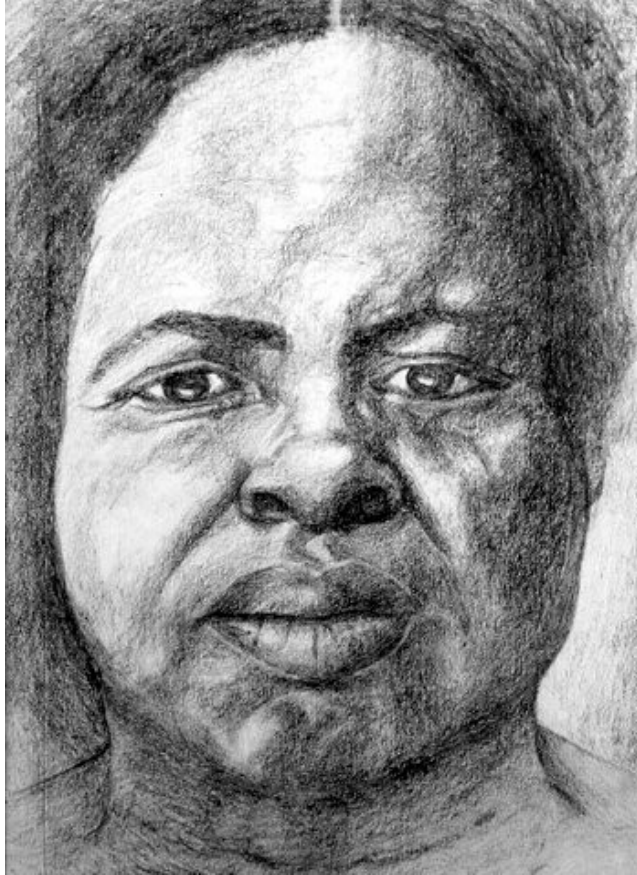


Fannie Lou Hamer



Born: October 6, 1917,
Montgomery County, MS;
Died: March 14, 1977, Taborian
Hospital, Mound Bayou, MS

Fannie Lou Hamer was a Civil Rights Activist who joined with a group of other Blacks to register to vote, in 1962. For that she lost her job and was evicted from the plantation where she had lived and worked for twenty years. She dedicated her life to work for Civil Rights and became an important member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Her testimony at the 1964

Democratic National Convention was broadcast on national TV. But President Johnson feared her shocking testimony exposing the abuse of Southern Blacks working for Equal Rights. He decided to break into the broadcast with a nonsensical announcement on the nine month “anniversary” of the shooting of Gov. Connally, which also happened to be the date of John F Kennedy’s assassination. However, his effort to subvert Hamer’s debut in the public eye backfired. The press played her testimony in full later in the broadcast. Her personal survival of the ugliest and most violent attacks on Civil Rights activists brought these issues front and center in the public eye.