

OHA AT 150**Deathbed
promotion**

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

Union General John Buford dies, most likely of typhoid fever. He receives a deathbed promotion to major general from Abraham Lincoln for his actions in the Union victory at the Battle of Gettysburg earlier that year.

The day before that battle was to take place, Buford realized the strategic value of the high ground south of the town. As a result, he fought a delaying action with his division of cavalry on July 1 that bought the Union Army of the Potomac critical time needed to bring up reinforcements to secure the high ground at Gettysburg.

Lincoln attended Buford's funeral in Washington D.C., and the pallbearers included seven high-ranking generals. He was buried at West Point.

— *Daniel Connors of the OHA*