

**OHA AT 150****Forefathers of  
state of the union**

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

President Abraham Lincoln sent to Congress "The President's Annual Message to Congress." This was the predecessor to the modern State of the Union Address.

Before the presidency of Woodrow Wilson, presidents would send their message to Congress in writing, as delivering the address in person was thought to be reminiscent of the monarchy the 13 colonies had fought to free themselves from during the American Revolution.

Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America, also sent his annual message to the "Rebel Congress" on the state of the Confederacy at the time.

— *Daniel Connors of the OHA*