



The

Lorenzo Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2020
Vol 22, No. 1

Lorenzo Painting on Exhibit at Syracuse University Art Galleries

By Jackie Roshia, Interpretive Programs Assistant

From January 16 to March 13, 2020 one of Lorenzo's paintings, *Sailing Vessels in Harbor*, was part of an exhibition at The Syracuse University Art Galleries entitled *Masterpieces of Seventeenth-Century Dutch Painting from Regional Collections*. The exhibition included twenty-five original oil paintings from the Golden Age of Dutch Art and were loaned by collectors and institutions located within a few hours' drive of Syracuse. These paintings represented only a small sample of the approximately two million paintings created in the Dutch Republic during the 1600's when it was a flourishing world economic power. The masterpieces selected offered visitors a unique view of the wide-ranging subject matter depicted during the Golden Age of Dutch art.



Sailing Vessels in Harbor, attributed to Abraham Storck (Oil Painting 1644-1708)



Lorenzo Docents and Staff visiting the SU Galleries for the exhibit.

The exhibition was curated by College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Art History, Wayne Franits, and students enrolled in his graduate course in art history, including Lorenzo staff member, Elisabeth Genter. For our monthly Lorenzo docents' meeting on March 9th we visited The Syracuse University Art Galleries to view the exhibition and were joined by exhibit curator, Wayne Franits, and Elisabeth Genter for a wonderfully informative private gallery tour.

Sailing Vessels in Harbor has returned to Lorenzo where it is permanently on view in the Northwest, or Guest, Bedroom above the desk on the east wall. It is one of three Dutch paintings in the Lorenzo collection that date to the 1600s. Helen Lincklaen Fairchild is thought to have purchased the three paintings in the late 1800s out of nostalgia for her family's Dutch Heritage.



From the President: Happy Spring in the Midst of Social Distancing

By Kathleen Conway Hoak

Happy Spring Friends! As we all adapt to these unprecedented circumstances, I truly hope this letter finds all of you in good health and welcoming the spring to Central New York! I am so honored to be President of the Friends of Lorenzo for 2020, and I hope that I am able to fill the shoes of all of those before me, that have kept the Friends of Lorenzo going for over 44 years.

Growing up in Cazenovia, Lorenzo has always held such a special place in my heart. I think Lorenzo symbolizes a lot of things to different people, but for me it was always the landmark that welcomed me “home.” No matter where I was in my life – coming home from college and my years in New York City, to even a simple trip into Syracuse – once I would pass the “foot of the lake” on Route 20, my eyes always look to the right to see the magnificent mansion, that sits unchanged, waiting to welcome us all back to Cazenovia.

In January and February the Friends of Lorenzo Board met and began planning another action packed year at Lorenzo. Looking forward to spring we were planning all of the old favorites as well as some new fundraising ideas - creative ideas were flowing! Our last meeting was on March 3rd and I don’t think any of us could have imagined what was to come just two short weeks later. With that being said, myself, the Friends Board, and the staff at Lorenzo have made the difficult decision to cancel The Garden Gala in June and The Taste of Madison County in July. We have not taken these decisions lightly, but with so much uncertainty, as when gatherings will be allowed, it is virtually impossible to move forward. However, as of right now, the grounds of Lorenzo are open and I encourage you to go for a walk and enjoy the gardens and all their glory in spring bloom!

We all know the saying, “every cloud has a silver lining,” and I am hopeful that there will be “silver linings” ahead and that we will be able to offer a Garden Gala, with a twist, later in the season and another new event for November that you won’t want to miss! Additionally if we are able we will once again offer a family friendly Movie on the Lawn in late August, Community Day at the Rippleton Schoolhouse in September, and of course, the Christmas Preview Party in December, where we will once again watch Lorenzo sparkle and shine in all its holiday glory!

Please know that myself, the Friends of Lorenzo Board, and Lorenzo Staff are working hard to make 2020 a successful year given the circumstances. If you have not joined the Friends group yet, it is not too late. Your continued financial support is appreciated and provides Lorenzo with so much, including the maintenance of the gardens and landscape, Christmas at Lorenzo programming, and the kids summer camp, just to name a few. More information is always available at www.friendsoflorenzo.org or by calling (315) 655-3200. I also welcome any comments or suggestions that you may have, regarding the upcoming year.

We are so very fortunate Cazenovia remains a tight-knit community and I know we will continue to support one another and Lorenzo as we navigate through these complex times. I know I look forward to the day we can all meet at Lorenzo, either in the gardens or on the lawn, and can embrace one another as we use to, without being six feet apart. Until that time comes, be healthy and be safe!



Gingerbread Houses for Christmas at Lorenzo 2019 by Kathleen Conway Hoak, Dixie Conway, Betsy Grace, and Vicki Grimes.



From the Historic Site Manager

By Michael Roets

After a very successful Christmas program, highlighted by the magnificent model of Lorenzo constructed completely of candy, the winter began with enthusiasm for the 2020 season to come. Staff made great accomplishments in restoring cracked plaster and peeling paint and conversations were being had about the programs for the coming year. Additionally, as you may have noticed driving along Route 20,



Lorenzo in Candy for Christmas at Lorenzo 2019 by Barbara Bartlett and Sharon Cooney.

Lorenzo's grand front porch was removed so that it can be rebuilt this year exactly as it was. Unfortunately, as winter was turning to spring our reality changed and our enthusiasm for the coming season turned to uncertainty as we all focused our efforts to mitigating the spread of the coronavirus.

While we are uncertain when we will be open for house tours and what events we may be able to offer this year please know that the grounds of Lorenzo are open daily. The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation in reducing stress and anxiety and encourages you to enjoy all of its properties, including Lorenzo, as long as you recreate locally, practice social distancing, and use common sense to protect yourself and others. Lorenzo staff will do their best to keep the grounds safe and well maintained and we will also be providing additional outdoor interpretive signage as part of a Hashtag Through History Cazenovia project in partnership with the Cazenovia Public Library, Stone Quarry Hill Art Park, and the Cazenovia Preservation Foundation.

150 CASES INFLUENZA IN TOWN CAZENOVIA

Public Gatherings Prohibited

Because of the extent and severity of the Influenza Epidemic in our village, and in order to prevent the spread of the disease as much as possible in our midst it is hereby ordered that no gatherings of a public nature such as church meetings, schools, dances, etc., be held in the village of Cazenovia until further notice. It is also suggested that people refrain from calling on neighbors and visiting in houses in which there are cases of the Influenza.

Board of Health.
F. C. WATSON,
Village Health Officer.

As we struggle with our present and figuring out what our future will look like I can't help but look to our past for some reassurance that we have made it through this before. On September 26, 1918 The Cazenovia Republican reported the first case of Spanish Influenza in the area and then 15 days later reported 150 cases with a notice that public gatherings were prohibited to prevent the spread of the disease. We are hopeful that through our combined mitigation efforts that we will be through this soon and once again be able to invite you up the newly restored front porch stairs for a visit.

Friends of Lorenzo Newsletter

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Lorenzo's Front Porch Through the Ages

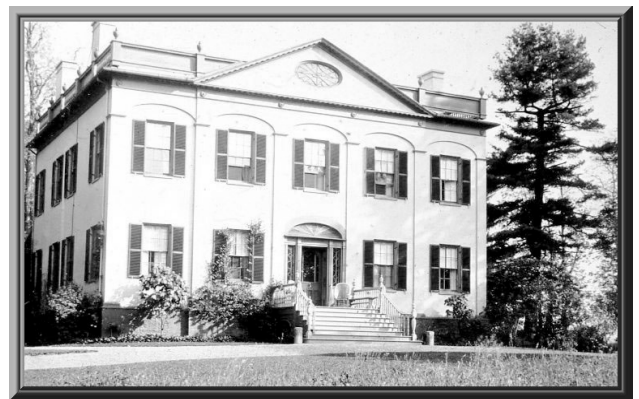
By Jackie Roshia, Interpretive Programs Assistant



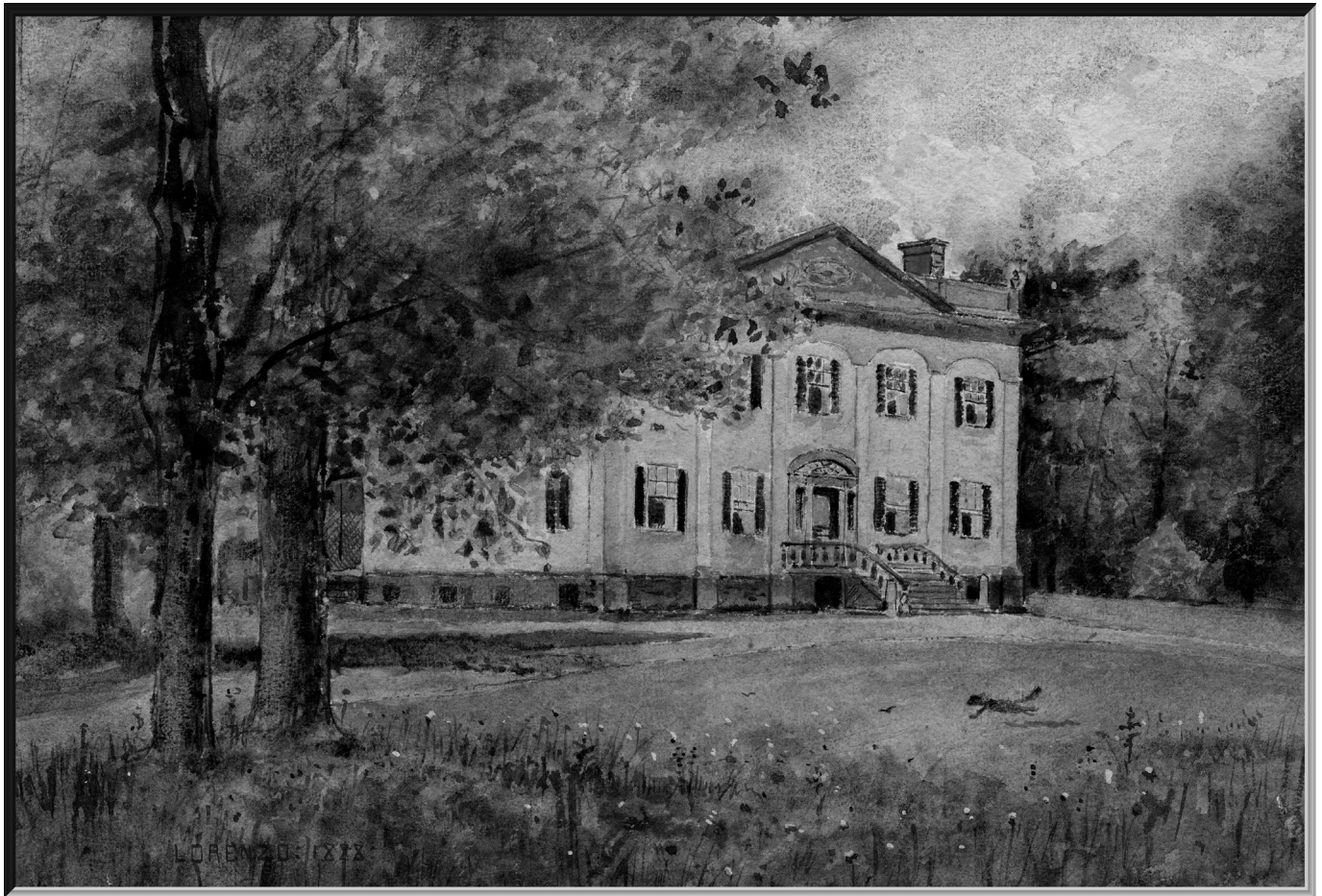
A circa 1858 sketch of Lorenzo by second owner, Ledyard Lincklaen, is thought to depict the original design of the mansion's front porch. In 1858 Ledyard Lincklaen had the front porch rebuilt in a heavy Italianate style in keeping with the current architectural trends of the Victorian era. A ledger entry from that year shows the charges for the porch work, along with a sketch. Ledyard Lincklaen's daughter, Helen Fairchild, noted in her House Book that the railing was built by Theodore Hendricks.



Ledyard Lincklaen's sketch "From West Drive. 10 July 1859" shows a detailed side view of the new Italianate style porch in the left foreground. The village of Cazenovia is seen in the distance.



In 1892, third owners, Helen Lincklaen and Charles Stebbins Fairchild had a new front porch designed for Lorenzo by Utica architect, James Constable and built by H. Potter. It is seen in this circa 1895 photograph. Mrs. Fairchild regarded the new style to be more in keeping with the Federal architectural style of Lorenzo.



The 1888 watercolor of Lorenzo, attributed to local artist Dwight Williams, Jr. shows Ledyard Lincklaen's porch still in place.



This 1975 photograph shows the front porch prior to a full replacement done by New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. As the Lorenzo mansion and grounds are restored to the Fairchild time period of ownership, modern repairs and reconstructions are based on the 1892 design.



Lorenzo awaiting the restoration of its grand front porch, Spring 2020



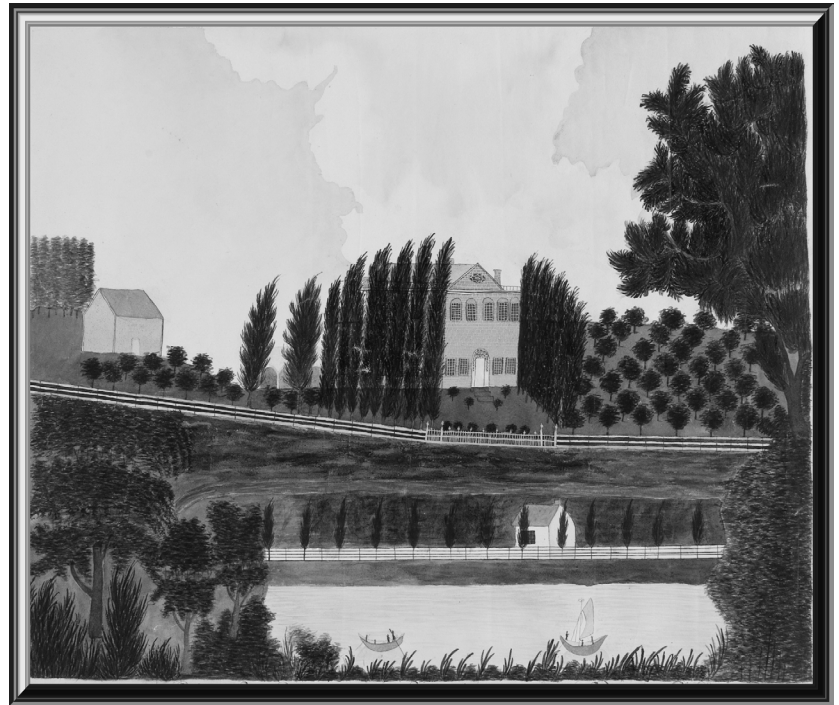


New Information About the Artist that Painted our Earliest Image of Lorenzo!

By Stan Mackowiak

The earliest known image of Lorenzo is a watercolor painting labeled by the artist, “A View of Col. Lincoln’s Seat, Casnovia,” and is signed Caroline Betts. This painting was purchased by the Friends of Lorenzo in 1983 from an art gallery in Connecticut. The art gallery had purchased it at an auction containing items from the estate of “Lela” Betts of the Newtown and Sandy Hook areas of Connecticut.

At the time of its purchase it was established that it was painted sometime after 1821 as the paper has a “J Whatman – 1821” watermark on it. It was also determined that it was painted during John Lincklaen’s lifetime or shortly after his death in 1822 as it contains elements that were previously only known from his



written documents, such as the barn to the left of Lorenzo, the land office in the foreground, the Lombardy poplars lining the front drive, and the mansion painted bright red with mortar joints outlined in white. Additionally, it was known that the watercolor must have been painted prior to 1853 when the mansion exterior color was changed to gray.

New genealogical research has 1. identified the artist, Caroline Betts, in the historical record, 2. verified that she did paint this image during this early time period, and 3. established her relationship to the “Lela” Betts who last owned the painting.

1. Caroline Betts was the daughter of Uriah Betts and Nancy Jenks. Several published genealogies give her birth date as July 3, 1815, the date taken from her headstone. Her father, Uriah, was born in Connecticut and her mother, Nancy, along with her nine siblings, was born in the Clinton, New York area. According to a history of Oneida County Nancy’s parents, Job and Ruhammah Jenks, were among the first settlers to the area of Central NY around Clinton, Deansboro, and Paris Hill.
2. Census records from 1820 and 1830 show that Caroline lived with her parents in Farmington and Manchester, New York in Ontario County to the west of Lorenzo. A visit to her grandparents or other family could explain her presence in Cazenovia during this time. Records indicate that by 1836 Caroline Betts and her family were living in Washtenaw County, Michigan where she married Ambrose Hicks, a blacksmith who was born in Homer, New York. Caroline died on June 9, 1860 at age 44 and is buried in Dansville, Michigan. It is most likely that Caroline painted this image between 1825 when she was 10 and 1836 when she was 21 and moved to Michigan.
3. Caroline’s father, Uriah Betts, had a brother named Allen Hayes Betts who remained in Connecticut. Allen Hayes had a grandson named Albert Allen Betts who married Elizabeth Jane “Lila Jane” Malkin Betts who died in 1957, at the age of 95. It was from her estate in Connecticut that the painting was acquired and fortunately found its way to Lorenzo.



Site Restoration Updates

This winter was busy for site restoration with much needed interior plaster and paint work undertaken by Lorenzo staff members Jennifer Quinn, Kevin Chick, and Spencer Eberst. The first project that they completed was the scraping, repairing, and repainting of the ceiling of the Rippleton Schoolhouse. The schoolhouse which was built in 1814 and operated until 1931 was moved onto Lorenzo property in 1997 to be restored and operated for educational programs. The restoration was completed in 2002 and that year it hosted its first class in 71 years. Over the last few years the ceiling paint has begun to peel in flakes, so this winter action was taken to correct the issue. After scraping the loose paint, cracks and chips were filled with historically appropriate materials and then the ceiling was repainted with a historic milk paint formula. The results were amazing.



Rippleton Schoolhouse
Ceiling Before



Rippleton Schoolhouse
Ceiling After

After tackling the Rippleton Schoolhouse ceiling the crew made their way into the mansion to repair the failing paint in the Family Dining Room. Once again, the work involved scraping the paint, filling in the chips and repairing cracks with historically appropriate materials, and then repainting with the historically accurate color. During this project the inscription “F F Baldwin March 18, 1919” was discovered on the trim over the northwest door that connects the room to the State Dining Room. In the 1920 census Franklin F. Baldwin is listed as a single white male living on Nelson Street in Cazenovia with the occupation of paper hanger.



Family Dining Room Before with Inscription



Family Dining Room After



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