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OHA AT 150

Fallen flag bearer

The Onondaga Historical Association is celebrating its 150th anniversary. Here's what was going on in 1863: Syracuse native William C. Lilly, color sergeant of the 149th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, was killed in the Battle of Wauhatchie Station in Tennessee. Lilly was the regiment's flag bearer at Gettysburg who repaired the flag staff under fire by making a splint out of wood and a musket strap when it was completely cut in half in the storm of bullets the evening of July 2nd and morning of July 3rd. The flag staff is now on display in the Onondaga County Courthouse outside the County Clerk's office.

Daniel Connors of the OHA

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