Between the principle of freedom that all men are entitled to equal political rights and the dogma of tyranny that might makes right, there is no middle ground.

Moorfield Storey, March 2, 1920
Who was Moorfield Storey

A fierce critic of imperialism and militarism, Storey was a founder and president of the Anti-Imperialist League, which opposed U.S. annexation of the Philippines after the Spanish-American War and counted Mark Twain, Andrew Carnegie, and President Grover Cleveland among its members. An advocate of free trade, freedom of contract, and the gold standard, Storey also helped organize the independent National Democratic Party, also known as the Gold Democrats, who fought the anti-gold populist William Jennings Bryan’s presidential bid in 1896. An individualist and anti-racist, Storey was the first president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where he argued and won the group’s first major Supreme Court victory, Buchanan v. Warley (1917), a decision that relied on property rights to strike down a residential segregation law.

... Storey did achieve one unqualified victory, a win that improved the lives of countless African Americans and helped set the course of civil rights in the twentieth century. In 1917, the Supreme Court heard the case of Buchanan v. Warley, which centered on a Louisville, Kentucky, ordinance segregating residential housing blocks by race. ... [Storey’s brief] denounced residential segregation as a racist interference with economic liberty. The Louisville law “prevents the plaintiff from selling his property for the only use to which it can be put,” they wrote. “It thus destroys, without due process of law, fundamental rights attached by law to ownership of property.” Furthermore, the law’s true purpose was not “to prevent conflict and ill-feeling,” as it claimed, but rather “to place the negro, however industrious, thrifty and well-educated, in as inferior a position as possible with respect to his right of residence, and to violate the spirit of the Fourteenth Amendment without transgressing the letter.” Were such a restriction upheld, they argued, “an attempt to segregate Irish from Jews, foreign from native citizens, Catholics from Protestants, would be fully as justifiable."

... civil rights are impossible without economic liberty. Moorfield Storey understood that. On the major issues of both his day and ours, he consistently got it right: He led opposition to a costly and unnecessary war, he stood against collectivism and racism, and he championed individual rights in every sphere of human life. Facing death in October 1929 at the age of 84, his body debilitated by a series of strokes, Storey took great pride in the fact he had left his country a freer place.

Damon Root • Reason magazine, December, 2007.
The Purpose of the Moorfield Storey Institute

The classical liberal founders of libertarianism were great advocates of extending social freedom and improving the lives of the most vulnerable in society. Classical liberalism, before Smith’s Wealth of Nations was even written, fought for freedom of conscience and for the separation of church and state. Classical liberals actively opposed slavery and the slave trade and helped lead the Abolitionist cause. Similarly, our philosophical forefathers fought for free trade, not merely because it was more profitable but because it improved the well-being of the working poor and furthered the cause of world peace. The concentration of power rarely benefits the poor and powerless, but is almost always used to further the interests of the rich and powerful.

Throughout history there has been an intricate and intimate link between economic freedom, social freedoms and equality before the law. True emancipation and equality of rights before the law are only possible when the economic system is depoliticized within a regime of private property and the rule of law. Libertarian thinking has always had much to contribute to the struggles of the oppressed and marginalized.

The Moorfield Storey Institute is a new educational organization dedicated to applying libertarian thinking to today’s struggle for civil liberties and equality before the law.

The Institute is named in honor of Moorfield Storey (1845-1929). Storey was an advocate for hard money, free trade and laissez faire. But Storey became best known as a champion for pro-peace foreign policy and for the rights of racial minorities. Storey was president of the Anti-Imperialist League, president of the American Bar Association, and the first president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Storey successful fought a segregation law in the US Supreme Court arguing the case on the basis of property rights and freedom of contract. Storey’s life exemplified the connection between civil rights and economic freedom.

In particular, the Institute explores how the fundamental principles of a free society, depoliticized markets, property rights and limited government, benefit the most vulnerable citizens such as the poor and minority groups.

The Institute will publish studies and hold conferences exploring these questions, as well as distribute books and videos exploring the whole gamut of freedom as understood within the classical liberal framework.

In addition, the Institute, firmly believing that depoliticized markets benefit the most impoverished people of the world, will directly engage in charitable activity meant to promote economic development in developing nations.
Storey Projects

• The Center for Civil Libertarianism •

Concentrates on the promotion of social freedom, social tolerance and equality before the law. We will make the libertarian case for marriage equality and repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell. We will expose ways in which the young are turned into criminals by status offenses. We will show how the war on drugs harms minorities. We will expose how anti-immigrant legislation harms all of us. We will educate on the importance of free speech rights, property rights, the Second Amendment, and especially expose how government regulation and policies such an eminent domain harm the most marginalized members of society.

• The Bastiat Center for Peace and Trade •

Promotes non-interventionist foreign policy and the voluntary exchange of goods and services, capital, and labor. Our emphasis will be on how global, depoliticized markets enhance the well-being of the world’s poor.

• The Adam Smith Benevolent Fund •

Raises monies and distributes grants specifically to fund microlending projects in developing nations, encourage private education in poor countries, and contribute to worthy, non-governmental infrastructure projects. We will apply basic libertarian principles to the projects we choose to fund. Projects must be as non-governmental as possible in the nation concerned. They must encourage individual initiative and development and not encourage dependency. Projects must be secular in purpose and not associated with any political agenda. We will not fund lobbying or political organizations of any kind.

We will set up a fund directly with a reliable microlending organization, carefully selecting worthy projects according to the above criteria. We pledge that 95% of all donations earmarked for the benevolent fund will be used on projects, not consumed by institutional overhead. As microlending projects are repaid, the funds will be rolled over into new microlending projects so that the fund is constantly growing. All Fr33minds order forms, online or in print, will also give customers the immediate option of making a donation to this project. Our goal is to build an explicitly libertarian-motivated charity.

We will also help fund worthy private schools in poor nations, as well as help individual students. We will work with libertarian friends in various nations to identify projects worthy of support. Unlike the microlending projects, these are grants not loans.

• Fr33minds.com •

Fr33minds will be a book service that sells and distributes works published by the Institute and other publishers that promote a libertarian vision. It will offer a mail order service as well as telephonic and on-line ordering. The website is now in development and Fr33Minds is already selling around 100 titles. MSI president James Peron was the president of Laissez Faire Books and MSI staff member Mark Pickens was the Customer Service rep for LFB. When Peron took over the helm at LFB, the business was about to be closed down. The revived LFB saw substantial growth until the non-profit that ran it decided to take the profits now available by selling it.
The Storey Institute will publish fiction and non-fiction titles promoting the institutions values thought its own Cobden Press. Projects carried out to date include publication of *The Vision of Ayn Rand* by Nathaniel Branden; *Why Liberty*, a collection of essays by different authors explaining why they embraced libertarianism; and *Liberty in a Globalized World*, a series of papers given by different authors on the role of freedom in a globalized world. We have also published our first novel, *City Limits*.

Future publications include:

**Marriage on Trial** • One of the most exhaustive looks at the legal issue revolving around marriage, centered on the debate concerning Proposition 8 in California. A federal judge heard the case both for and against marriage equality and ruled Prop 8 unconstitutional. The courtroom interrogations of the witnesses makes for compelling reading and lays out the issues to consider. This book will include selections from the actual trial, along with the final ruling by Judge Walker.

**Mario Vargas Llosa and His Politics** • Vargas Llosa is the 2010 winner of the Nobel Prize for literature. Having begun his career as a supporter of revolutionary Marxism, Llosa became a passionate libertarian who saw the importance of liberty, especially for the poor of Latin America. This volume will collect some of his political writings as well as material about Vargas Llosa and his political views.

**The Collected Works of Lysander Spooner** • This will be a multi-volume set of the works of the great libertarian abolitionist Lysander Spooner. Each volume will have an introduction by Prof. Helen Knowles, the author of *The Tie Goes to Freedom* which explored the modest libertarianism of Justice Anthony Kennedy on abortion, gay rights, race relations and free speech. The first volume will include Spooner’s earliest published essays, those on religion. Future editions will include his abolitionist writings, his writing on intellectual property rights, trial by jury, and monetary theory. When the series is complete, it will include all the works of Spooner. A previous edition was done a couple of decades ago, but used photocopies of the original published versions. This set will be entirely typeset for readability.

**In Defense of Liberty** • First published in 1922, this neglected volume by Oliver Brett makes the case that classical liberalism was a radical force in society. Brett argues that socialism is an inherently conservative force. Out of print for 26 years, it will now be republished in a new, easy-to-read edition.

**Law in a Free State** • Originally published in 1895, this work by Wordsworth Donisthorpe looks at the function of law in a libertarian society. This was previously reprinted by Cobden Press, but went out of print. This edition will be re-typeset for easier reading.

**Left Out** • This will be a series of books meant to explore the common grounds that libertarianism has with the political Left. The rise of totalitarian communism pushed the classical liberal movement into an alliance with conservatives. Now that communism is dead it is time to explore this commonality again. The volumes will also include essays on why libertarians differ with the modern Left regarding their use of state power to achieve their ends, which we libertarians find laudible. Just as there are areas where libertarians have shared some values with conservatives, so too have they shared values with progressives. Because of the Cold War alliance with the Right, vast areas of agreement with the political Left have been ignored, while those with conservatives were over-emphasized.
Liberty and Liberalism • Subtitled: A Protest Against the Growing Tendency Toward Undue Interference by the State, with Individual Liberty, Private Enterprise and the Rights of Property by Bruce Smith, 1908.

The Ludwig von Mises Primer • An introductory overview of the ideas of Ludwig von Mises, by Eamonn Butler of the Adam Smith Institute. Published by IEA in the UK, tentative permission has been secured to publish this in the United States. In addition Butler has similar introductions on the work of FA Hayek and Adam Smith, both of which ought to be republished as well.

Notes on Democracy • HL Mencken’s scathing look at the nature of politics under democratic control.

And the Truth Shall Make You Free: A Speech on the Principles of Social Freedom • by Victoria Woodhull, 1871.

The Rise of Intellectual Liberty • Frederic M Holland, 1885.

Portrait of an Independent • Mark De Wolfe Howe’s 1929 biography of Moorfield Storey.

Fr33Minds Fiction Contest • In order to encourage production of fictional works promoting the basic values of a free society, the Institute, via Fr33Minds, will conduct an annual short story fiction contest. Awards would be given to winners and worthy stories collected into a volume. Budgeting would cover prizes, promotion of the contest and fees for judges.
The Moorfield Storey Institute was founded by James Peron, former president of Laissez Faire Books and author of numerous books including: *Liberty Reclaimed: Zimbabwe: Death of a Dream*, and *Exploding Population Myths*. The MSI Board includes Prof. David Beito; University of Alabama, chair of the Alabama State Advisory Committee of the United States Commission on Civil Rights; Prof. Steven Horwitz; chair of the Department of Economics, St. Lawrence University; Wolfgang Mueller, director, The Berlin-Manhattan Institute; and Sky Conway, film producer. Staff include Mark Pickens, the former Customer Service representative for Laissez Faire Books and William Cain who has joined the staff as Assistant Manager.

The Institute has filed to be incorporated as a non-profit educational charity in California, and will apply for 501(c)3 status as soon as California returns the incorporation papers.

Donations or inquiries can be sent to the Moorfield Storey Institute, 20258 Hwy 18, Suite 430-500, Apple Valley, CA 92307.

The Institute operates out of a 1/2 acre property in Apple Valley. The property includes around 6,000 sq.ft. of useable space. There is sufficient room for offices, warehousing, the Institute library, and residential living quarters for staff members. One wing of the property contains the Fr33minds shipping center and MSI library. The other wing includes offices and residential space. There are still empty areas which can be used later as required for expansion.
Budget 1st Year

Rent $10,500.00
Electricity $3,600.00
Gas $500.00
Water $1,000.00
City Services $250.00
Internet FIOS service $1,300.00
Telephone service $400.00
Staff $36,000.00
Website $3,200.00
  Development $2,000.00
  hosting fees $1,200.00
Office Supplies $2,000.00
Office Equipment $10,000.00
Advertising and Promotions
  Advertising $18,000.00
  Mailing List Rentals $2,850.00
  Printing $8,000.00
  Postage $13,400.00
Travel Expenses, conferences $3,500.00
Fiction Contest
  Prizes $1,750.00
  Judges $3,000.00
  Promotions $4,000.00
  Publication $3,000.00 $11,750.00
Publishing $74,000.00 $200,250.00
  Marriage on Trial $4,500.00
  Mario Vargas Llosa vol. $3,500.00
  Collected Works of Spooner Estimated 8 volumes $20,000.00
  In Defense of Liberty $4,000.00
  Law in a Free State $2,000.00
  Left Out Estimated 3 volumes $12,000.00
  Liberty and Liberalism $4,000.00
  Ludwig von Mises Primer $4,000.00
  F.A. Hayek Primer $4,000.00
  Adam Smith Primer $4,000.00
  Notes on Democracy $4,000.00
  The Truth Shall Make You Free $2,000.00
  The Rise of Intellectual Liberty $3,000.00
  Portrait of an Independent $3,000.00