



Experiencing The Very Place Where Lincoln Walked The Earth

By JOHN M. DERBY,
The Times Publisher

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Publisher John Derby drove more than 4,000 miles in less than a week to be with his sister for her 88 birthday and present in Illinois for the birth of his first great grandson. He arrived in time for both, which is how he happened to be in Lincoln country.*

There is something hallowed about the ground on which Abraham Lincoln walked, and one feels it through the soles of their shoes when they enter the museum dedicated to his life.

No man, with the exception of Jesus Christ, ever had more written about his life; however, Lincoln only served as President from 1861 until his death in 1865.

Lincoln was firm in believing slavery was morally wrong, and he issued the Emancipation Proclamation that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy in 1863.

He was a Republican, and yet today the party for which he served is the one most blacks vote against.

He was the tallest person ever to become president at 6'4," and the first to be assassinated. He would not be the last, and the vice president serving under him was also assassinated.

He was born in Kentucky but moved to Illinois with his family. He never received a college degree. He was also

Hinton autobiography available in advance of author's virtual visit

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Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be imprisoned for something you didn't do?

Anthony Ray Hinton's autobiography, *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row*, released March 27, 2018, is the story of a man who spent 30 years on Alabama's death row for a crime he did not commit.

The book has generated attention throughout the nation for its description of social injustice in the American legal system.

Hinton's book is now available free by request at the Merced County public libraries that are open for curbside delivery, in advance of his virtual visit to the library.

The Friends of the Merced County Library, the Merced County Public Library, and the UC Merced Center for the Humanities are co-sponsoring Hinton's virtual visit through a Zoom webinar on May 4 at 3 p.m.

To pre-register, those interested can go online to <https://tinyurl.com/HintonLecture>.

Additional webinar co-sponsors are the Merced County NAACP, the School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts at UC Merced,



Author Anthony Ray Hinton will participate in a locally organized webinar.

and the Atwater-Merced Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Further, the Friends and the Merced County Public Library are sponsoring a Zoom discussion of Mr. Hinton's book on May 27 as the capstone event for the Read Woke series.

For those interested, the time and Zoom link can be obtained by emailing friendsofmercedcountylibrary@gmail.org in May.

Hinton survived Death Row after being convicted at the age of 29 of the unsolved murders of two fast-food restaurant managers. In this case, ballistic experts for the

state claimed the bullets used in the crime came from a revolver found in Hinton's mother's closet. However, there was no independent ballistics expert to challenge the state's claim. Hinton was convicted by an all-White jury and sentenced to death.

Eventually, three independent experts concluded the bullets could not have been fired from the revolver, and Hinton was freed after 30 years. He has shared his story during the past several years at many conferences and universities as an advocate for changes in the criminal justice system, and is said to be a compelling speaker.