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Illustrated Lecture at Onondaga Historical Association by Canadian Historian Dr. John Carter

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Category: Member News

As part of Onondaga Historical Association's Donald Pomeroy Lunchtime Lecture Series, Dr. John Carter of Toronto, Ontario, will present at OHA on Thursday, May 10 an illustrated lecture entitled, "The Result of Rebellion: North American Political Prisoners in Van Dieman's Land." During the Upper Canadian Rebellion of 1837-38 there were at least ten incidents of armed invasion of Canada from the United States. These incursions were all unsuccessful attempts to overthrow the British rule in Upper Canada. Some of the participants caught up in one of these illegal invasions were from Onondaga County. As a result, many Americans were incarcerated in the penal system in Van Dieman's Land, now known as Tasmania. Dr. Carter's discussion will explore the events and actions of a fascinating yet often overlooked chapter in the shared history of Canada, the United States, and Australia. The lecture will be held on May 10, 2012 at 12:00 PM in the auditorium at OHA, 321 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202. The audience is invited to bring lunch. The event is free and open to the public.

Hundreds of men who were involved in the 1837-1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion were arrested and charged with piratical invasion. Ultimately, ninety-two English speaking "Patriots" were transported to the penal colony of Van Dieman's Land to serve sentences as political prisoners. Many of these men came from along the St. Lawrence River and from communities in northern and central New York State. In his lecture, Dr. Carter will cover the events and rebellious acts of the main participants of the Rebellion and describe the lives of the exiled "Patriots" while incarcerated in what is today the island of Tasmania, off the coast of Australia. He will also outline their period of probation and time of freedom before their eventual return to Canada and the United States.

The research on this topic was conducted by Dr. Carter in Tasmania and also in Australia as a Visiting Fellow at the History Programme, Australian National University in Canberra, and currently as a Research Associate in the School of History and Classics, University of Tasmania in Hobart. Dr. Carter received a BA in History and MA in Native Studies from the University of Waterloo, as well as degrees from the University of Western Ontario and the University of Leicester, England, where he received his doctorate in Museum Studies. Today, he is an advisor to the Ontario Ministry of Culture and lives in Toronto.

"The Result of Rebellion: North American Political Prisoners in Van Dieman's Land" will be presented by Dr. John Carter at 12:00 PM in the auditorium at Onondaga Historical Association, 321 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202. The museum and presentation are free. The public is invited to bring lunch. Boxed lunches are available by calling Parisa Restaurant, next to OHA, at 315-565-5118 before 11:30 AM the day of the event. For more information on the lecture, call Karen at 315-428-1864, ext. 312 or go to cnyhistory.org.

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