



Pratt House News

Fall 2019 | Volume 20, Issue 4

Friends of History In Fulton, N.Y., Inc.



40 Years of Memories

With Todd Hobin

Do you remember

what you were doing in November of 1979? How you were dressed? What cars were on the road? What about your favorite songs? What were the big hits of the era? And the most famous musicians?



Find out the answers to these questions—and more—at our annual fund-raising celebration at the Tavern on the Lock on November 8. Enjoy cocktails and foods of the era. Check out—and perhaps win—a raffle basket. Review memorabilia from that special time in your lives. Have a blast playing 1979 trivia.

And enjoy the highlight of the evening—a return performance by Todd Hobin! A local favorite in the 1970's and still as famous and enjoyable, Todd will entertain us with some of the hits of the 70's and with some of your old favorites. Todd put on an amazing performance for us last year and this year's performance is guaranteed to get your feet

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2018-2019 Board of Directors

- LaVerne DeLand, President
- Paula Rohn, 1st Vice Pres.
- Jean Lewis, 2nd Vice Pres.
- Carol Dexter, Secretary
- Sarah Conley, Corr. Secretary
- Sue Brown, Treasurer
- Angela Bernat
- Cindy Bickford
- Gail Chesbro
- Sue Ebert
- Carole Farfaglia
- Ed Farfaglia
- John Finocchiaro
- Marjorie Julian
- Karen Obrien
- Fred Sumner
- Stephen Wise

Staff

- Theresa Jones, Museum Coord.
- Alec Seymour, Displays
- Adam Babcock, Maintenance

Handicap Accessible

A ramp off the driveway to the side door enables handicapped access to the Pratt House. (During the winter months, however, we are closed and there is no handicap access.)

Pratt House Hours

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10a to 3p - Saturday: 12:30 to 2:30 (Jul & Aug only, beginning Jul 13)

Or, call us at 315-598-4616 to make an appointment.

It's Time For Our Annual Parade of Trees!

It's that time of year already! This is the 31st year of the Friends of History in Fulton's Parade of Trees! It all began in 1988 when the mortgage on the John Wells Pratt House was paid off and the Board of Directors felt that it was time to show the community how much they were appreciated for all their hard work and effort in saving the Pratt House. That decision marked the birth of the Parade of Trees. Ever since the halls of the Pratt House are decked with trees every year that are brought in and decorated by participating schools, non-profit organizations and businesses in the community. Those who visit to view the amazing showcase of trees vote on their favorite one. The non-profit winners receive a cash prize.

Punch Party Open House Sunday, December 8

We invite you to this year's Parade of Trees which will take place December 2 – December 13, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Saturday, December 7 by special request only). Our Punch Party Open House is Sunday, December 8 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The J.W. Pratt House Museum is located at 177 South First Street, Fulton, NY 13069.

For more information, call 315-598-4616.



Message from the Board of Directors

We have had a busy Fall at the Pratt House starting with our Trash to Treasurer yard sale in early September. The sale was a great success in part because the weather was so perfect and also due to the generous donations of our FOH members and our community friends. Next was our Annual Meeting with Barbara Dix, Phoenix City Historian, as our speaker. She displayed historical knitting and stamping materials along with various crafts. Our Fall chicken barbeque sold out rapidly in spite of the cold, windy, rainy weather. We are grateful for your loyal support at all of these events.

Now we are getting ready for our November event, 40 Year of Memories, to continue the celebration of the Friends of History incorporation. There will be a dinner at Tavern on the Lock and entertainment featuring Todd Hobin, who was with us last year. Todd teaches at LeMoyne College and has a large following in the Syracuse area as an accomplished musician. We will again have raffle baskets full of treasures.

We are looking forward to the annual Parade of Trees and welcome those who are decorating trees and all the visitors who will want to see the creativity and beauty of our museum during the holiday season.

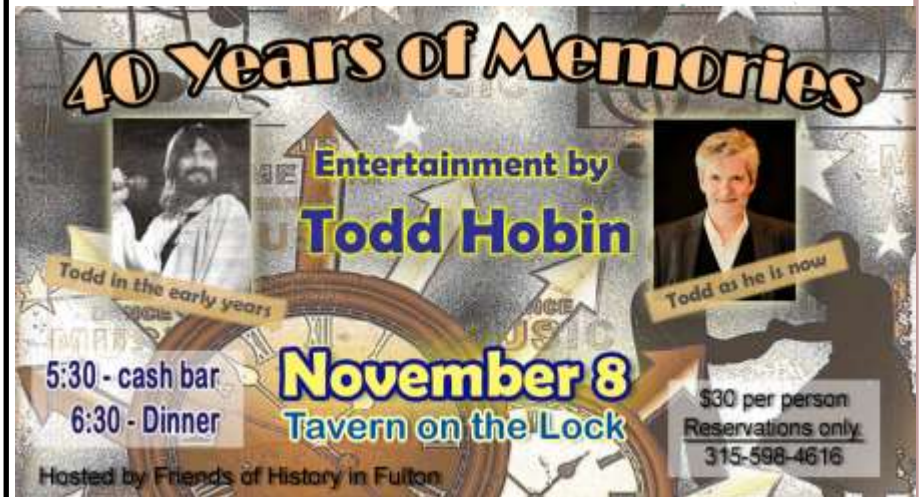
40 Years of Memories—Cont.

tapping and to bring back old memories.

Help us to celebrate our 40th anniversary! Enjoy this very special evening with Todd Hobin and with many of your friends. And what a great way to suggest that friends who are not members of the Friends of History accompany you to the Lock. They will have a great meal, enjoy the music of Todd Hobin—and, hopefully, consider becoming members of the Friends of History.



See more 40 years of memories on page 6!



Corporate Sponsors 2018-2019

Gold Membership

Fulton Savings Bank

Bronze Membership

Harbor Eye Associates
(Dr. David J. Dexter)

OVIA Insurance Agencies,
LLC

Save-A-Lot (Fulton)

Silver Membership

Advanced Dental Arts
(Dr. Frank Fuce, DMD)

L.C. Smith Collectors
Association

Patron Membership

The Great Outdoors

Oswego County
Bookkeeping, Inc.

Scriba Electric

Valley Locksmith

We thank all of the businesses for their sponsorship support. They help the Friends of History and the Pratt House Museum to continue to share local history of Fulton and the surrounding area.

For Sale



Fulton/G. Ray
Bodley High
School Year
Books
Early 1900s
-2000s

Planning a class or family reunion?

If your class or group would like to tour the Pratt House on a Saturday or Sunday, please call to set up a date and time.



Hunter Arms Homecoming Draws Camaraderie from All Over



Appreciation for the craftsmanship of guns made in Fulton in the first half of the 20th century has triggered a special annual event that was celebrated again this year at the 9th Hunter Arms Homecoming, which was held on August 23-24. Fair skies and comfortable temperatures prevailed both days, providing favorable shooting conditions at the Pathfinder Fish and Game Club. L. C. Smith Collectors Association (L.C.S.C.A.) members were joined by a few local shooters to use L. C. Smith/Fulton guns at the event. All were welcomed to the club to enjoy the sport of breaking clay targets. Contestants proudly shouldered their “Sweet Elsie” side by side or single barrel guns to “bust” the clay birds at the club’s various ranges.

As members gathered to greet one another, friendships were renewed and new ones were formed. This became apparent as conversations and bursts of laughter could be heard whenever a group of two or more gathered. Often words of encouragement were given to fellow shooters or sometimes a friendly ribbing was shared within the shooting contingent. Most importantly, good sportsmanship was abundantly shown regardless of the number of birds that got broken by their beloved L. C. Smiths.

Four competitions consisting of trap, skeet, 5-stand, and sporting clays were offered to test shooting skills.

Shooters had their choice of shooting in one, two, three, or all four of competitions. Each consisted of a round of 50 birds. Some participants shot for fun while others participated in a friendly competition. The top 3 places in each competition and High Gun received an award. (Results of the friendly competition are on page 4.)

The Pratt House Museum was open to the public to admire the displays that showcase the quality workmanship of LC Smith/Fulton guns. It also provided an opportunity for everyone to learn about the history of the Hunter family, the factory, and its employees. The Hunter Gallery at the Pratt House, located on the second floor, is full of related Hunter memorabilia. It includes L. C. Smith guns, a Hunter bicycle, Hunter fans, and much more. Other displays of Fulton history are featured in different rooms and were open for visitation throughout the weekend.

The weekend concluded with an Awards Banquet at the Tavern on the Lock Restaurant, which is only a few hundred feet south of where the Hunter Factory once stood. Special guests this year were Jim and Terry Hunter and Barbra Wadsworth, descendants of the Hunter Brothers.

After a cocktail hour and buffet dinner, Frank Finch gave an update on L.C.S.C.A. happenings. The Fulton Mayor’s representative gave a short speech and read the proclamation proclaiming the Hunter Arms Homecom-

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Hunter Arms Homecoming Draws Camaraderie From All Over—Cont.

ing Weekend. Awards for the shooting events and displays were distributed. All shooters as well as displayers received a gift for their participation. Two raffles were drawn, one for a flat of shells from RST and the other a wooden shell box that had a hand painted cover by Janet Weldin. Thank you to all who donated prizes.

The weekend went by fast as does the year in between the Homecomings! We are already looking forward to hosting the 10th Hunter Arms Homecoming, tentatively set for August 21-22.

Ninth Annual Hunter Arms Homecoming Shooting Competition Results

Trap

1st Frank Finch---39/50, tied won on forward run
2nd JD Shank---39/50
3rd Rich Ghenn---38/5

Skeet

1st Jent Mitchell--- 47/52
2nd Tom Snyder Jr.---46/52, tied won on forward run
3rd Terry Rickart---46/52

5-Stand

1st Tom Snyder Jr.---42/5
2nd Jent Mitchell---41/50
3rd Terry Rickart---38/50

Sporting Clays

1st Tom Snyder Jr.--- 38/50
2nd Rich Ghenn---37/50, tied won on forward run
3rd Thomas Mathias---37/50

High Gun

Tom Snyder Jr. with a total of 126.

5th Annual L.C. Smith Collectors Association Raffle

For a **1950 L.C. Smith 12 Gauge Premier Skeet Gun with 26" Barrels**

Featherweight, Auto Ejectors, Hunter One Trigger, Beavertail, SSP Rib & Straight English Stock

Drawing is Saturday, April 25, 2020
at The Southern Side X Side Spring Classic

(Winner is not required to be present.)

Tickets: \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25.00

To purchase tickets contact Les Weldin, 315-593-6848 (weldinj@gmail.com); or Theresa Jones, 315-598-4616 (friendsofhistoryinfulton@gmail.com).

Sponsor Spotlight

L.C. Smith Collectors Association

The Friends

of History in Fulton are proud to have the L.C. Smith Collectors Association (L.C.S.C.A.) as our sponsor. This year was the ninth annual Hunter Arms Homecoming hosted by the Friends of History at the John Wells Pratt House Museum. For the past nine years, we have been fortunate and honored to hold the Homecoming where collectors, shooters, and anyone interested in history gather and share information about L.C. Smith and Hunter Arms guns in the city where they were produced from the 1890s to 1950.

The L.C. Smith shotgun is an American classic and is unquestionably one of the finest shotguns ever made. L.C.S.C.A. was formed to stimulate and educate members and the public in their knowledge of the history and production of the L.C. Smith shotgun; encourage the value of good sportsmanship to shooter and collector members and the public; promote a positive, responsible use of firearms to members and the public; and encourage creation of an L.C. Smith museum.

It all began when a few gun collectors stumbled into each other at gun shows and found that their L.C. Smith guns were of common interest. On one such occasion at a gun show in March of 2002, several of the gun collectors huddled and began talking about forming an association where they then promised to meet again. Over the following months they discussed the next steps in forming the organization. The seven member group is referred to unofficially, but affectionately, as the founding members: Len Applegate, Andy Anderson, Boby Trefry, Bill Winter, Rich Beyer, Frank Finch, and Mary Anne Finch.

L.C.S.C.A. began with fifteen charter members, and in a very short time, membership increased to over fifty members. Today, the membership now has around 700 members; sponsors or sanctions events around the United States from California to New York; publishes a 28-page color journal full of history, technical articles, and current and future events; hosts an internet website with a popular information dispensing forum; and much more. Visit the L.C.S.C.A. website at <http://lcsmith.org>.

The Friends of History looks forward to a long relationship with L.C.S.C.A. and our 10th annual Hunter Arms Homecoming in 2020!

A few Snapshots of the Ninth Annual Hunter Arms Homecoming



Barbara Dix, Phoenix City Historian, was our guest speaker at this year's annual meeting. She displayed historical knitting and stamping materials along with various crafts.

Fun Fall Chicken BBQ!



The last chicken BBQ of the season was a windy, but fun day! We had our very own board member, Angela Bernat, dressed as our mascot chicken. Even one of our patrons wanted a selfie with her.

Hope to see you all again in May, but in the meantime, our 40 Years of Memories with Todd Hobin is November 8th and our annual Parade of Trees follows beginning December 2!



More 40 Years of Memories!



Membership 2019

Cupola

Bill & Marilyn Fivaz
Elma J. Smith

Attic

Alicia & Dick Calagiovanni
Alan S. Drohan, Esq.
Jim & Teri Hunter
Jim Leo & Stephen Wise

Gallery

Robert & Susan Anderson
Mary Ann Babikian
Ed & Angela Bernat
Richard Burke
Gordon Chalone
Barbara Dexter
Carol Dexter
Verner & Gail Drohan
Richard & Naneen Drosse
John Finocchiaro
Terry & Deanne Morrill
Bill & Jean Niver
William & Judith Patterson
Joseph & Janet Sczupak
Fran Sullivan
Ed & Eleanor Vayner
Les & Janet Weldin

Exhibit

David Estus Coant
Joyce Cook
Don & Marion Ciciarelli
Marilyn Datz
Pat & Becky Devendorf
Mary Elliott
Beverly Helm
Mary Lou Hill
Ed & Jerry Kasperek
Spencer & Anne Ludington
Dave & Marie Mankiewicz
Mr. & Mrs. John McGraw
David Mirabito
Jerry & Beth Mirabito
Rick & Mary Rebeor
Mary Ellen Ross
Alec & Ginny Seymour

Phillip Sheldon
Mary Ellen Stewart
Carolyn L. Waterman
Judith Wellman
Bob & Sandy Weston

Senior with Spouse

Jean Barrus
Verne & Cindy Bickford
Gary & Alexa Carter
Leigh & Marietta Colitre
LaVerne & Dennis DeLand
Bill & Peggy Donnelly
Paul & Donna Drohan
William & Beatrice Dyer
Roger & Sue Ebert
Leonard & Nancy Ellis
Dave & Megan Falanga
Ed & Carole Farfaglia
Bill & Pam Finocchiaro
Bill & Marilyn Fivaz
Anne Grassi
Daryl & Sharon Hayden
LeRoy N. Hodge
Michael & Theresa Jones
Donald & Carolyn Kunzuiler
Alan & Sue Lane
Doc & Gloria Manitta
Francis & Charlene Mirabito
Leland Mitchell & Carolyn Beckwith

Jim & Karen O'Brien

Steve & Wendy Osborne
Fran & Nancy Quirk
Kathryn Reynolds
Paula & Bill Rohn
Edward & Barbara Scerbo
Floyd & Carol Wallace
Charles D. Young

Senior

JoAnne Bakeman
Suzy M. Beyer
Dr. Michael & Janine Botty
Carrie Butler
Jean C. Caster

John Churchill
Mary M. Clapper
Marilyn Datz
Carmella L. Demperio
Kathleen Dyer
Mary Falanga
Jim Farfaglia
Teresa Ferlito
Joe Fuchs
Merry Gantley
Cindy Garrett
Richard T. Gillespie
Bob & Sandy Green
Sarah Hill
Robert Hillick
Mary R. Hundycz
Laura Hoffman
Richard Johnson
Tom Kanaley
Jim @ Scriba Electric
Marjorie Turrell Julian
Ellen T. Kane
Harvey & Ann King
Edward & Sharon Lindo
Arlene Mayne
Anne Miller
Agatha Musumeci
Ellen Nowyj
Joan Nucifora
Karen Potter
Eleanor Pryor
Madelyn Schmidt
Michael & Karen Stafford
Jerry Stanard
Katherine Tierney
Nancy Galusha Thomas
Robert Vayner

Individual

Stephen T. Burnham
Gail Chesbro
Dorothy Engell
Roberta Dunn
G.C. Garbus
David Guyer
Carole Lescarbeau
Dennis Merlino
Fred Sumner
Rick Wallon

Recent Podcasts on Oswegocountytoday.com

A History of the John Wells Pratt House and the family who lived there, by Alan Drohan, a long-time member of the Friends of History in Fulton and one of the individuals who was instrumental in founding Fulton's Historical Society.



<https://oswegocountytoday.com/.../ne.../fulon/fulton-a-history/>

A History of telephone technology, by Alec Seymour, past president of the Friends of History and current member and display expert for the museum.



<https://oswegocountytoday.com/fulton-ny-a-history-podcast-episode-3/news/fulton/fulton-a->

History of the Hunter Arms Factory, by Les Weldin, member of Friends of History and chairperson for the annual Hunter Arms Homecoming.



<https://oswegocountytoday.com/fulton-ny-a-history-podcast-episode-2/news/fulton/fulton-a-history/?fbclid=IwAR0VJuKbx5BM3-ZEu3luumwrrtMONFvaGvyEMLt0tRtR9Czr-1MQS-1Azbl>



Pratt House Museum

Friends of History in Fulton, NY, Inc.
177 South First Street
P.O. Box 157
Fulton, New York 13069

Phone :315-598-4616

Fax: 315-598-6992

E-mail: friendsofhistoryinfulton@gmail.com

Fall 2019

2019 marks the 40th anniversary of the Friends of History in Fulton

2019 Dates to Remember

November 8—40 Years of Memories with Todd Hobin

December 8—Punch Party Open House

December 2 -13—Parade of Trees

Stop by the Pratt House Museum. We have books about Fulton's history and nice Fulton tapestry throw blankets, as depicted in photo. Also, we have Fulton High School yearbooks for most years. Some of these items also can be purchased at the Village Shops in Fulton.



The John Wells Pratt House Museum

Our Mission Statement

The organization, established in 1979, is dedicated to the preservation of the history of Fulton and the adjacent towns of Granby and Volney. This mission will be approached in the following ways:

1. Acquire and preserve significant artifacts, publications, and other archival material of local interest.
2. Maintain as much of the historical integrity of the Pratt House as possible, while leaving space for historical exhibits.
3. Provide historical and genealogical resources for researchers and interested members of the general public.
4. Develop and provide community outreach programs.