

I'm Anna Lloyd, I'm 49 years old. I'm from a very small town in Southern Indiana, filled with hard working men and women. We are simple people who love our country.

I still live in the same community that I was born into. Raised by a divorced mother who raised three girls to know the value of God, Family, Country and to have a strong respect for the rights of others.

I have a husband, two step daughters, along with their husbands, and 5 grandchildren, number 6 due any time. The best times in life is when the house is full of family and you can't think straight because the grandchildren are so loud.

Politically I'm a registered Democrat, that is how I was raised. Me saying I'm Republican sounds strange, not quite right. In the 2016 campaign season I found myself supporting Trump. My husband and I both found it hard to believe because we didn't like him at all before. But he was standing up for what we believe in. We couldn't argue with it. The Democrats started working against him. We felt that when they worked against him they worked against me, my family and my community.

When my friends and I decided to go to Washington D.C., our intent was to show support for the President. Show that a lot of American people support him. I knew I'd be no more than a body in the crowd, but 100,000 people like me shows support.

I honestly don't remember when I found out we would be walking to the Capitol Building, but that was all it was going to be. I even did some shopping on the way. I didn't know anyone would be going up those steps. When a 74 year old woman, we met that day, went up, we followed to keep her safe. I made the decision to go up and I'm responsible for that. No one made me go, I wasn't forced. When she entered the building, we went in to find her. Once again I could have chosen to stay outside.

We were within 15 feet of the door when we found her in a corner. I took a minute to look around what could best be described as a wide hallway running along the exterior wall. I was disgusted by the disrespect people were showing to the Capitol Building by smoking pot in it.

I would have loved to have seen the artwork and statues that the Capitol Building holds. To walk where some of the greatest people in our country's history has walked, but we wanted out of there. My friend took a picture of us against an exterior wall and we got out of there.

That day we didn't break anything or see anything being broken. The people milling around outside the Capitol Building near us were polite. I saw the side doors being opened from the inside and assumed the door closest to me were also open because people who worked in the Capital Building walked past us. They didn't look nervous or scared.

But I now know that what I experienced that day, was not the case in other areas of the Capitol Building. When we returned to our hotel and turned on the news we were shocked. We didn't know people had gotten violent, police were hurt and unfortunately people had died.

I felt ashamed that something meant to show support for the President had turned violent. This is not the way to prove any point. At first it didn't dawn on me, but later I realized that if every person like me, who wasn't violent, was removed from that crowd, the ones who were violent may have lost the nerve to do what they did. For that I am sorry and take responsibility. It was never my intent to help empower people to act violently.

I knew I was wrong for stepping even one foot into the building, that day, but I was still shocked when I was arrested. I did everything I could do to cooperate with the FBI. I did what they asked me to do. I didn't want them to worry that I would do anything to make this difficult for them.

I openly and honestly told them everything I could recall from that day. I gave them my phone freely to download what they needed. My phone was not locked so they didn't need a password to get in. If it had a password I would have willingly provided it.

I do have to say that the FBI agents and the staff at the Vigo County Jail all treated me kindly and with respect, which made being arrested as good as it could be. I'm also blessed to have an attorney who talks respectfully to me and doesn't treat me like I'm a bad person.

I've lived a sheltered life and truly haven't experienced life the way many have. I don't live a pampered life. My husband and I have worked hard for everything that we have. My lawyer has given me names of books and movies to help me see what life is like for others in our country. I chose the movie whenever possible because it sinks in better. I've read the book, Just Mercy, by Bryan Stevenson and the Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee, by Dee Brown. I have viewed movies including Mudbound, Schindler's List, Slavery by Another name, and Burning Tulsa on the History Channel. I've learned that even though we live in a wonderful country things still need to improve. People of all colors should feel as safe as I do to walk down the street.

As an American I feel I'm very lucky to have been born in this country. As someone who is part Native American I feel my roots strongly. I would never want to live anywhere else. It's not perfect but I believe it can and will get better for all people.

I take responsibility for my actions on January 6th. I will do what the court requires of me to try to set things right. I will cooperate with my probation officer fully. In addition I will pay restitution to the court as soon as possible.

Schindler's List (Movie)

Oscar Schindler was a member of the SS party during World War II. He was in the Enamelware business and had connections higher up in the SS party. Oscar used these connections to help himself make money. He was selling his enamel ware to the German Army to use during the war.

Oscar used Jewish labor because it was free. He was able to keep them out of concentration camps by deeming them essential workers. But it became more to Oscar than making money. When he could no longer keep his people free he paid his connections a lot of money to have his people sent to a camp ran by himself.

He made a list of 800 Jewish people that he had to have working for him. This was as many people as he thought he could get away with, without the Germans suspecting something. He paid for each of these people in bribes.

The train, his people were on, didn't go to his camp. The train took his people to Auschwitz. As soon as he found out where his people were he went to Auschwitz and fought to get them back. He was offered the next train load of people to save on paperwork but Oscar demanded his people. They were returned to a train and taken to his camp.

They were no longer in the enamel ware business. They were now making ammunition. The ammunition they made didn't pass any inspection. Oscar was messing with the calibration on the machines at night. When the workers became concerned that they may be sent back to Auschwitz, due to the quality, Oscar started buying ammunition from other suppliers and passing it off as their own. This reduced the amount of ammunition the Germans had to fight with.

When it was announced that the war would end at midnight, Oscar gathered his people together and told them to find what family they may have left. Oscar would now be on the run because he was a member of the SS party and used slave labor.

At midnight Oscar was given a letter from his people telling what he had done to save them. Everyone in the camp signed the letter.

There are over 8,500 descendants of the Schindler Jews today.

This movie was very moving. Hard to watch and hard to not watch. It's hard to believe there are people who say this never happened.

One of my Sons-in-Law is ½ German. His mother was born in Germany and has never become an American Citizen. My Son-In-Law doesn't believe the Holocaust happened as it did. He says "Only" a million Jews died. One person being killed because of their faith is too many!

Just Mercy Quick Report

Just Mercy was written by Bryan Stevenson in 2014. In this book Mr. Stevenson tells about his time in the Southern States helping out African Americans on Death Row, condemned to die for crimes they didn't commit. Some of the people he helped were guilty of a crime but grossly over charged for their crime, due to their skin color, financial status or their mental stability.

Mr. Stevenson attended Harvard Law School and took an internship in Georgia with the Southern Prisoners Defense Committee (SPDC). This was the first time Mr. Stevenson was faced with the inside of a prison.

This book covers the stories of dozens of people who Mr. Stevenson helped in his years following graduation from law school. He wasn't always successful in helping the people but he did his best. This book concentrates on what happened to Walter McMillian.

Walter McMillian was a hard working, law abiding black man, living in Monroeville Alabama. Walter only went to school until he was 8 or 9. At this time he became too valuable picking cotton to continue sending him to school.

When the cotton industry became less profitable Walter started his own pulp wood business. He didn't get rich off his business but he was able to support his family and have a little left over. This would cause suspicion in the future because people would accuse him of selling drugs. Apparently people felt that was the only way a black man could have money. (My interpretation).

Walter was married to Minnie, they had three children. Walter was a ladies man and became involved with Karen Kelly, a married white woman that was 18 years younger. When Karen and her husband got a divorce, Karen's husband had Walter testify in court about the relationship. This caused the affair to become very public. The white citizens were angry about a black man being involved with a white woman.

On November 1, 1986 a respected white woman named Ronda Morrison was murdered at her job at Monroe Cleaners. She came from a respected family which made the murder more news worthy. When her killer was not caught quickly, pressure was put on the Sheriff by the public. People were talking about his incompetence. The Sheriff had to come up with a killer.

During this time Walter decided to call it off with Karen Kelly. The divorce and custody suite had caused her to turn to drugs. She began to associate with Ralph Myers, a white man with a long criminal Record. Ralph and Karen together were dealing drugs and were involved in the murder of Vickie Lynn Pittman.

Vickie Lynn Pittman was a young woman from a poor family in an neighboring town. Some of Vickie's family members had been in jail so her murder didn't make the news like the murder of Ronda Morrison.

Ralph Myers would eventually implicate Walter as the one who murdered Ronda. Ralph told the Sheriff that Walter forced him to drive Walter to the scene of the murder, wait for him then drive him back.

Walter had an airtight alibi. He was at home working on his truck, They were having a fund raiser, selling food from his house for the church. Several family members, neighbors, community members and a police officer vouched that Walter couldn't have killed Ronda Morrison because he was at home.

The Sheriff and other people didn't care about the truth. They needed a killer and a black man that had an affair with a white woman would do. Ralph Myer tried to recant his story so Ralph and Walter McMillian were both placed on Death Row while awaiting trial, which is illegal. Ralph cracked and said he would testify that Walter was the killer, at that time he was removed from death row and taken to jail. As soon as he tried to tell the truth again he was returned to Death Row.

Walter McMillian was convicted of killing Ronda and sentenced to death. While on death row Bryan Stevenson became involved in his case. Mr. Stevenson was relentless in his efforts to get Walter's conviction overturned.

Eventually Walter was freed. His life was a mess when he got out of prison. His wife, Minnie, had supported him through his ordeal but didn't want to be with him anymore. Walter started doing his tree work again. Walter would also do speeches about his ordeal. One day Walter was injured doing his tree work and could no longer continue doing tree work.

Walter used the money from his settlement to buy old cars, to sell the parts. He ended up with a lot of junk cars and no money.

On September 11, 2013 Walter died. He died a free man and of natural causes.

Reading this book makes me reconsider my view on the death penalty. It was far too easy for the people to convict a man of a crime that he could not have committed. How many more Walters are on death row. It would be better if a hundred men guilty of murder spend their natural life in prison than one innocent man die on death row.