



The Lorenzo

NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2018
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50 Years as a State Historic Site: Celebrating the Accomplishments of a Great Partnership

By Michael Roets, Lorenzo Site Manager

Fifty years ago, on Sept. 10, 1968, Lorenzo was acquired by New York and designated a State Historic Site to be opened to the public and preserved forever.



The mansion in the 1970s, a few years after state acquisition, with the beginnings of the restoration work.

The first step in the process was a six-month study by historic preservation specialists Peter and Aileen Stevenson, who arrived on June 23, 1969 to assess the collections and make recommendations for architectural restoration. After the couple made their recommendations, budgetary issues stalled the process and it wasn't until August 9, 1973 that Russell Grills was hired as the first site manager.

"Faced with a treasure trove, the new curator of Lorenzo, Russell Grills, is setting to work to piece together the story of the mansion on Cazenovia Lake," a *Cazenovia Republican* article stated at the time of his hiring. "While his hands sort the pictures, house bills and family-records, his mind is racing ahead to the day when the house is finally opened to the public in 1976. How it should look, where the visitors should park, and how they should view

the rooms are vital questions that Mr. Grills will decide in the next few years."

Grills retired in 2002 and, that same year, Barbara Bartlett took over as the site director, serving in that position until her retirement in 2017. Bartlett had been at Lorenzo since 1986, serving as the restoration coordinator on numerous projects. As Bartlett began her tenure at Lorenzo the relocation and restoration of the Rippleton Schoolhouse was newly completed, and she looked ahead to what the project would bring:

"As a resident and someone who works here, I can't say enough about what this community affords for enrichment for the children," she said in an article in the *Republican*. "We're incredibly fortunate. There's the Art Park, the College, the theater and I hope Lorenzo can become a bigger part of that enrichment."

Her goal was certainly reached as this past year more than 1,000 students attended the programs in the schoolhouse.

Under Grills' and Bartlett's leadership, the restoration and interpretation of Lorenzo came a long way; but it would not have been possible without the strong community partnership fostered through the Friends of Lorenzo. The Friends were established in October 1975, and since then have established themselves as one of the leading New York State Historic Site affiliations. Beginning in 1976, with the reproduction

of the carpet in the family dining room, this partnership has undertaken many restoration projects in the mansion; the conservation of collection objects; and the acquisition of important additions to the collection. The most notable of these is an 1822 watercolor painting that is the earliest known depiction of Lorenzo.

The partnership of the State and Friends can also be seen in the interpretation of the site with the establishment of the orientation exhibit in the Carriage House and the relocation and restoration of the Rippleton Schoolhouse. The Friends have been great supporters and sponsors of many Lorenzo traditions including the Garden Gala, Lorenzo Driving Competition, Community Day at Rippleton Schoolhouse and Christmas at Lorenzo.

Most importantly, the Friends of Lorenzo have been great advocates for the preservation of Lorenzo and have served to keep Lorenzo relevant to – and an important part of – the Cazenovia community.



The mansion during the 2007 bicentennial celebration of its construction in 1807, after the completion of a great deal of exterior restoration work.



From the President

A Gathering Place for the Community, Lorenzo's Seasons Bring Summer Delights & the Glow of Holiday Lights

by Kaleen Sessler

It has been another beautiful spring and summer at Lorenzo in our picturesque town. The Friends of Lorenzo officially kicked off the season with our annual Garden Gala. At the Gala we honored Janine Golub for her 35-year career working in the Lorenzo gardens. Shellie Stearns won the coveted dinner for eight, which was exquisitely catered by Emily Prial.

Lisa Kelleher headed the Rippleton School House Summer Camp for her second year. The one-week camp hosted 14 local children, eight to 12 years old, and encouraged them to relinquish modern-day amenities and live as they would have more than a century ago.

In late August, the Friends welcomed the community to view "The Greatest Showman." The movie was shown under the stars on the front lawn of Lorenzo. Ray Brothers BBQ and Bueno Tacos brought food trucks; the Cazenovia Middle School PTA sold popcorn; and the JT Hall Band provided entertainment until dusk. It was an incredibly special evening.

Our annual Community Day at the Rippleton Schoolhouse was held during the last weekend of September. It drew a large crowd and visitors enjoyed a fun filled afternoon of wagon rides, crafts, old-fashioned games, refreshments and entertainment, all free of charge.

As the leaves change and the air gets crisp, we look ahead to Christmas at Lorenzo. Preparations are well under way for the Christmas Preview Party, which always proves to be a splendid evening. Make sure to join us at the Mansion on Nov. 29, and see Lorenzo in full holiday splendor.

The final bit of news I am excited to share is that, in addition to our full calendar of events, the Friends of Lorenzo have worked diligently over the past year to finalize a Strategic Plan to ensure growth and continued success for many years to come.

Thank you so much for your generous support of our community gem. I look forward to seeing you soon at Lorenzo.

Stepping Back in Time: Poetry by Rippleton Schoolhouse Summer Camp Students

Stitching
Candle making
Handmade journals
One room
Order according to ages
Learning
Having fun
Oil Lamps
Useful
Star folding
Enjoyment

-Isabel Comeau, age 10

Bell
End of recess
Loud
Lots of kids can hear it

-Oliver Smith, age 8

Great President
Rendezvoused with important people
Official Commander-in-Chief
Virtuous leadership
Energized America
Ready to give commands
Challenged the country's acceptance
Leading was one of his many virtues
Envied by many
Victory his only option
Excellence always
Launching commands
Average? No extraordinary
Never did stop trying
Dedicated his life to people

-Wyatt Smith, age 10

Make my bed
All helped
In the day and in the night
Doing their jobs around the clock

-Jack Frazee, age 8



Treats from the Rippleton Schoolhouse Summer Camp



From the Historic Site Manager

“... This is a community that understands the importance of preserving and promoting its history”

By Michael Roets

Awareness of time and the perception of the past, present, and future are a universal part of being human. Unfortunately, the importance placed on preserving the historical record of our past varies among different communities. Thankfully in 1968, when the opportunity arose, the State of New York placed a high importance on preserving Lorenzo. As I have researched this acquisition in the *Cazenovia Republican* newspaper archives, it is clear that the people of Cazenovia also placed a high importance on preserving Lorenzo and have supported the state's efforts ever since.

On Oct. 20, a statue of John Lincklaen was unveiled in Lakeland Park to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the founding of Cazenovia; I was asked to speak at the event. Fifty chairs were set up for attendees, which I thought would be a great crowd, and to my surprise more than 150 people came out to show support. The comments I made at the event speak to my amazement at the community support for preserving our history that I have witnessed in my first year at Lorenzo:

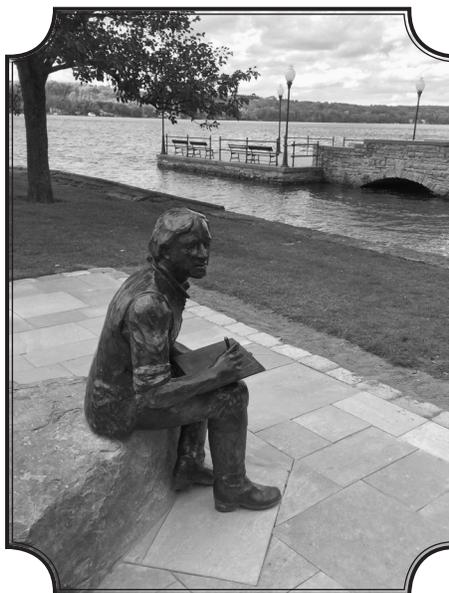
“One of the things that make us human is that we keep track of the passing of time, which is why we are here today. For me I am coming up on my 1-year anniversary as the Historic Site Manager of John Lincklaen's 1807 home that we call Lorenzo. My decision to take this position was a pretty easy one, as Lorenzo tells a great American story of immigration, opportunity, and westward expansion following the American Revolution. Additionally, the mansion and grounds are a historic treasure for their excellent preservation and extensive collections of impressive paintings, furniture, decorative arts, carriages and archival documents.

“Very quickly after my arrival, it also became apparent that Cazenovia itself is a treasure, with excellent preservation of its streetscapes and many of its buildings. And it is very

apparent that this preservation of history is something that the people of Cazenovia take great pride in. From plaques hung on individual homes with dates and the original owners' names, to a Library that has its own museum and was tastefully expanded to preserve its historic structure, it is obvious that this is a community that understands the importance of preserving and promoting its history.

“Today is a perfect example as we gather to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the founding of Cazenovia with the dedication of a statue of its founding father, John Lincklaen. I have worked across the state on various preservation projects and, in many places, it can be a struggle to get the community engaged and involved. I am thankful that I have landed in a place where the people get it and are conscious of the importance of preserving our history.

“So with that I thank you all, for your support in the preservation of Cazenovia and Lorenzo, and for supporting our events and our preservation efforts. Please keep up the good work. You make my job that much easier and much more enjoyable knowing that our efforts in preserving Lorenzo are appreciated.”



Friends of Lorenzo Newsletter

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Janis Barth
Andrew Lewandowski
Michael Roets
Kerry Woolbert

Historic Site Manager

Michael Roets

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P.O. Box 4

Cazenovia, NY 13035

www.FriendsofLorenzo.org

**For site information, please call:
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A Day with Dutch Admirals and Cazenovia Tales Told Over Tea: A conversation with Russell Grills

Russell Grills, Lorenzo Site Director, 1973-2002

Q: What was your favorite restoration project at Lorenzo?

The reproduction and installation of the wallpaper in the main hallway. The project began early in my tenure when I found three unused rolls of the wallpaper that were labeled with the Zuber Factory name and a model number. I called the Zuber Factory and was disappointed to be told that they didn't make it anymore. Ten years later we tried again with a different result: They did still have the original wood blocks to reprint the wallpaper. The next challenge was finding the correct paper and having it sent to Germany for special preparation. Amazingly it all came together and was installed by a very famous wallpaper hanger.

Q: What is your favorite object in the collection?

Mrs. Oakman at The Meadows always had tea time around 4 o'clock and I attended as often as I could to hear the Cazenovia stories. During one tea I noticed a silver set with the Lincklaen crest, and Mrs. Oakman said that eventually the set should go back to Lorenzo, which it did. Mrs. Ledyard Lincklaen purchased it in 1851 as a replacement for Mrs. John Lincklaen's original set that was willed to her niece Helen Ledyard Krumbhaar. Another great addition to the collection was the Samuel Forman papers which I found in Mrs. Oakman's attic during another tea. These papers document the early banking transactions of Cazenovia through account ledgers and order books.

Q: What is your favorite story about the site or family derived from the archives or oral history?

How the house was passed down through the family. John Lincklaen's fortune was lost at the time of his death and Helen Ledyard Lincklaen first wanted to pass the house on to her niece Helen Ann Ledyard and her husband's nephew Lambertus Wolters once they married. Lambertus Wolters passed away and Helen Ann married someone her aunt didn't approve of, so the house went to Mrs. Lincklaen's nephew Lincklaen Ledyard. But

only after he married his second cousin, Helen Clarissa Seymour, and changed his name to Ledyard Lincklaen.

Q: Describe one day, a single event, or incident that occurred at Lorenzo during your career that is most memorable to you.



Sterling silver Tea Service with an English Sheffield-plate tray, made by Bailey & Co., Philadelphia (Bailey, Banks & Biddle today). The hot water urn is English Sheffield-plate and dates to the late 18th or early 19th century. This piece most likely belonged to John and Helen Lincklaen

Admirals Day in 1982 when the Dutch Navy descended on the site. It was the Bicentennial of when the Netherlands was the first European nation to recognize the United States' independence from Great Britain. A descendent of the famous Dutch Admiral DeRuyter planned the event which began at Lorenzo and continued in the Village of DeRuyter. At Lorenzo there was a reception that was attended by two Dutch admirals, the entire crew of a Dutch

ship docked in New York City, a U.S. National Guard Brigadier General who arrived by helicopter, and a two-star General from the U.S. Marines.

Major highlights of the event were the two A-10 aircraft from Hancock Air Force base that flew over Cazenovia

Lake and the Dutch admirals' presentation to the site of a copy of John Lincklaen's 1785 lieutenant's test.

Q: What is your favorite non-Lorenzo historic site? It can be worldwide, a local hidden treasure, or one of each.

Colonial Williamsburg. I always wish that we could have restored Lorenzo to the period of John Lincklaen around 1807, but we just didn't have enough collections from that period to do it right. I have visited Williamsburg six or more times, with the first in 1958 when I was 11 years old, and the last time was just this past year.



Admirals Day at Lorenzo 1982.





From her Most Challenging Project to her Favorite Lorenzo Object: Five Questions for Barbara Bartlett

Barbara Bartlett, Lorenzo Site Director, 2002-2017

Q: What was your favorite restoration project at Lorenzo?

The reproduction of the Zuber et Cie hall paper was one of the most challenging and rewarding projects I was involved with during my tenure. Given my prior research and focus on historic interiors, this project presented numerous twists and turns with the venerable French decorating and manufacturing house. It also afforded me the opportunity to once again work with Bob Kelly, certified wallpaper specialist to the superstars – his clients have included the White House, Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage, Naumkeag, Prestwold Plantation and Lindenwald — and the project also involved sending the ground paper first to Germany for special preparation before it was returned to Zuber for hand-blocking with the original late 19th Century wooden blocks. Witnessing the final, precise installation of this magnificent reproduction is indelibly marked in my memory bank.



Installation of the Zuber wallpaper in the main hallway.

Q: What is your favorite object in the collection?

The gilt and gesso chandelier in the state dining room, given by Ledyard Lincklaen to his Aunt Helen, has captivated my attention over the years. During a major restoration initiative for the state dining room, conservator Heidi Miksch invested considerable time in working on the piece. I vividly remember during its return delivery that she had painstakingly disassembled and then reinstalled each individual lustre. I was in awe of her patience and the results.

Q: What is your favorite story about the site or family derived from the archives or oral history?

Although not one story in particular, I have greatly enjoyed the countless reminiscences of family members and local residents about the times they shared with George Ledyard at Lorenzo. And, for the first several years I worked at Lorenzo, Fitz and Theckla Ledyard were regular visitors while they still maintained a residence in Cazenovia. I cherish the time I was able to spend with them and Sharon Cooney over the years, and since – via email -- learning about Lincklaen/Ledyard genealogy.



Austrian Crystal Chandelier purchased in 1841 by Ledyard Lincklaen while on a grand tour of Europe.

Q: Describe one day, a single event, or incident that occurred at Lorenzo during your career that is most memorable to you.

The “Lorenzo Cultural Landscape Report,” developed with the support of the faculty of landscape architecture at SUNY ESF and then-graduate student Paul Fritz, was the first-ever cultural landscape report produced for our agency, New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. It was also the first of four CLR reports I had the opportunity to coordinate for our region with the concerted efforts and support of Distinguished Teaching Professor George W. Curry and of my colleague Chris Capella Peters.

The Lorenzo report also laid the groundwork for the production of a 15-minute orientation video, Lorenzo: A Landscape Legacy

for All, for which I had the great opportunity to work with WCNY and Access Productions on the development. (The state) then made it possible to offer the production for public viewing in the Lorenzo visitor center.

Q: What is your favorite non-Lorenzo historic site? It can be worldwide, a local hidden treasure, or one of each.

My earliest love of historic American architecture stems from my youth in Canastota. Nathan Roberts was the self-taught civil engineer whose contributions to the construction of the Erie Canal from CNY to Western New York are legendary. I happened to grow up down the street from his grand Federal home, which was owned at that time by Eric Lawson, department chairman and professor

of finance at Syracuse University, and his wife Doris, a social studies teacher and local historian. Eric and Doris were inspiring and generous mentors, and I was most fortunate for their friendship. With a blossoming teenage interest, I then happened across a glossy spread about the incredible splendors of Hearst Castle (home of media mogul William Randolph Hearst and designed by Julia Morgan, the first licensed female architect in California). With its imposing situation atop Enchanted Hill, the structures and landscape remain the most magical and fantastical to me to this day.





Master Gardener Janine Golub Honored for 'Loving Care' of Lorenzo's Formal Garden

By Nancy Weiskotten

In June, Janine Golub was honored at the Friends of Lorenzo's Garden Gala for her dedication and years of service. Janine has worked for the past 35 years at the Lorenzo State Historic Site formal garden. Every season she has shown her dedication and expertise as she brings the garden back to life.

In 1983, Janine had recently moved to Cazenovia and was exploring the village. While walking the property at Lorenzo, she discovered a few peonies and what looked like an old garden. She met with the site director at the time, Russ Grills, and asked if he wanted her to work on a garden for Lorenzo. Not only was he interested, but he also had the 1914 garden plans that former Lorenzo owner, Helen K. Fairchild, had contracted from Ellen Biddle Shipman, a landscape architect from Cornish, New Hampshire. Shipman went on to be quite distinguished in her career as a landscape architect.

To reference the 1914 design and establish the formal garden, the Friends of Lorenzo hired Janine. She had a degree from SUNY Cobleskill in ornamental horticulture and was also a trained Master Gardener through the distinguished Cornell Cooperative Extension program. For 35 years, a relationship was forged between Janine and Friends of Lorenzo with a common commitment to ensure the continued loving care and maintenance of the garden.

At this time, we are sad to say that Janine has decided to move forward and to redirect her talents and dedication to the business that she and her husband, Jimmy, have developed. "Our Farm," established in 1985, is an award-winning family farm that grows and sells fresh produce at a roadside stand. They also provide a beautiful rustic setting for weddings and events.

It is with sad hearts that Friends of Lorenzo and Lorenzo State Historic Site say goodbye to Janine, but we are thankful she brought back – for this generation to enjoy – the historic garden plan of Ellen Biddle Shipman.



Janine Golub in the Garden in 1983.



Site Restoration

New Roof for the Mansion, Schoolhouse and Bridge Repairs



Much-needed repairs were made to the south side of the Rippleton Schoolhouse, with the repair and reconstruction of three windows and the replacement of most of the cedar clapboard siding. Additionally, new ridge caps were installed on the schoolhouse roof to extend its life.

This summer was busy for site restoration as the main section of the mansion received a new roof installed by outside contractors. The cedar shingle roof that was replaced went on in 1975, as one of the first restoration projects and, over the last few years, it was beginning to leak. Since the new roof was installed we have been able to remove the buckets from the attic. Now we are just waiting for the balustrade to be rebuilt and installed.



New deck boards were installed on the bridge that connects Lorenzo to the Fairchild Hill and Burlingame trails which are on Cazenovia Preservation Foundation property. This was a joint project of Lorenzo State Historic Site staff and the Lorenzo Driving Competition. The bridge is used for the competition's pleasure drive but is also used daily by hikers and often their canine companions.



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Lieutenant Governor Visits Lorenzo!

On December 19, 2018 NYS Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul received a tour of Lorenzo decorated for the season with the theme of “Musical Merriment”.



From Left to Right: NYS Parks Acting Regional Director Joanne Mitchell, Madison County Democratic Committee Chair Liz Moran, Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, Site Director Michael Roets, Interpretive Programs Assistant Jacqueline Roshia