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Friends of Lorenzo Win Major Grant to Build Access to Hidden Treasure

The Friends of Lorenzo won a major grant to create an electronic aid to help make it easier to find items in Lorenzo State Historic Site's vast archive of historical photos, maps, letters, posters, and other documents. New York State announced the \$43,000 *Environmental Protection Fund Park and Trail Partnership* grant on July 28, 2021. The grant program is sponsored by Parks and Trails New York, an organization dedicated to promoting State Parks and Historic Sites. "The archives are a hidden treasure of information on Cazenovia, Central New York, and the history of the United States" said Lorenzo's Site Director, Michael Roets, "and making the archive more accessible for residents, historians, and others has been a long-standing priority of mine."

Lorenzo's archives of documents and objects is one of the largest in the New York State Parks system. The electronic catalogue will offer an easy, computer-based aid to navigating the archives and finding materials of interest. "It will make access to the archive's rich resources much easier," said Roets. Later stages of the project will entail scanning to create digital images of the documents that will be linked to the electronic finding aid.

The grant award is the culmination of a year-long effort by the Friends of Lorenzo. "Organizing the project and seeking funding has been a group effort enjoying wide support from the Board and the State's site management team," said Mark Musell the Board's project leader. He added that "members of the community were actively involved, including local resident Cara Howe, one of Upstate Medical University's chief archivists, who generously contributed hours of professional expertise to guide and direct the effort".

Jackie Roshia, Lorenzo's Interpretive Programs Assistant, has also been a guiding force. "The archives are history written as experienced by the family that occupied Lorenzo since the early 1800s and told through their letters, calendars, journals and photos", said Roshia. "The Board's project will make that history more accessible to all." The effort is expected to be completed sometime early next year. Friends of Lorenzo will provide free access to the electronic finding aid through its website.

Friends of Lorenzo is a non-profit whose mission is to support and enrich the preservation and interpretation of the Lorenzo State Historic Site by inspiring community involvement and interest through programming, marketing, and fundraising. The Friends of Lorenzo are always searching for new board members interested in sharing their passion for the history of our community. For more information on how to get involved visit www.friendsoflorenzo.org or call 315-655-3200.