



Please join us for a book talk
with author Bruce Chadwick
October 29, 2009 | 12 noon
at the Library of Virginia

The book talk is part of the celebration of Archives Month in Virginia and will be followed by a book signing, a light reception, and behind-the-scenes tours of the archives from 1:30 to 3 PM. Reservations are required for the tours. For more information, contact Catherine O'Brien (Catherine.O'Brien@lva.virginia.gov) or call 804.271.2527.

Sponsored by the Chancellor Wythe Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Friends of the State Archives of Virginia, and the Library of Virginia Foundation.

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

800 East Broad Street | Richmond, Virginia 23219-8000 | www.lva.virginia.gov
Underground parking available for visitors

George Wythe was once described by Thomas Jefferson, his close friend and mentor, as the "Father of American Jurisprudence" and was an original signer of the Declaration of Independence, but until now his assassination by George Wythe Sweeney, his grand-nephew and the family black sheep, has been largely overlooked in the annals of American history.

In *I Am Murdered: George Wythe, Thomas Jefferson, and the Killing That Shocked a New Nation* (Wiley, January 2009) author Bruce Chadwick tells the bizarre true story of Wythe's murder and his grand-nephew's subsequent trial for the crime. This was unquestionably the most sensational and talked-about court case of the era. Hinging on hit-and-miss forensics, the unreliability of medical autopsies, the prevalence of poisoning, race relations, slavery, and the law, Sweeney's trial serves as a window into early nineteenth-century America. Its particular focus is on Richmond, part elegant state capital and part chaotic boomtown riddled with vice, opportunism, and crime. As part of his research, Chadwick used the archives at Library of Virginia and the Virginia Historical Society.

With the Wythe case as the narrative arc, *I Am Murdered* provides a full and realistic view of life and society in Jefferson's nineteenth-century America.

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Bruce Chadwick (New York, N.Y.) is a historian of the American Revolution and colonial era whose books include *George Washington's War*, *The General and Mrs. Washington*, and *The First American Army*. He has also appeared on the History Channel.