

**OHA AT 150****Onondaga chief  
meets with Lincoln**

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

Samuel George, a chief of the Onondaga Nation and spokesperson for the Six Nations, met with President Abraham Lincoln in Washington, D.C., to discuss the Enrollment Act of 1863. Although Native Americans were not subject to the draft, many still participated as Union soldiers in the Civil War, which provided them, as volunteers, with a cash bounty for enlisting. However, some dishonest recruiters did not pay out the bounty to some Native Americans, who then asked to be released from service claiming that they had never received their payments. As a result of the meeting, the men George named who had not received bounties were discharged by Special Order No. 542, which read, "Discharged by the direction of the President at the request of the Chief of the Six Nations Indians."

— *Daniel Connors of the OHA*