

**STANFORD L. WARREN BRANCH LIBRARY  
CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
AT  
HISTORIC SITE (1940-1990)**

APRIL 8, 1990  
3:30 p.m.



*1201 FAYETTEVILLE STREET, DURHAM, N.C. 27707*

**STANFORD L. WARREN BRANCH LIBRARY**  
**CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY**  
**AT**  
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*The Stanford L. Warren Public Library, named for its benefactor Dr. Stanford L. Warren (1863-1940) and formerly the Durham Colored Library, opened its doors to the public at 1201 Fayetteville Street, Durham, N.C., January 13, 1940, and was dedicated on April 14, 1940. The year 1990 marks its 50th Anniversary at this historic site.*



***"This Building Is Named In Honor Of Dr. Stanford L. Warren (1863-1940)"***

*Physician, business man, civic leader and staunch churchman, who served as President of the Durham Colored Library from 1923 until his passing in 1940. Under his administration, the library experienced continued growth and expansion of its facilities, and together with the trustees, he succeeded in obtaining larger and more nearly adequate financial assistance for operations from the City and County of Durham whose liberality also did much toward making this building possible.*

*Dr. Warren gave unselfishly not only of his time, energy, and thought but also of his material resources that this institution which now bears his name, might prosper. This building which we are dedicating to his memory today is truthfully a fitting monument to his wise and splendid leadership.\**

***\*Dedication of Stanford Warren Public Library, Sunday, April 14, 1940***

## **PROGRAM**

**Sunday, April 8, 1990, 3:30 p.m.**

**Wreath Laying ceremony recognizing the founders:** *Dr. Aaron McDuffie Moore, Mr. John Merrick, and Dr. Stanford L. Warren. Front of Library*

**Solo:** *Barry Johnson*  
*Hazel Smith, Accompanist*

**Welcome:** *William P. Gattis, Branch Librarian, Stanford L. Warren Library*

**Song:** *"Lift Every Voice And Sing"*

**Invocation:** *Rev. Lorenzo A. Lynch, Minister, White Rock Baptist Church*

### **Greetings:**

*William V. Bell, Chairman, Durham County Board of Commissioners*

*Chester L. Jenkins, Mayor of Durham*

*James L. Nicholson, Jr., Chairman, DCL Library Board of Trustees*

*William J. Kennedy, President, NC Mutual Life Insurance Company*

**Solo:** *Barry Johnson*  
*Hazel Smith, Accompanist*

**History:** *Dr. Beverly W. Jones, Stanford L. Warren's Historian*

**Solo:** *Barry Johnson*  
*Hazel Smith, Accompanist*

### **Tributes and Recognitions:**

*James M. Schooler, Former Member of SLW Board of Trustees*

*Rededication of the Hattie B. Wooten Room*

*Naming of the Special Collection*

**Solo:** *Barry Johnson*  
*Hazel Smith, Accompanist*

**Recognition of Staff:** *James C. Black, Vice President, Friends of SLW*

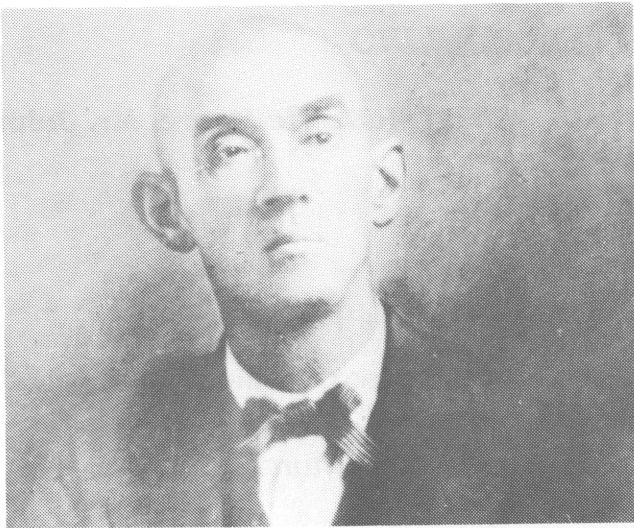
**Recognition of Guests:** *Lillian W. White, Head of Branch Library Services*

**Remarks:** *Dale W. Gaddis, Director, Durham County Library*

**Benediction:** *Rev. William W. Easley, Jr., Minister, St. Joseph's AME Church*



## COMMEMORATING THE FOUNDERS



*In Memory of the Founder*

**Aaron McDuffie Moore, M.D.**

**1863 -1923**

Aaron M. Moore was born during the Civil War, September 6, 1863, in Elkton, Columbus County, N.C. He attended the local country school between the harvest and planting seasons. For three years after completing the weak curriculum, he taught at the same school. He entered the Whittin Normal School in Lumberton for advanced studies and the next year entered the Normal School in Fayetteville. He entered Shaw University in 1885, and while there, was persuaded to enter the Leonard Medical College, completing the four-year course in three years. He was declared a medical doctor at the age of 25, a rare accomplishment for anyone of his race in those days at any age. Along with forty other medical students, three-fourths of whom were white, he took the difficult N.C. medical exam and finished second in the rankings.

*"He Buildded Well For Generation To Come"*



*In Grateful Memory Of*

**John Merrick**

**1859 -1919**

John Merrick was born in slavery on September 7, 1859, in Clinton, Sampson County, N.C. At twelve years old, he worked in a brickyard in Chapel Hill, helping to support his mother. Pleasant and well-mannered, he commanded the admiration and respect of his elders. He learned to read, write, and figure without the benefit of formal schooling. At eighteen, he moved to Raleigh where he assisted in building the first buildings at Shaw University as a hod-carrier and brick mason. He became a bootblack in a barber shop and in the same shop, he learned the barber's trade. He came to Durham as a barber in 1880 and became a pioneer business leader and financier. Honesty, hard work, thrift, shrewd judgement marked his rise from barber to businessman. His record is both impressive and significant because of the adverse times in which he lived. He was recognized as an outstanding Negro business leader of the South.

*A True Leader Of His People He Loved His Fellowmen And Was Often Heard To Say:*

*"I Want For My People The Best There Is"*



## STANFORD L. WARREN LIBRARY

### 77 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

The Stanford L. Warren Public Library, formerly the Durham Colored Library, began as did many libraries serving Black communities, in a borrowed room, with a small collection of donated books and magazines, without any capital. It opened in 1913 in the "Baraca Room" in the basement of White Rock Baptist Church. The purpose of the church library was to provide reading activities for the community.

This library, established by Aaron McDuffie Moore, M.D. (1863-1923) for the purpose of giving young people access to good literature, grew to be an important cultural benefit to the Hayti community and was the first step towards the establishment of the Stanford L. Warren Public Library. His ultimate goal was a public service institution for the use of all the people in the community; however, the church library location limited total community use.

Dr. Moore's keen awareness of the circumstances of his time's particular moment in history provided him with a special talent to lead, teach, inspire, and overcome racial injustices. No public library services were offered to Blacks prior to the 1900's, yet he believed in the infinite possibilities of his times and contemporaries and the idea of the Durham Colored Library was conceived. With the assistance of his friend, Mr. John Merrick (1859-1919), the library purchased a lot at the corner of Fayetteville and Pettigrew Streets for the sum of \$600 and proceeded to erect a small building on it costing \$2400.

On August 14, 1916, the library opened for the purpose of "placing good, wholesome reading matter in the reach of our Negro boys and girls and thereby train them into the habit of this class of reading and it is especially designed to help those who are not able to select and purchase books for themselves." The mortgage on the building was paid through donations from citizens, White Rock and St. Joseph Sunday Schools, and a few white friends (the largest contribution of \$1000 given by Mr. James B. Duke). The maintenance of the library presented a serious problem to "those most interested in its welfare." It was supported mainly by "Negro business men and women of the city who have contributed cheerfully to this cause. A sum amounting to \$30.00 has also been raised by our school children by means of begging cards." Dr. Moore, known as the founder of the library, served as its first president and Mrs. Hattie B. Wooten (1916-1932) as its first librarian.

Appropriations from the City of Durham began in 1917 and in 1918, the library was incorporated and received a charter to operate under the name of the "Durham Colored Library Association." In the same year the County of Durham also began to make annual appropriations to the library. The library remained in this building until it moved to the present site in 1940.

Under the directions and leadership of Mrs. Selena W. Wheeler (1932-1945), library services were expanded to promote the maximum use of the library by "cultivating good public relations by every means at our command, and interpreting the service to citizens." Initially this took the form of organizing, cataloging, and weeding the book collection. To extend library services to citizens throughout the county, books were distributed in neighborhoods and in all county schools. This was followed by deliveries and book talks by the librarian. The Hattie B. Wooten Browsing Room, formerly the librarian's living quarters on the second floor of the library, was stocked with books and was opened to the public (1934).

On January 13, 1940, the library moved to a new facility on the corners of Fayetteville, Umstead, and Simmons streets, and is named for its benefactor Dr. Stanford L. Warren (1860-1940). The new library, modern in every detail, represented an initial investment of \$45,800, including the building and land on which it is situated. It was owned by the Durham Colored Library, Incorporated. Support for its operations came principally from the City and County of Durham and the rental income from three parcels of real estate owned by the corporation.

This new library ushered in a new decade of accomplishments: Children's Room organized (1940); Saturday Morning Story Hour (1940); Story Telling Institute (April 3, 1941); Book exhibit (1941); Bookmobile Services (February 10, 1942); Lincoln Hospital Convalescents Service (May 1944); Art Exhibits by Negro Artists (May 14-28, 1944); Educational and Recreational Movies (June 1944); Book Review Forums (March 1945) to mention a few. One of the most important accomplishments of this administration was the establishment of the Black Collection as we now know it. In earlier years, many valuable materials of Black interest were identified by adding "N" to the call number and filed by Dewey subject divisions. These volumes, many of which were rare, out-of-print, and irreplaceable, were placed in the Hattie B. Wooten Room and made noncirculating to preserve them and facilitate research. It is considered one of the best Black collections in the State.

In 1945 Mrs. Ray N. Moore became librarian and continued the development of library services. In addition to the routine services, there were services of special interest to adults as well as young people and children. These took the form of the Adult Film Programs (1945), the Teen Corner (1945), the Library Corner for the Blind (1949), the American Heritage Program, and Children's Room Activities. The auditorium continued to serve as a centrally located meeting place for organizations and individuals. Other activities included the Book Exhibits, Radio Broadcasts (November 13, 1945), Hobby Exhibits (May 1-11, 1946), Elementary Art Exhibits (1947), television showings of outstanding events, and some sports. The library's second bookmobile, a Chevrolet truck with shelves on both sides, was purchased in 1948. It was replaced by a "Walk-In" International model in 1958.

An annex to the Stanford L. Warren Library was opened in 1950 which provided extra storage space, a stackroom, a children's room, and a county room. The children's room was named "Key Korner" by one of its patrons, Anita Parker.

The Negro Braille Magazine, later known as "Merrick-Washington Magazine For The Blind", the first magazine of its kind published in the world, was founded in 1952 by Mrs. Lyda Moore Merrick, daughter of Dr. Aaron McDuffie Moore.

Three branch libraries for the system were established during the later years of the library's history: McDougal Terrace (1954), John Avery Boys Club (1960), and Bragtown (1962).

The Stanford L. Warren Public Library merged with Durham's Library System in 1965 and became known as "Stanford L. Warren Branch Library," ending an era of phenomenal physical growth and expansion of library services, both of which contributed to the intellectual, spiritual, and physical growth of Durham. At the time of the merger, it was the largest branch in the Durham County Library System. In 1985, the Stanford L. Warren Branch Library underwent extensive renovations while maintaining its unique character, charm, and nostalgic features. It continues to function as a way of preserving the cultural heritage of the community, as well as, contributing to the community's cultural growth.

## **DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Rebecca M. Heron, Vice Chairman  
Josephine D. Clement  
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*John P. Bond, III*

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## **FRIENDS OF STANFORD L. WARREN LIBRARY**

*Frances T. Barry, President*

## **DURHAM COUNTY LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION**

*Dale Gaddis, Library Director  
Betty Clark, Assistant Library Director  
Peter Vari, Head of Main Library Services  
Lillian White, Head of Branch Library Services  
Kay Taylor, Head of Community and Outreach Services  
Mary Tipton, Head of Resources and Technical Services*

## **STANFORD L. WARREN BRANCH LIBRARY STAFF**

*Darlene Brannon  
William Gattis  
Joseph Ham  
Margaret Miller  
Phyllis Rogers  
Karen Salaam  
Kenneth Whisenton  
Charlotte Williams*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*Friends of Stanford L. Warren Branch Library  
Friends of Durham County Library, Inc.  
Dr. Beverly W. Jones, Historian  
Sylvester Saunders, Caterers  
World of Flowers  
APEX Creative*



The Durham Colored Library opened its doors August 14, 1916, to serve the people; day by day we have tried to inspire the community.

This Institution extends a welcome to all, read what this Library means to all those that take advantage of this opportunity.

*I am the storehouse of knowledge in this City. I am opportunity. I am the continuation school for all. I hold within myself the desires, hopes, theories, philosophies, impressions, doctrines, culture, and attainments, experience, and science of all ages. I am a house of wisdom, an institution of happiness. I am supported by the people for the people. I offer the opportunity to know all there is to know about your work. I am for those who would enjoy fiction, poetry, philosophy, biography, or learn more about business, trade and science. I have books for all tastes and needs and creeds. I am free to the public to profit from and enjoy. I am in the care of courteous attendants, whose duty is to help you profit from me. I open my doors as a great public, mental recreation ground for your leisure hours.*

#### **LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING**

Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning rod  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
We have come, treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might  
Led us into the light;  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.