

## LOCAL HISTORY

### Soldiers and Sailors

**107 Years Ago:** On June 21, 1910, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Clinton Square was unveiled. People packed the square to witness the ceremony and some even watched from the windows and roofs of nearby buildings. The monument was originally built to honor the 12,000 individuals from Onondaga County who fought in the Civil War, but has since been rededicated in the memory of all the county's service men and women. The bronze sculptures were designed by Cyrus Dallin. The East group of figures is entitled, "A Call to Arms" and the West is named, "An Incident at Gettysburg." The incident to which the statue refers occurred when the 149th NY Volunteer Infantry Regiment from Syracuse was under such heavy fire during the battle that bullets completely severed the wooden staff of the regiment's flag. Color Sergeant William Lilly retrieved the flag amid a storm of lead and repaired the staff by making a splint out of fragments of wood and a knapsack strap.

— Dan Connors for the Onondaga Historical Association



A view of "An Incident at Gettysburg," the group of figures on the west side of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Clinton Square. Onondaga Historical Association photo