

NARA BLACK HISTORY BASIC TRAINING

Feb 1 – Fannie Lou Hamer

[Fannie Lou Hamer](#) was born on Oct 6, 1917 in Mississippi. She became involved in the Civil Rights Movement when she first attempted to register to vote in 1962, which resulted in her being fired from her job on a plantation. In 1964 she co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to end statewide disenfranchisement of Black voters. In her nationally televised [testimony before the Democratic National Convention](#), Hamer shared her personal stories of mistreatment and terror at the hands of racists throughout MS. The testimony was interrupted by President Lyndon Johnson, in an effort to suppress the truth and stabilize the Democratic Party.



“Nobody’s free until everybody’s free.”

Viewing:

- ✓ [Testimony before the DNC Credentials Committee, 1964](#)
- ✓ [Interview from The Heritage of Slavery, 1968](#)
- ✓ [Fannie Lou Hamer Risked Her Life to Vote, Smithsonian](#)

Reading:

- ✓ The Speeches of Fannie Lou Hamer – To Tell It Like It Is (University Press of Mississippi), 2010
- ✓ Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer (Penguin Random House), 2015
- ✓ Fannie Lou Hamer: America’s Freedom Fighting Woman (Rowman & Littlefield), 2020