

# Fannie Lou Hamer

Terry Barber



Text copyright © 2008 Terry Barber

Photographs copyright © in the names of individual photographers, artists, and organizations as noted specifically on page 48.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Fannie Lou Hamer is published by  
Grass Roots Press, a division of Literacy Services of Canada Ltd.

PHONE 1-888-303-3213  
WEBSITE [www.grassrootsbooks.net](http://www.grassrootsbooks.net)

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Book Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP) for our publishing activities.

We acknowledge the support of  
the Alberta Foundation for the Arts  
for our publishing programs.



Editor: Dr. Pat Campbell  
Image research: Dr. Pat Campbell  
Book design: Lara Minja, Lime Design Inc.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Barber, Terry, date  
Fannie Lou Hamer / Terry Barber.

ISBN 978-1-894593-84-7

1. Hamer, Fannie Lou. 2. Civil rights movements—United States—History—20th century. 3. African American women civil rights workers—Mississippi—Biography. 4. Civil rights workers—United States—Biography. 5. Readers for new literates. I. Title.

PE1126.N43B36362 2008 428.6'2 C2008-901985-7

Printed in Canada

# Contents



The Civil War.....	5
Life in the South.....	7
Life as a Sharecropper .....	13
Act of Courage.....	21
Civil Rights Worker .....	31
New Laws.....	41
A Woman of Courage .....	45
Glossary.....	46
Talking About the Book .....	47





Civil War battle.

# The Civil War

---

It is 1861. The United States goes to war. The North fights the South. The states in the South believe in slavery. The states in the North **ban** slavery. The Civil War ends in 1865. The North wins. This war ends slavery.

Before  
the Civil War,  
slavery is legal  
in 15 states.