

OHA AT 150

**Drummer Boy of
the Rappahannock**

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

Robert Henry Hendershot, "The Drummer Boy of the Rappahannock," visited Syracuse. At the Battle of Fredericksburg, Union General Burnside called for volunteers to cross the Rappahannock River to dislodge rebel sharpshooters on the far bank.

According to the story, Hendershot, a young drummer boy, assisted in showing off one of the boats and swam the river holding on to it. He captured a wounded rebel and was commended by General Burnside. He was discharged in December 1862 and was presented with a silver drum by Horace Greeley of the New York Tribune. In Syracuse, he beat the long roll upon his silver drum, and was greeted with great applause.

— *Daniel Connors of the OHA*