



STATE LIBRARY NEWS

For the People, the Government and the Libraries of New York State

Fall 2007

FROM THE COLLECTIONS: A PLEA FOR NEUTRALITY

"This policy may not satisfy those who revel in destruction and find pleasure in despair. It may not satisfy the fire eater or the swashbuckler. ... It does satisfy the fathers of this land and the sons of this land who will fight for our flag and die for our flag when reason primes the rifle, when honor draws the sword, when justice breathes a blessing on the standards they uphold."

This plea for American neutrality during the early years of World War I was the focus of Martin H. Glynn's keynote speech at the 1916 Democratic Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. The manuscript, one of many historic documents in the State Library's "Martin Henry Glynn Papers, 1913-1924," is an outstanding example of the passionate oratory that dominated early 20th century, pre-*vt* politics.

Advocating the nomination of Woodrow Wilson for a second term, Glynn promoted Wilson's view on American neutrality. In the race between Wilson and Charles Evans Hughes, Wilson was, of course, re-elected and ultimately reversed his position. Prodded by the attacks of German submarines and the sinking of six American ships, in March of 1917, President Wilson called for a "crusade to make the world safe for

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FRIENDS HELP SAVE A NATIONAL TREASURE

New York State Library



This Dutch graphic of a Mohawk Indian flanked by Mohawk longhouse villages dates from the period of early settlement of Rensselaerswijck.

The National Park Service awarded the State Library a Save America's Treasures Grant to conserve a portion of the most damaged segments of the "Van Rensselaer Manor Papers", one of the State Library's oldest and most valuable collections. Terms of the grant require matching funds. The Friends have taken on the job of raising \$12,500. Any money raised in excess of that amount will be used to improve access to the collection.

The collection documents life in Rensselaerswijck from

1630 to 1860. Kiliaen van Rensselaer, a wealthy Amsterdam, (The Netherlands), jewelry trader was awarded a patroonship in New Netherland that ultimately included over 1 million acres in present-day Albany, Rensselaer, and Columbia counties. The people who lived in Rensselaerswijck during its growth from a small outpost to a complex society have left an enduring legacy of one of the nation's earliest settlements. Their influence is still felt today in many of the region's names, customs, and architecture.

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SATURDAY HOURS PROPOSED

The Board of Regents is asking the State Legislature to include \$750,000 in the 2008-2009 budget to keep the State Library open on Saturdays. The Library has been closed on Saturdays since January 1971 making it impossible for people

who can go to the Library only on week-ends to use many of the State Library's valuable resources. Extended hours are the improvement most requested by customers of the State Library.

FRIENDS HELP

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The collection's letters, contracts, bonds, ledgers, and personal stories documenting this settlement enrich the history of our state and nation. However, some parts of the collection are so fragile researchers must be denied access pending restoration. To contribute to the conservation of the "Van Rensselaer Manor Papers," and to the preservation of our heritage, send a check to Friends of the New York State Library, PO Box 2247 Empire State Plaza Station, Albany, NY 12220. For more information, call (518) 474-6282.

NEW YORK LIBRARY INITIATIVE ONLINE

Find out about the Regents proposals for legislation and the 2008-2009 budget for libraries on the "New York Library Initiative" Web site. Just go to www.nysl.nysed.gov/fundingproposals to learn about budget proposals for library aid, fact sheets, research on libraries, links to other library organizations, and more. You can also get details about the Regents proposal to keep the State Library open on Saturday, discussed on page 1 of this newsletter. If you have any questions or comments, call Valerie Chevrette at (518) 474-5961 or email vchevret@mail.nysed.gov.

TELL US

Send comments and questions about the New York State Library and its newsletter to:

Mary Redmond
mredmond@mail.nysed.gov.

Visit the State Library's Web Site

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov>



Search Excelsior, the online catalog of our holdings and access national and regional databases. Use the State Library Web site to:

- **Save energy.** Visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Web site.
- **Help the student(s) in your life.** Tell them about Homework Hotline, a live call-in service with answers from Rochester volunteer teachers.

- **Get ready to celebrate.** Read about plans for the upcoming Hudson-Champlain quadricentennial anniversaries in 2009.
- **Protect your health.** Find out about flu risks, prevention, and other facts related to this serious illness.

And Much More

Instructions for reaching these sites are available at:

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/friends/nysl.n.htm>

For more information, call (518) 474-7920

or e-mail: excelsior@mail.nysed.gov

STATE LIBRARY AWARDS GRANTS

- Helping immigrants prepare for the redesigned U.S. citizens exam
- Grooming students to meet federal educational standards
- Preparing children to start school

These are just a few examples of the wide-ranging services made possible by two State Library grants awarded to public libraries throughout the state. Adult Literacy Grants totaling \$400,000 were given to 33 libraries. Family Literacy Grants totaling \$600,000 were given to 91 libraries. These grants en-

able libraries to reach out to children and adults of diverse cultural and economic backgrounds and help them improve reading and computer skills. Libraries partner with community and educational agencies such as BOCES, art museums, and universities to create imaginative programs empowering children to succeed in school, and adults to enter the workforce. Both sets of grants were awarded for 2007-2009. For information about the State Library's Literacy Library Services Grants Programs, see <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/literacy>.

NOVEL BOOSTS STUDENTS' RESOURCES

NOVEL has just added Science Reference Center. Designed for students grade 7-12, this database provides easy access to a multitude of full text science items that support middle and high school curriculum. It includes materials in biology, chemistry, earth, space, life, physical, environmental sciences, as

well as a wealth of materials in health, medicine, the history of science, wildlife, and much more. It contains 639 full text articles from reference works, encyclopedias, periodicals, newspapers, and biographies, plus many illustrations. For information email nyslnovel@mail.nysed.gov.

VOLUNTEERS HONORED



Jeffrey W. Cannell, Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Cultural Education, **Miriam Soffer**, Editor, *New York State Library News*, and **Loretta Ebert**, Director of the State Library, enjoy Library's reception for volunteers.

Librarians certainly know how to make people feel good. State Library staff held an elegant reception for volunteers who work at the State Library. About 50 people attended. Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education Jeffrey Cannell and Director of the Research Library Loretta Ebert expressed appreciation for the work volunteers do. Photographs were taken, gifts were given, and a sumptuous dessert buffet was provided.

On behalf of all volunteers, the *State Library News* would like to thank Paula Paolucci who chaired it, and committee member Dawn Rizzo, as well as those who baked such delicious pastries.

About 125 volunteers donate their services to the State Library in areas including

machine repair for the Talking Book and Braille Library, book repair for the Conservation/Preservation Unit, assistance with genealogy reference, improving access to the Daughters of the American Revolution publications, and help with the New Netherland and New York State Newspaper Projects and the Friends of the New York State Library.

New York State Library News is produced by the Friends of the New York State Library and the New York State Library to inform New Yorkers about the collections and services of the State Library.
Editor: Miriam S. Soffer
Intern: Nate Arnold
This newsletter is not published at state expense.

To join Friends of the New York State Library, complete the form below and mail it with your check.

New York State Library News

Yes, I want to join Friends of the New York State Library. new member
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My check for \$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____ is enclosed

Name _____

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Make check payable to *Friends of the New York State Library* and mail to: Treasurer, Friends of the New York State Library, PO Box 2247 Empire Plaza Station, Albany, NY 12220

BE A FRIEND

Join the Friends of the New York State Library. Get the deep satisfactions of preserving your heritage and sustaining a world-renowned public research library. You can also get special discounts at local bookstores. Select:

- **Sustaining Membership.** \$25. Receive a 20% discount at Borders Books & Music in Colonie, 20% discount on any single, in-stock title at the Book House & Little Book House (Stuyvesant Plaza) or Market Block Books (Troy), and 25% off one purchase at the Open Door Bookstore in Schenectady.
- **Contributing Membership.** \$50 or more. Receive all of the above plus database access, a gift, and recognition in *New York State Library News*.
- **Excelsior Membership.** \$100 or more. Receive all of the above plus a behind the scenes tour of the State Library, a \$10 copier card, and an invitation to a private special exhibit or program.

Every Friend also receives:

- **Free admission** to the Friends Annual Meeting featuring a talk by an author of a recently published book.
- **Invitations** to other stimulating programs at the State Library.
- **A subscription** to the *New York State Library News*, an illustrated quarterly newsletter.

Plea

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Martin Glynn

democracy" before a special session of Congress. Glynn's 1916 speech remains, however, an eloquent statement of restraint and a forthright expression of concerns against rushing headlong into war:

"This does not mean that America will not resort to war... but it does mean that America will exhaust every peaceful means of protecting those rights before it takes the step from which there is no appeal," said Glynn.

Although not mentioned in Glynn's speech, in 1916, the U.S. was at war – with Mexico. On January 11, Pancho Villa murdered 16 Americans in Mexico. On March 9, he killed 19 people in Columbia, New Mexico. General John J. ("Black Jack") Pershing was dispatched to Mexico along with 6,000 soldiers. Pershing was withdrawn to lead Ameri-

can troops in World War I.

In addition to U.S. neutrality, Glynn spoke about the candidate's character. He also addressed domestic issues – the strength of the U.S. economy and Wilson's support for the rights of individuals.

He gave *"brief consideration of the great landmarks which chart the change from government for the fortunate few to an even-handed government in the interest of all."* Glynn touched on the passage of the Federal Reserve Act, intended to avoid panics and depressions; tariffs; the expansion of trade; and closer relations with the countries of South America.

Martin Glynn, son of Irish immigrants, was born in Kinderhook, September 27, 1871, and with his family, moved to nearby Valatie. He attended public schools and Fordham University. He worked on the *Hudson Evening Weekly Record* and the *Hudson Evening Register*.

In 1896, he moved to Albany, became a reporter for the *Albany Times Union*, and eventually became the newspaper's owner and publisher. He also studied at Albany Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1897. After speaking on behalf of William Jennings Bryan during his 1896 campaign for president, Glynn became widely known for his great speaking abilities. By 1902,

Glynn was an important player in the Democratic party. As a U.S. Congressman from 1899 to 1901, he supported labor, political reform and religious tolerance.

In 1912, he was elected lieutenant governor, and in 1913, when Governor Sulzer was impeached, Glynn became the state's first Roman Catholic governor. During his brief tenure as governor, he fought for workers compensation and statewide primaries. In 1914, he lost the election for governor to Charles Whitman. Glynn was also active in Irish causes and helped facilitate negotiations for the establishment of the Irish Free State.

Glynn endured extreme pain as the result of a spinal injury in his youth, according to the Valatie Free Library Web site. At the age of 53, after a trip to Boston where he sought relief from pain, Glynn committed suicide December 14, 1924.

The State Library's "Martin Henry Glynn Papers, 1913-1924" contain many manuscripts and printed materials relating to his activities. The collection, a gift from Dominick Lizzi, author of *Governor Martin H. Glynn, Forgotten Hero*, and Woods McCahill, also includes newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and other research materials Lizzi used. For more information, call (518) 474-6282.

New York State Library News
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State Library Hours

Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call
(518) 474-5355 or e-mail
<refserv@mail.nysed.gov>.