

Changing the face of racism

❶ "Black Like Me" gave readers a different perspective of race relations.

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John Howard Griffin helped Jews escape the Nazis, survived a Japanese bombing raid, went blind then regained his sight, transformed his body to experience life as a black man and gave millions of readers a window into race relations with his best-selling book, "Black Like Me."

And he was from Mansfield.

This is the first of a two-part series.

"I don't think the general public has any idea of who he is and what he did while he lived here," said Paula Highfill, president of the Friends of the Mansfield Public Library. "I think people recognize the title of the book, but don't associate it with Mansfield in any way."

In honor of Griffin's accomplishments, Mansfield has been designated a national Literary Landmark by the Association
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Author John Howard Griffin sits on the porch of his parents' home in Mansfield.

Courtesy of Robert Bonazzi