

OHA AT 150**Launching a ship,
and speaking out
for abolition**

The Onondaga Historical Association is celebrating its 150th anniversary. Here's what was going on in 1863:

The Ironclad ship Onondaga was christened by a daughter of the Hon. Charles Baldwin Sedgwick, of Syracuse, chairman of the Committee of Naval Affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives, who had suggested the name. Two workmen were injured in the launch; one later died.

Also, Abolitionist Gerrit Smith spoke at Weiting Hall in Syracuse for an hour and a half on the rebellion and the draft. His speech was a cogent argument for all men uniting in the effort to save the country and overlooking personal interests to join in any plan that will achieve this outcome. He also spoke in support of the constitutionality and justice of the Conscription Act.