

## BY BRITTANY TURNER

are, unfortunately, people we know, who commit their crimes quietly over months or even years—as the State Archives realized, having experienced a traumatic incidence of insider theft in 2008.

STATE OF NEW YORK.  
Quartermaster General's Department.  
C. New York, July 21, 1862.

Dear General

Has barroll been  
promoted to the Command  
of the 105th?

Yours faithfully  
C. A. Wetters

Genl. McKim

NEW YORK STATE ARCHIVES



Top, left: Forty-seven of the sixty-seven large folio prints in this rare, nineteenth-century volume about Napoleon's battles in Italy were razor-cut and stolen from the Army Museum in Delft, The Netherlands. The theft was discovered in 2003. The thief was the museum's curator, who stole over 1,000 prints and sold them to an antiquarian book dealer. Above: Documents bearing the signatures of George Washington and John Hancock have been stolen from the New York State Archives.

coincides with a public outreach campaign, which will help researchers, collectors, and sellers identify and report government records for sale in the marketplace and hopefully reclaim them.

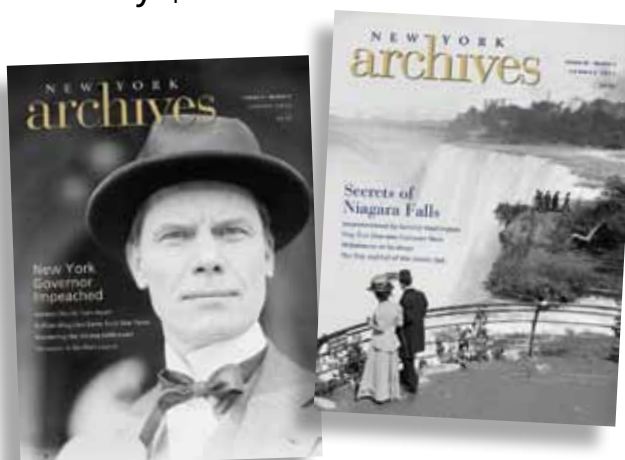
Yet the greatest defense against archival theft is records users themselves—you, the public. Over the last decade, users have played a primary role in all instances of reported

historical records thefts in the U.S. By combining your assistance with these web tools and workshops, we can preserve and protect our heritage for future generations.

If you see an item that may belong in the New York State Archives, please e-mail [NYMissingRecords@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:NYMissingRecords@mail.nysed.gov), or call (518) 474-6926. ■

## Know someone who would enjoy *New York Archives* magazine as much as you do?

Give a one-year Friend/Family gift membership in the Trust for only \$9.95\*!



Don't miss this opportunity to share a wealth of information about New York's history with people you care about.

### MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE:

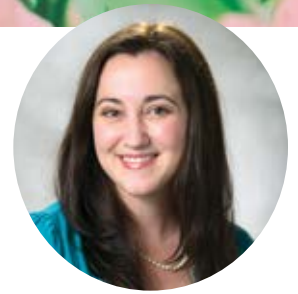
- *New York Archives*, the award-winning quarterly magazine
- Member discounts on special annual programs, conferences, lectures, and receptions hosted by the New York State Archives and the Archives Partnership Trust
- Discounts of up to 50% off books from Columbia University Press, Cornell University Press, Fordham University Press, SUNY Press, and Syracuse University Press
- A 15% discount off Archives Online Shop archival photos from the collections of the New York State Archives
- Our monthly e-newsletter, *NY Archives Update*
- Reciprocal benefits from a number of historical organizations and museums nationwide through Time Travelers; and
- Participation in efforts to sustain vital conservation and preservation work on important New York documents like Revolutionary War treasures, Native American land treaties, colonial Dutch papers, and more!

Use the envelope in this issue, call (518) 473-7091, or visit [www.nysarchivestrust.org](http://www.nysarchivestrust.org) to give your gift membership! Use promotion code GIFT online.

\*Promotion applies to renewing and new gift memberships.

# BETWEEN THE *Lines*

*Brittany Turner,  
Assistant Head Volunteer*



Between the Lines empowers incarcerated people to assist in the development of early literacy skills among their loved ones while also enabling them to participate in important milestones as they serve their sentences. The program not only promotes family literacy, it also strengthens the bond between children and their incarcerated family members, despite the many barriers to contact and communication.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 2007, an estimated 1.7 million children had at least one parent in prison.<sup>1</sup> This number swells when expanded to include aunts, uncles, grandparents, and siblings. Between the Lines allows these family members to reach through the prison bars and connect with the children in their lives. It also helps break the cycle of adversity, as poor literacy skills are closely tied to predictors of future challenges, including poverty, school dropout rates, and potential incarceration.<sup>2</sup> The National Center for Education Statistics found that early literacy skills are significantly more advanced in children who are read to in the home compared to those who rarely participate in family reading activities.

With six readings per year, Between the Lines volunteers visit the Men's Medium Security Facility located in Plain Dealing. The majority of inmates are serving sentences between five and seven years. Project volunteers work with inmates to select an age- and interest-appropri-

ate book and then create an audio recording of the inmate reading the story along with a personalized message. After the readings, the volunteers burn the recordings onto CDs and giftwrap the storybooks, mailing them to the children to coincide with important milestones like Thanksgiving, Christmas and Hanukkah, Valentine's Day, and the beginning and end of the school year. Packages are sent to families across the country, with the greatest concentration in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas.

Between the Lines, a national program established by the Junior League of Portland, was adopted by the Junior League of Shreveport-Bossier in 2012. The program is currently exploring avenues of possible expansion, including military personnel anticipating deployment and the use of video in addition to the audio recordings. The group is also eager to solidify a relationship with the Women's Maximum Security Facility, as women in state prisons are more likely to have minor children than men (62% to 51%).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Glaze, Lauren E. and Maruschak, Laura M. "Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: Parents in Prison and their Minor Children." 2008 August. <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/pptmc.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Hudson, John. "An Urban Myth that Should be True." *The Atlantic*. 2014 July 02. <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2012/07/an-urban-myth-that-should-be-true/259329/>

<sup>3</sup> US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. 2000.



## Thank you

Thank you, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Alpha Rho Chapter, for your generous donation of 33 books to Between the Lines.

Delta Kappa Gamma Society is an honorary society of teachers that supports organizations that foster literacy in children.



# BETWEEN THE *Lines*

*Brittany Turner,  
Head Volunteer*



Between the Lines empowers incarcerated people to assist in the development of early literacy skills among their loved ones while also enabling them to participate in important milestones as they serve their sentences. The program not only promotes family literacy, it also strengthens the bond between children and their incarcerated family members, despite the many barriers to contact and communication.

This year, the program has expanded from six readings per year to eight readings per year. In addition to volunteers working with inmates at the Men's Medium Security Facility in Plain Dealing, the program is now also working with the Women's Maximum Security Facility. This expansion further meets the mission of the program, as women in state prisons are more likely to have minor children than men (62% to 51%).<sup>1</sup> The majority of inmates are serving sentences between five and seven years. Project volunteers work with inmates to select an age- and interest-appropriate book and then create an audio recording of the inmate reading the story along with a personalized message. After the readings, the volunteers burn the recordings onto CDs and giftware the storybooks, mailing them to the children to coincide with important events like Thanksgiving, Christmas and Hanukkah, Valentine's Day, and the beginning and end of the school year. Packages are sent to families across the country, with the greatest concentration in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas.

In addition to expanding to the Women's facility, the project has begun soliciting feedback from inmates to identify future improvements and better meet the needs of participants. When asked why inmates chose to participate in the program, one female inmate responded, "Because my son is up in Maine and I am so far from him. I want anything I can do to make him feel closer to me." Another respondent indicated that she would like "to send my daughters a [Christ]mas present since I won't be there and I know they'll enjoy my voice." A Bossier City inmate stated, "I'm very excited. I signed up because I think it's a great program. It's awesome that people actually care we are not with our children." An inmate serving her sentence from another state added, "We need more programs like yours. Us as mothers made mistakes by being here so you coming to do this for us really gives us hope."

Between the Lines, a national program established by the Junior League of Portland, was adopted by the Junior League of Shreveport-Bossier in 2012. The program con-

tinues to explore avenues of possible expansion, including military personnel anticipating deployment and the use of video in addition to the audio recordings.

<sup>1</sup> US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. 2000.



## *Praise for the Morning!*



*Garden  
& Park*

*Grateful for God's  
Goodness at Garden Park*

**AN OASIS JUST OFF  
LINWOOD ROAD  
AT I-49 & LA3132**

**GARDENPARKNURSINGANDREHAB.COM | 318-688-0961**