



A photograph by George Barnard shows damage after Union forces captured Charleston, S.C., near the end of the Civil War. The photo is part of an exhibit at the Onondaga Historical Association. At 2 p.m. today, OHA curator Dennis Connors and Le Moyne College professor Douglas Egerton will talk about Barnard's work. (Courtesy Onondaga Historical Association)

Exhibit explores Civil War through eyes of local photographer George Barnard

Shortly after Union troops captured Charleston, S.C., near the end of the Civil War, George Barnard arrived to photograph the ruins. At 2 p.m. today, Dennis Connors, curator of history at the Onondaga Historical Association, will explain what drew Barnard to Charleston. Connors will be joined by Le Moyne College historian Douglas Egerton.

Barnard, who lived in Oswego and Syracuse before

the war and retired in the town of Onondaga, captured the extensive damage to the city and to Fort Sumter, where the war had started in 1861. The port city had been heavily damaged by shelling. Angry whites remained indoors, but African-Americans poured into the streets to welcome their liberators. Barnard later returned to document the city and its black residents as they began to assert their rights and

rebuild their lives. Egerton will talk about those events.

Today's program, "Changing Charleston," is linked to an ongoing exhibit of photographs, "George Barnard — Ever A New Season." The exhibit opened in February and runs through Sept. 1.

The exhibit and today's program are at the OHA museum, 321 Montgomery St. Find more at the OHA website at cnyhistory.org.