

# New OHA exhibit focuses on image of Civil War

The following was submitted by the Onondaga Historical Association.

Next year marks the beginning of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. The Onondaga Historical Association Museum is reminding Central New Yorkers of that event with a new exhibit, drawing on its rich collections from this momentous struggle for liberty.

The Civil War was the first major conflict to be extensively documented through visual images. Central New Yorkers were directly involved, either recording those images or sometimes, being the subject of them.

Syracuse photographer George Barnard, for example, is considered to have created the best visual record of Gen. Sherman's campaign through Georgia, his famous "March to the Sea." And drawings of the famous sea battle between the USS Kearsarge and the notorious Confederate raider CSS Alabama probably captured the image of a young Syracuse marine who manned one of the Kearsarge's cannons.

These stories and others, as well as dozens of original images from the Civil War, are featured in this new exhibit at the OHA Museum entitled "Capturing the Conflict: How Artists Revealed the American Civil War."

The show utilizes paintings, prints, photographs and sketches made during the war by an array of individuals. Many, such as the paintings of Voltaire Combe and the sketches of Sgt. George Sager are original works from the OHA collection. Also featured are several rare photographic prints by George Barnard, one of the war's most famous photographers, who spent much of his life in the Syracuse area and is buried along Cedarvale Road in the town of Onondaga.

A stunning oil portrait of Gen. William Cullen Brown by Charles Loring Elliott, one of America's most famous 19th century artists, is included.

A selection of prints by noted Civil War artist Edwin Forbes shows the details of a soldier's life during the war. Dominating one end of the gallery are two reproductions of famous Forbes' paintings of the intense battle for Culp's Hill at Gettysburg, a bloody struggle that involved the 149th and 122nd New York regiments, units composed almost



Submitted image

**A DETAIL** of a drawing of a Union soldier by Sgt. George Sager, of the 149th (Fourth Onondaga), NYS Volunteer Infantry Regiment. It is an original pencil drawing filled in with watercolor painting. Sager served from 1862 to 1865.

## If you go . . .

**What:** Images of the Civil War

**Where:** OHA Museum, 321 Montgomery St., Syracuse (off Columbus Circle)

**When:** through July 18; hours — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

**Admission:** Donations accepted

**Contact:** 428-1864; [www.cnyhistory.org](http://www.cnyhistory.org)

exclusively of Central New Yorkers.

The exhibit is supplemented by a number of original Civil War artifacts from the OHA collections, ranging from several uniform elements to weapons.

Also available in the gallery is a series of cell phone audio narratives that detail additional stories about the people who created the images or are pictured in them.