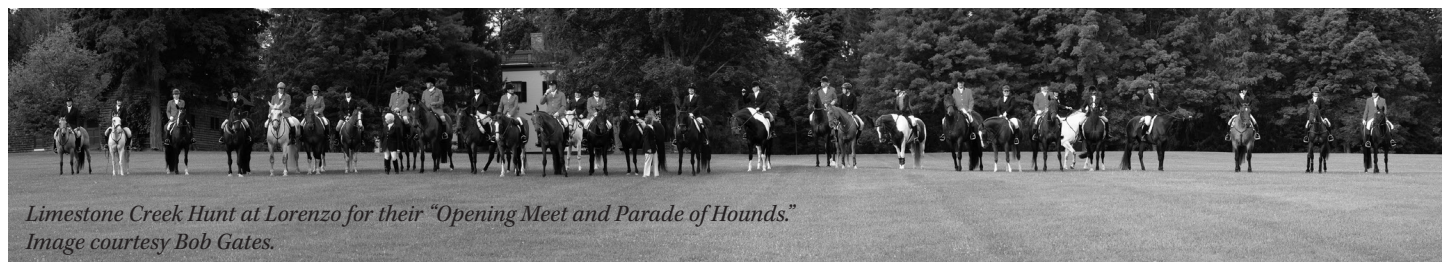


1808, suggest that purchases of shingles and drainage materials were made for the kitchen wing. The next waves of major roof work involving wood shingles were made in 1822, the early-mid 1840s, and in the mid-late 1850s. A sheet





Community, Carriages and Cars: The Past Season in the Rear-View Mirror



*Limestone Creek Hunt at Lorenzo for their "Opening Meet and Parade of Hounds."
Image courtesy Bob Gates.*



*Lorenzo Driving Competition
Ruby Jubilee. Image courtesy
Gene Gissin.*



*Community Day co-chairs
Pat Hill and Jessica Johnson.*



*Miss Buckland (aka Barbara
Cook) raising the flag with
Community Day participants.*



*Summer camp participants
dressed as 19th C gentlemen.
Image courtesy Pat Hill.*



*Symphoria fundraising dinner co-
chairs, Jane and Andy Mistur, in the
Lorenzo garden. Image by Beth Ann
Kempff, BAK Pack Photography.*



*Lorenzo interpreter Jeanne Fero, upper right,
introduces Cazenovia fourth graders to the
carriage collection.*



*Garden Gala chair Kaleen Kessler and former
Friends President Suzanne Munger celebrate
with dinner raffle winners Carol and Craig
Buckhout. Image courtesy Gerry Mehlbaum.*



*Lorenzo volunteer docents Pam Blom, Andy Sikes
and Brenda Vaccaro in the Mansion kitchen.*



*EuroCar '16 at Lorenzo on Father's Day.
Image courtesy Gene Gissin*



*"Romeo and Juliet" performed by Redhouse Arts
Center on the front lawn.*



"A woman does her work through sympathy" Lorenzo Contributes to "Votes for Women" Exhibition at State Museum

By Kate Webber

Next year is a momentous one: 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in New York. As part of the events honoring the centennial, Lorenzo is contributing two artifacts to the New York State Museum's exhibit, "Votes for Women: Celebrating New York's Suffrage Centennial." The exhibit, which is scheduled to open by November 2017, celebrates the pivotal role New Yorkers played in the historic struggle for women's suffrage and equal rights. Organizations and individuals across the state are coming together to contribute objects and knowledge to this rich and multifaceted exhibition.

Lorenzo's contribution will help tell the story of the Anti-Suffrage movement, an important aspect of women's rights history in New York. The artifacts are a pennant reading "Anti-Suffrage," and a button reading "Vote No on Woman Suffrage." It doesn't get much more explicit than that!

Two of Lorenzo's families, the Fairchilds and the Remingtons, were active members of the local anti-suffrage movement in the early 1900s. It is difficult today to imagine Helen Fairchild and Jane Remington wearing this button or displaying this pennant. Why did they fight to deny themselves – and other women – the right to vote?

Let's take a look back.

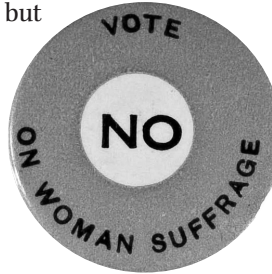
In the summer of 1912, Cazenovia saw a storm of activity around the suffrage debate. Speakers for and against "Votes for Women" presented publicly in the packed town hall, and editorials flew back and forth in the newspaper. Helen Fairchild's husband, Charles, presided at an anti-suffrage meeting in August of that year. The Fairchilds and Remingtons publicly signed their names in support of the event.

An address by Miss Alice Hill Chittenden explained the anti-suffrage position: Miss Chittenden distinguished

between "civil rights attained by women," which she believed to be good, and suffrage, which she argued was bad. The civil rights included married women's property rights, admittance into more universities, and a broader acceptance into professions. She believed the right to vote was another burden on the back of already struggling women, and that women could exert more political and social influence if they weren't tied down to the partisan political system. After all, she noted, men had been voting throughout the nation's history, and look at the problems that still existed.

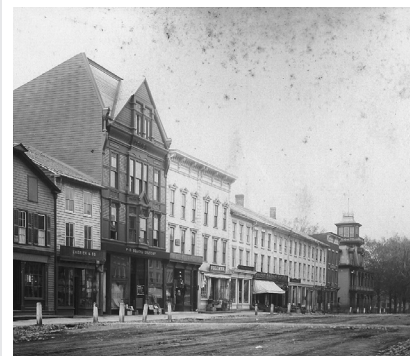
Although Miss Chittenden believed she had had the best interests of women and the nation at heart, after the passage of 100 years, many aspects of the anti-suffrage argument sound shocking: "A woman does her work through sympathy; a man does his through action," Miss Chittenden said. She also compared men giving in to the demands of suffragettes to an adult giving candy to a crying baby – they might want it, but you know it won't be good for them.

To get a sense of why women like Helen Fairchild and Jane Remington may have opposed suffrage, it's helpful to look at their position in life. The fashionable lady's magazine *Harper's Bazaar* published an article on Helen, recognizing her as a gracious hostess. She was clearly intelligent and active. Her interest in family history led her to publish *The Journals of John Lincklaen* in 1897. Helen and Jane both benefited from previous women's rights advocacy. Helen inherited Lorenzo directly from her mother in 1894. When Helen died in 1931, she left the estate to her cousin Jane. Neither Helen nor Jane had children, and neither exchange of



In time for the Holidays: Iconic Scenes of Lorenzo and Cazenovia Now Available for Sale

The Gift Shop at Lorenzo is now featuring three new coaster sets of vintage Lorenzo and Cazenovia scenes, highlighting the formal garden at Lorenzo, the architecture of the historic business district and views of Cazenovia Lake. Each themed set includes four different images from the Lorenzo archives. The sets are available at the retail price of \$19.95 each; Friends of Lorenzo members receive a 10% discount. For more information, please call Liz Whiting at 315-655-3200.



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Curatorial Corner

Treasures From The Butler's Pantry: Lorenzo's Blue and White China

By Jackie Roshia, Curatorial Associate

Direct trade between China and the West occurred as early as 1517, with tea and silk the primary merchandise. Trade between the United States and China began in May 1785, when the first American trade ship, the *Empress of China*, returned from its voyage to Canton. Ceramics were often used as ballast in those cargo ships and, by 1800, more than 60 million pieces of Chinese export porcelain reached the West, filling the need for tableware and decorative ornaments.

During the last years of the 18th century, however, British and European manufacturers developed a ceramic that matched both the quality and low cost of the Chinese export products. By 1830, these ceramics were beginning to replace China's in the American market.

Blue-and-white china in the "Blue Willow" pattern is probably the most recognizable, as it remained a consistent favorite into the 20th century. The traditional motifs, originally found on Chinese export pieces, varied greatly in style and detail and did not represent any

particular tale or legend. More generally called Canton or Nanking ware, the name referred to the provinces in China where they were manufactured. In the late 18th century, British manufacturers began to standardize the pattern, and a legend of star-crossed lovers that the willow pattern was said to illustrate began to circulate.

Lorenzo's historic collections contain approximately 1,100 pieces of fine china dinnerware, the majority of which is Chinese export and European-made pieces. The "Blue Willow" pattern appears to have been a favorite with the ladies of

the house, as there are over 300 pieces of blue-and-white china in the collections. The 1822 estate inventory taken following the death of Lorenzo's builder, John Lincklaen, notes one blue-and-white tureen and four blue-and white-fruit bowls that remain in the historic collections today. Helen Lincklaen Fairchild, Lorenzo's third owner, enjoyed collecting old china, especially blue-and-white Chinese export. She noted in her *Housebook*, "all blue Chinese china valuable." There are also a number of British manufactured Willow Ware pieces at Lorenzo.



Blue willow platter



Chinese export

Famous Cazenovia Connections:

The Engagement Letters of Walter Oakman, Jr. and Anna Burr Hubbard

By Carolyn S. Holmes, Lorenzo Volunteer

Every October, the nation celebrates "American Archives Month," and each November, New York State History month is commemorated. In tribute to the vast historical holdings at both the Cazenovia Public Library and Lorenzo State Historic Site, and in recognition of the important role these documents play in helping us better understand our local heritage, a special exhibit, "Famous Cazenovia Connections: The Engagement Letters of Walter Oakman, Jr. and Anna Burr Hubbard," is on display at the Cazenovia Public Library this October and November.

Volunteering at both the Library and the Lorenzo archives, I have enjoyed researching the Hubbard family

documents in both repositories. I was inspired to mount this exhibit when I found a letter to Anna, from famous Scribner's editor Maxwell Perkins, about Walter saying "that he is the only man I ever knew or ever heard of outside legend, who never disappointed an admirer by an action, nor even by a word, not by so much as a hair's breadth." Perkins was the editor for many famous writers – F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway and Thomas Wolfe among them – and is the central character of the current film "Genius."

Among the other letters featured in the exhibit is correspondence from the distinguished local artist Dwight Williams and from Antoinette Irving, a

descendant of Washington Irving. Also included is a letter from Pat Humphrey from which we learn that Rosa Lewis, known as the "Duchess of Duke Street" and subject of a BBC television series, was a very close personal friend of Walter's.

The Hubbard family members were great Cazenovia benefactors and leaders over several generations. Robert J. Hubbard (Mrs. Oakman's grandfather) donated the 1830 Greek Revival house that has been the Library home since 1890, and the Hubbard family's connection to Lorenzo was that Robert F. Hubbard married Helen Ledyard, sister of Jane Ledyard Remington; Jane inherited the Lorenzo estate in 1931.

Membership Makes a Difference

By Membership Committee
Co-Chairs, Sarah Dennis
and Pia Murray

Members of the Friends continue to amaze us with their generosity! During our 2015-2016 membership campaign, the Friends raised over \$25,000 from our 300-plus active members and corporate matching gifts. Each year, the Friends Board of Directors works diligently at managing these funds appropriately, while focusing on our mission statement. Since its inception in 1975, the mission of the Friends has been to support and enrich the preservation and interpretation of Lorenzo State Historic Site by inspiring community involvement and interest through programming, marketing and fundraising. Were it not for the Friend's financial support, many of the community enrichment programs and special events that take place at Lorenzo – including “Christmas at Lorenzo,” the Schoolhouse programs and the general upkeep of the gardens and grounds – might not be possible.

The Friends of Lorenzo always welcomes new members. This year we hope to encourage many more area businesses and corporations to join and get involved in our events and programs that benefit the community as a whole. Membership at every level makes a difference. If you would like to become a member, please fill out and return the form at right or visit our website at friendsoflorenzo.org.

**The Friends of Lorenzo Board
sincerely thanks all of our
members for their support!**

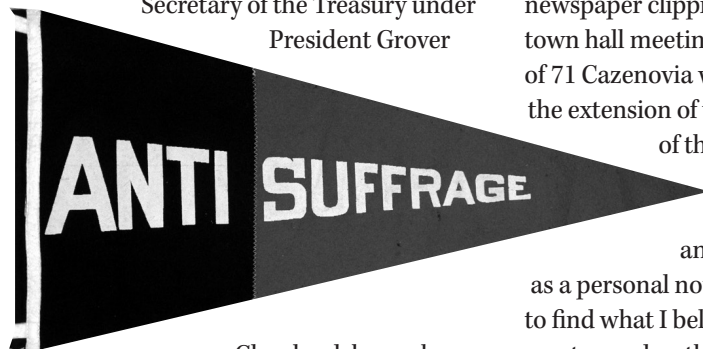
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“A woman does her work through sympathy”

property traveled through their husbands.

Helen's husband, Charles, was an active member of the Democratic Party until his retirement in 1912. As U.S.

Secretary of the Treasury under
President Grover



Cleveland, he spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment to the Constitution that would give women the vote. Presumably, the family's social life revolved heavily around politics. How much were Helen's political views influenced by this social circle? Was she aware of the harsh realities of gender inequality on less privileged women? Had anyone ever dared silence her, or tell her the limits of her sex?

The story of the Anti-Suffrage movement in New York is fascinating, and an important part of a national debate. Looking back, it is easy to assume

that a powerful, intelligent woman would want the right to vote. Looking at writing from the time period, however, the issue becomes less clear-cut. A newspaper clipping advertising the 1912 town hall meeting published the names of 71 Cazenovia women who opposed the extension of voting rights. Not all of those women had the wealth and position of the Fairchilds and Remingtons. In fact,

as a personal note, I was surprised to find what I believe to be my own great-grandmother's name halfway down the list: Mrs. N.B. Webber, a farmer's wife. Whatever the women's reasons were, it is fascinating to see the seeming contradiction of women taking an outspoken political stand to demand action against suffrage.

About the Author: This article was contributed by Kate Webber, a fall '16 intern at Lorenzo from the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies. A native of Cazenovia, we are delighted to have Kate working with us on a variety of educational and interpretive initiatives.



Friends of Lorenzo Membership Form

Please make your check payable to “The Friends of Lorenzo” and mail this form to:
The Friends of Lorenzo, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 4, Cazenovia, NY 13035
Visit our website: www.LorenzoNY.org for online payment options

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Save the Date:



Bootleggers Ball

Saturday Evening, February 4, 2017

Hosted by the Friends of Lorenzo

For details: www.LorenzoNY.org