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NEWS RELEASE

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Questions? Contact Jennifer Lowe at
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Lincoln Exhibit Lecture Features Renowned Scholar

Noted historian Dr. Ron Rietveld, professor emeritus at California State University Fullerton, will discuss his lifelong study of President Abraham Lincoln and his discovery, at age 14, of the last known photo taken of the 16th president, on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m. at the Old County Courthouse, 211 W. Santa Ana Blvd. in Santa Ana.

In 1951, Rietveld stumbled across the photograph taken in Lincoln's coffin on April 24, 1865, in New York City. The discovery startled historians because Lincoln's Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, had ordered the photograph destroyed. Stranger yet, the only known surviving print had remained with Stanton, whose son preserved it.

Rietveld's talk caps a special series of events and lectures held in conjunction with "Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America," a traveling exhibit on loan through Feb. 26 at the Old County Courthouse from the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Illinois. The exhibit, commemorating the 200th year of Lincoln's birth, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and is free to the public.

The Orange County Archives, in collaboration with OC Parks, is hosting the month-long exhibit, which covers Lincoln's childhood and self-education, his careers as a surveyor and lawyer, his family life, the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, the 1860 Presidential election, the Civil War and his assassination.

The exhibit is enhanced with local Lincoln memorabilia, including photographs from "Great Moments with Mr. Lincoln" on loan from Disneyland; a copy of the federal patent signed by the President returning Mission San Juan Capistrano to the Catholic Church; and a special "Lincoln carving" bronze by artist Victor David Brenner, who rendered the Lincoln penny in 1908.

Please RSVP for Dr. Rietveld's lecture by calling (714) 973-6655 or sending an email to: OldcourthouseRSVP@ocparks.com.

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