

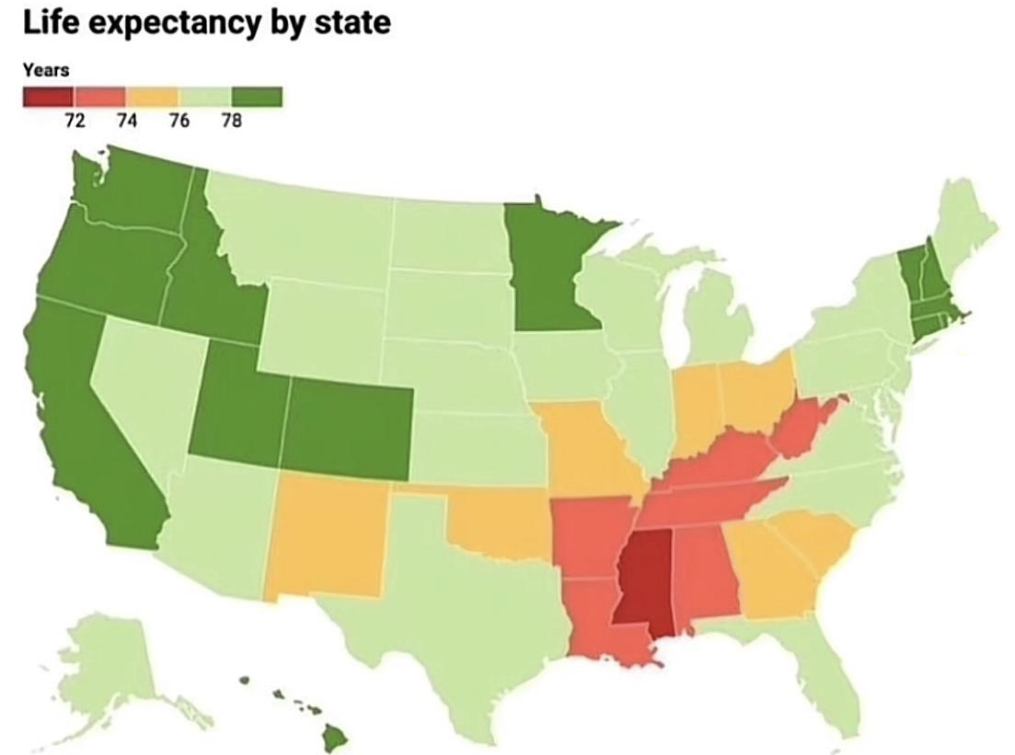
# Our Pilgrimage Begins in Memphis – Day 1



# The First Civil Rights Museum



Life expectancy by state. What the hell is going on in the South?



Get the data • Created with Datawrapper



# PARCHMAN PRISON

**THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PENITENTIARY**, also known as Parchman Farm, was located in the heart of the Mississippi Delta. Parchman was run like a cotton plantation. Inmates were often whipped and sometimes shot dead.

Governor Barnett wanted Parchman to break the Freedom Riders' spirit, and prison officials tried their best to oblige him. When riders would not stop singing freedom songs, guards removed their mattresses and blasted them with high-pressure water hoses. Some were sent to solitary confinement.

Parchman pushed many Freedom Riders to the edge. But they bounced back, strengthened by the resolve of their fellow inmates. Most returned home after serving their time, but a handful stayed in the state to organize local communities. Mississippi had tried and failed to crack them. Now they would try to crack Mississippi.

**"They emerge from prison stronger and more committed than before. And for many of them, what began as a simple protest has been forged into a vocation, a commitment to freedom and justice that shapes the rest of their lives."**

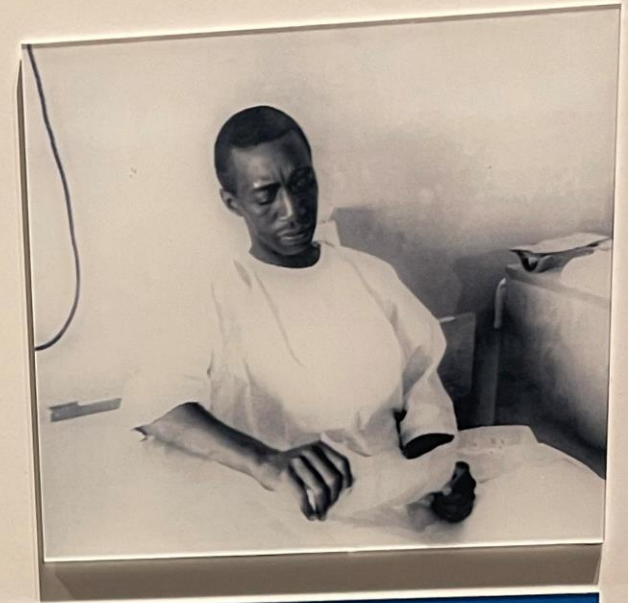
**JAMES FARMER, DIRECTOR OF CORE**



**Regular Parchman prisoners hoe crops under the supervision of a guard**

Parchman Farm at one time spanned 20,000 acres. It had no fences or walls. But those who thought about escaping faced armed marksmen, trained bloodhounds, and a network of local police who could be called at a moment's notice.

*Courtesy of Bill Steber/Carl Hammer Gallery*



**Parchman prisoner Clyde Kennard before his death at a Chicago hospital, 1963**

Segregationists used Parchman as a weapon against anyone who defied the racial order, including Mississippian Clyde Kennard. After attempting to integrate Mississippi Southern College three times in the late 1950s, Kennard was arrested on false charges and imprisoned at Parchman at the same time as the Freedom Riders. He developed cancer, was refused timely medical care, and died in Chicago in 1963.

*Courtesy of Bettmann/Corbis/AP Images*

**"Break their spirit, not their bones."**

**GOVERNOR ROSS BARNETT'S INSTRUCTIONS  
TO THE WARDEN AT PARCHMAN PRISON**





### Reverend James Reeb

A Unitarian minister from Boston, Rev. James Reeb was among the hundreds of people who came to Selma after Bloody Sunday. The evening following Tuesday Turnaround, a gang of white segregationists viciously beat Reeb in downtown Selma. Reeb suffered a fractured skull and died two days later. His death, unlike that of black activist Jimmie Lee Jackson, sparked national outrage, prompting hundreds more to descend on Selma.

*Courtesy of The Casper Star-Tribune Collection/Casper College Western History Center*

## VIOLA LIUZZO

The joy of reaching Montgomery was tempered by the loss of yet another life—that of Viola Liuzzo, a white mother of five from Detroit who drove by herself to Selma to participate in the march. A group of Klansmen from Birmingham shot her dead along a stretch of US Highway 80 in Lowndes County as she ferried marchers between Montgomery and Selma.

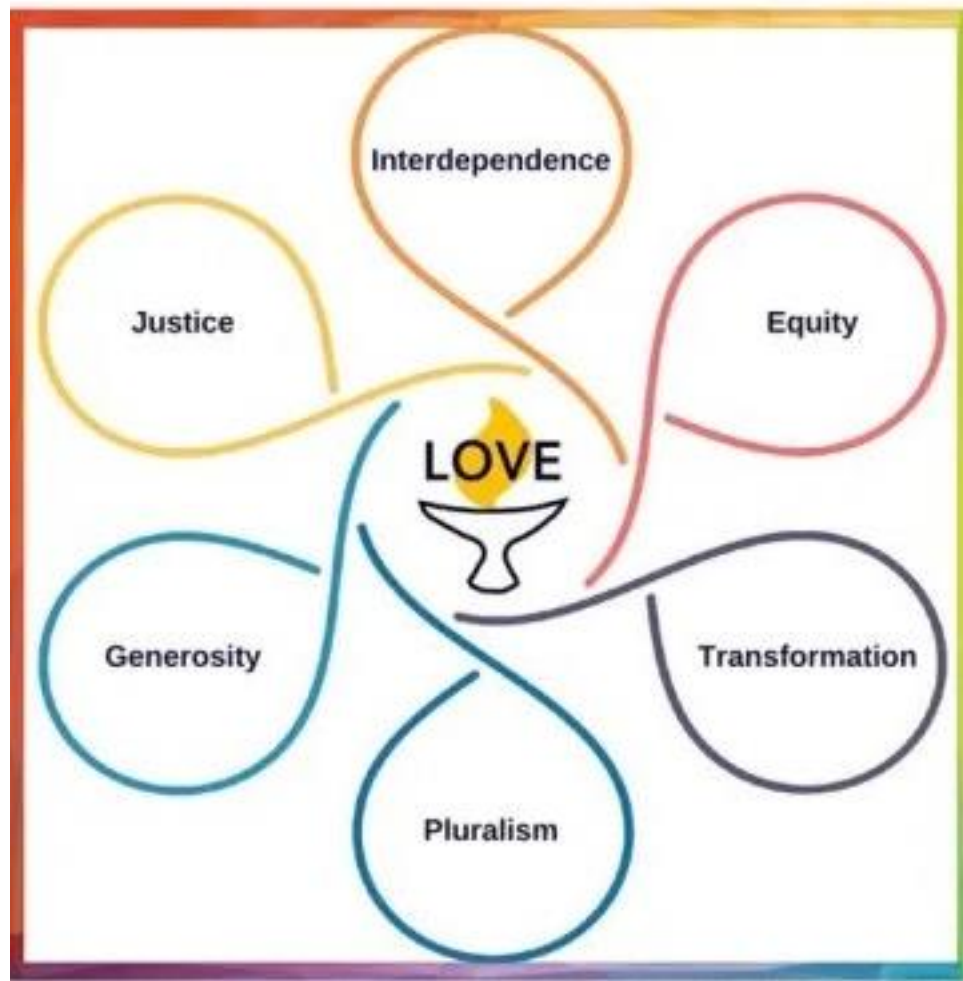
### RIGHT Viola Liuzzo, 1963

*Courtesy of the Detroit River Collection/Walter P. Reuther Library/Wayne State University*

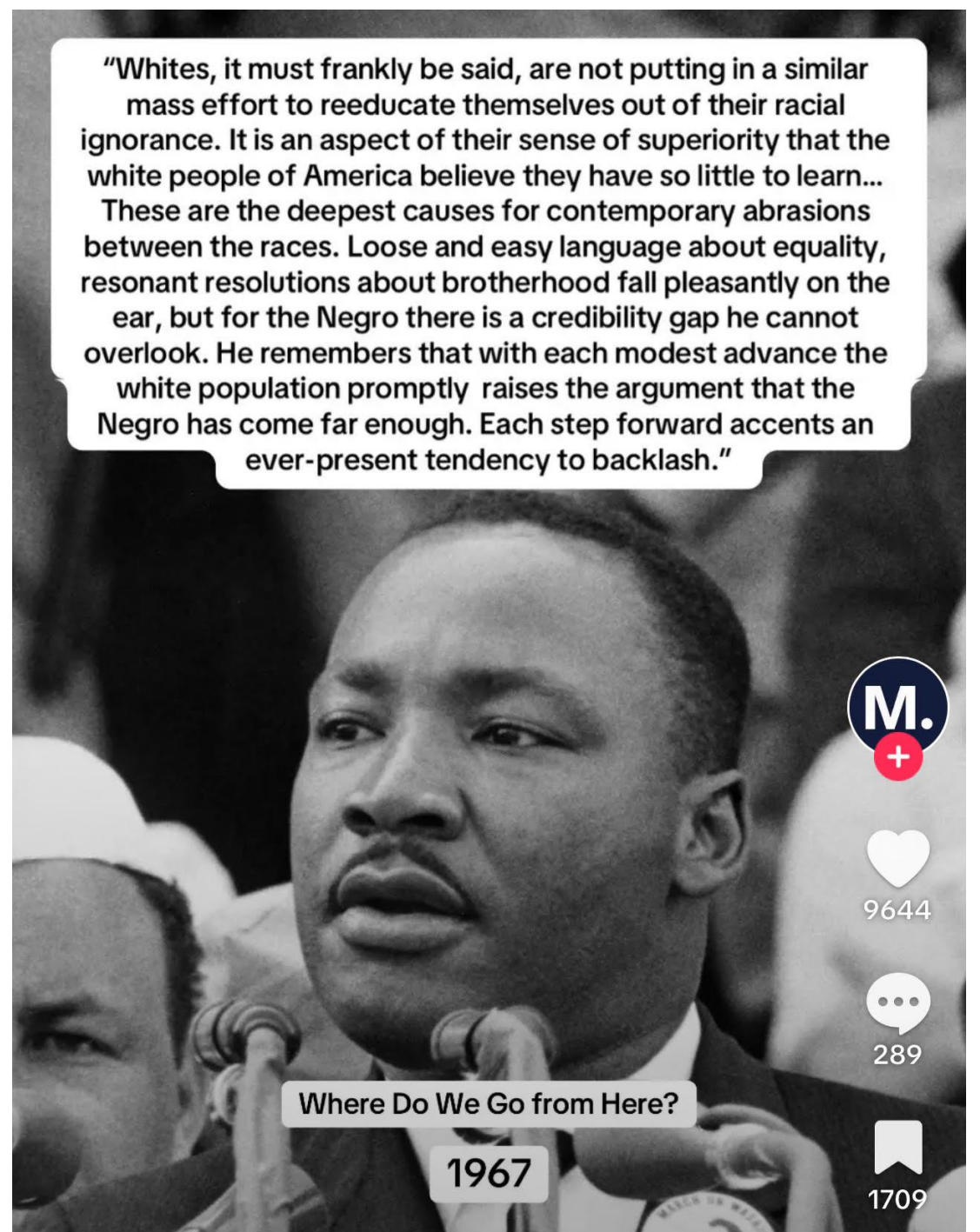
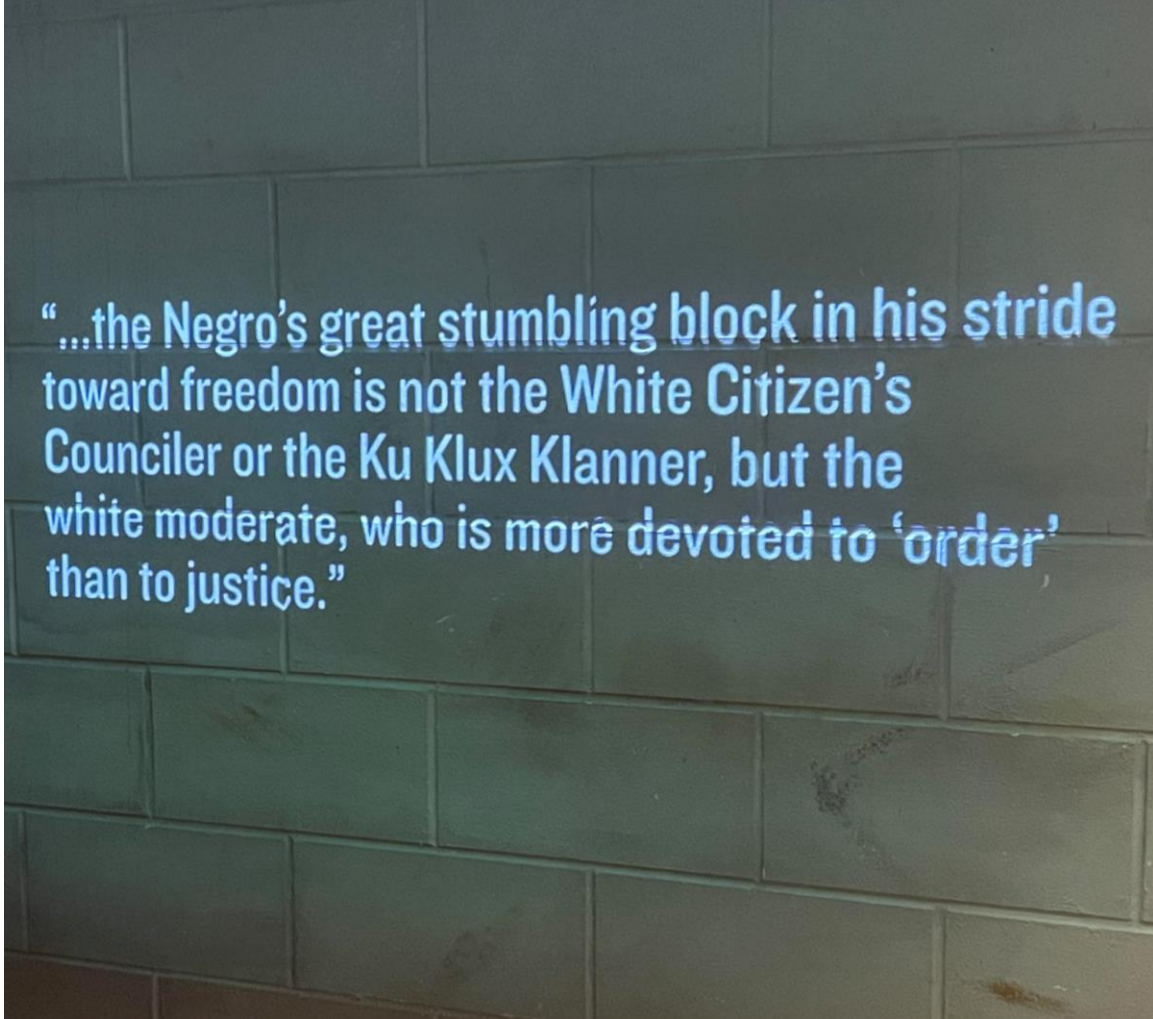
### FAR RIGHT Liuzzo's blood-stained car

SCLC activist Leroy Moton was a passenger in Viola Liuzzo's car. He survived the shooting by pretending to be dead.

*Courtesy of Bruce Davidson/Magnum Photos*









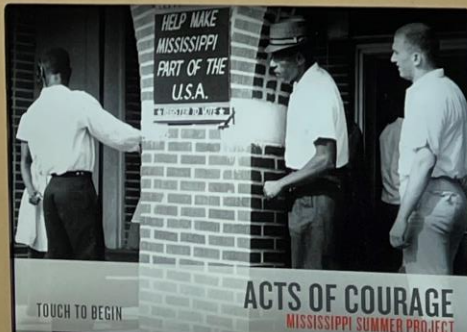
# Fannie Lou Hamer

FANNIE LOU HAMER WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 6, 1917, to sharecropping parents in the Mississippi Delta. She attended her first SNCC meeting in 1962 simply out of curiosity. It changed her life.

A plainspoken woman with a powerful singing voice, Hamer became one of SNCC's best field organizers and fundraisers. But she paid dearly for her activism. She lost her home and was savagely beaten by police.

At the 1964 Democratic National Convention, Hamer told of her beating and detailed the obstacles that prevented blacks from voting in Mississippi. Her testimony spoke to the conscience of America.

Fannie Lou Hamer at the Democratic National Convention, 1964  
Courtesy of Bettmann/Corbis/AP Images





# Moving on South to Mississippi – Day 1











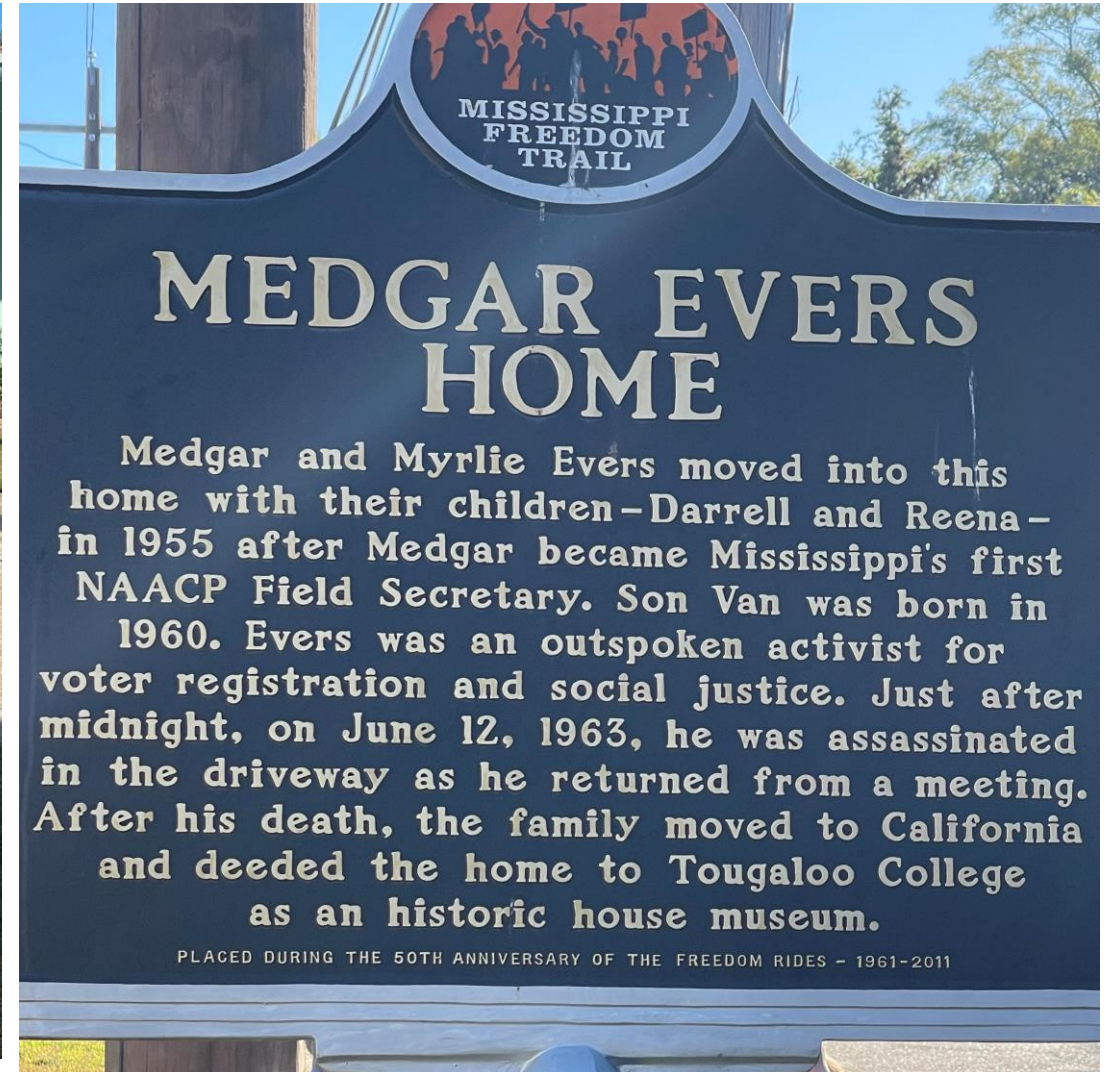


Lest We Forget.....





# Day 2 Starts Early before Park Ranger arrives





# **MEDGAR AND MYRLIE EVERS HOUSE**

**HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A**

## **NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**

**THIS BUILDING POSSESSES NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AS THE HOME OF MEDGAR AND MYRLIE EVERS, BOTH IMPORTANT PARTICIPANTS IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. AS FIELD SECRETARY FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE MEDGAR EVERS WAS AT THE FOREFRONT OF EVERY MAJOR CIVIL RIGHTS EVENT IN MISSISSIPPI FROM 1955 UNTIL HIS ASSASINATION IN 1963. MEDGAR EVERS' ASSASSINATION IN HIS CARPORT FORCED MYRLIE EVERS INTO A MORE PROMINENT ROLE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.**

**2016**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

### **Notice**

Only those authorized by 18 U.S.C. Section 930 may possess firearms beyond this point.

**This is a federal building. Firearms are prohibited.**





# Stopping for Museum Tour and Lunch



## **VIOLENCE** *Against the Movement*



### **M IS FOR MURDER AND MISSISSIPPI**

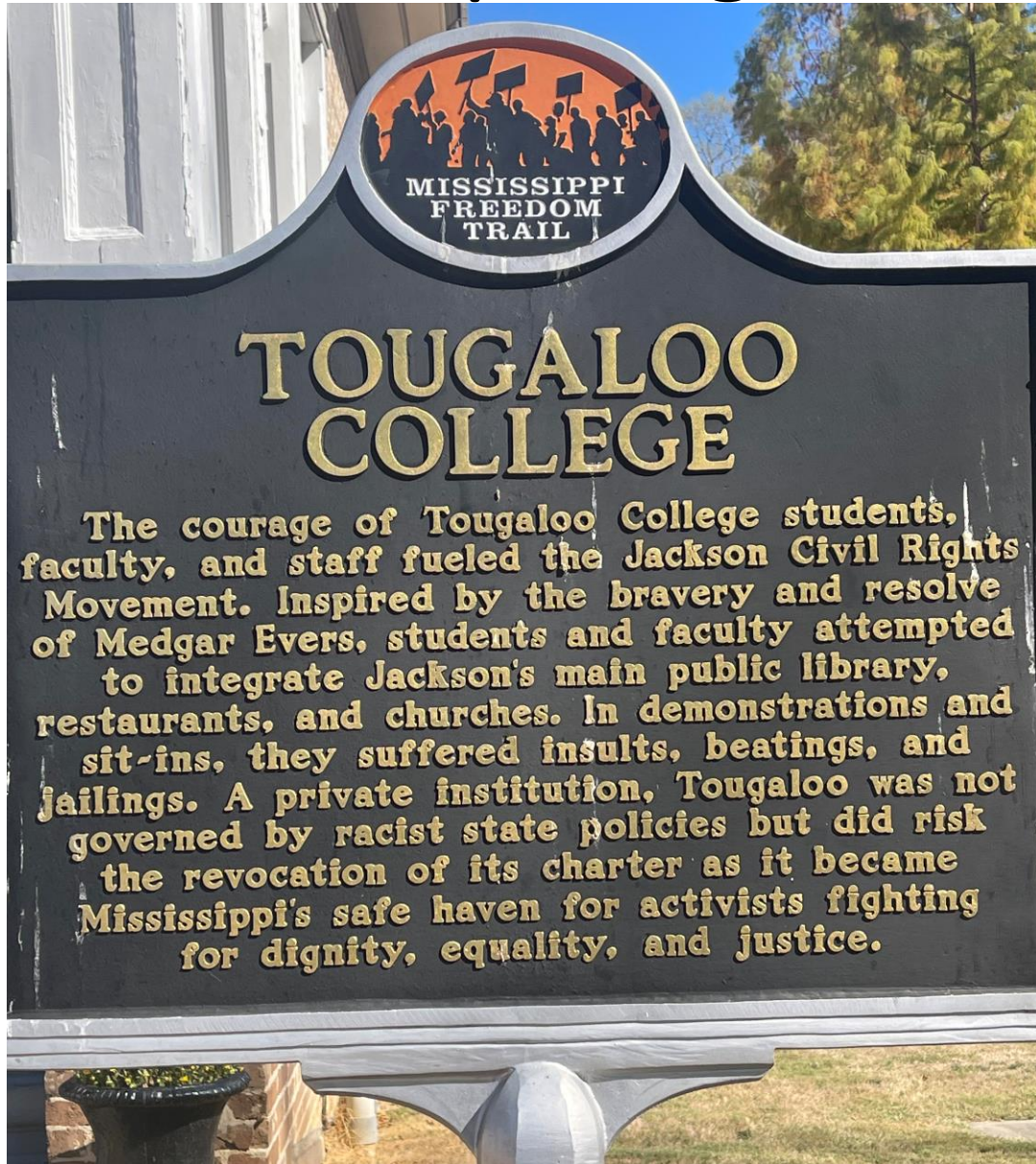
Shootings, violence, and economic intimidation by white supremacists left the Movement stumbling in the late 1950s. Key leaders were targeted. In May 1955, two weeks after a rally of 10,000 blacks in Mound Bayou, Rev. George Lee was shot to death while driving along a Belzoni street. In August, Lamar Smith was gunned down in broad daylight outside the Brookhaven courthouse. In November, Gus Courts was fired upon in his own store. Courts recovered but, like his colleague Dr. T. R. M. Howard, fled the state.

Black voter registration and NAACP membership dropped sharply. In 1955, riding the coattails of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the NAACP had seen an 87 percent increase in Mississippi membership. That number sank over the next two years as Citizens' Council intimidation and white violence took their toll. In Cleveland, membership dropped from 439 in 1956 to just 67 a year later; in Jackson—481 to 259; in Yazoo City—44 to 3. NAACP field secretary Ruby Hurley had reported 52,364 members in 349 branches in 1955. By 1957, she counted just 221 branches with 26,775 members.





# Next Stop Tougaloo College





# COFO Headquarters at Jackson State University





# 11 days after Kent State..... Why not widely known?





# Dinner at Jackson MS UU Congregation



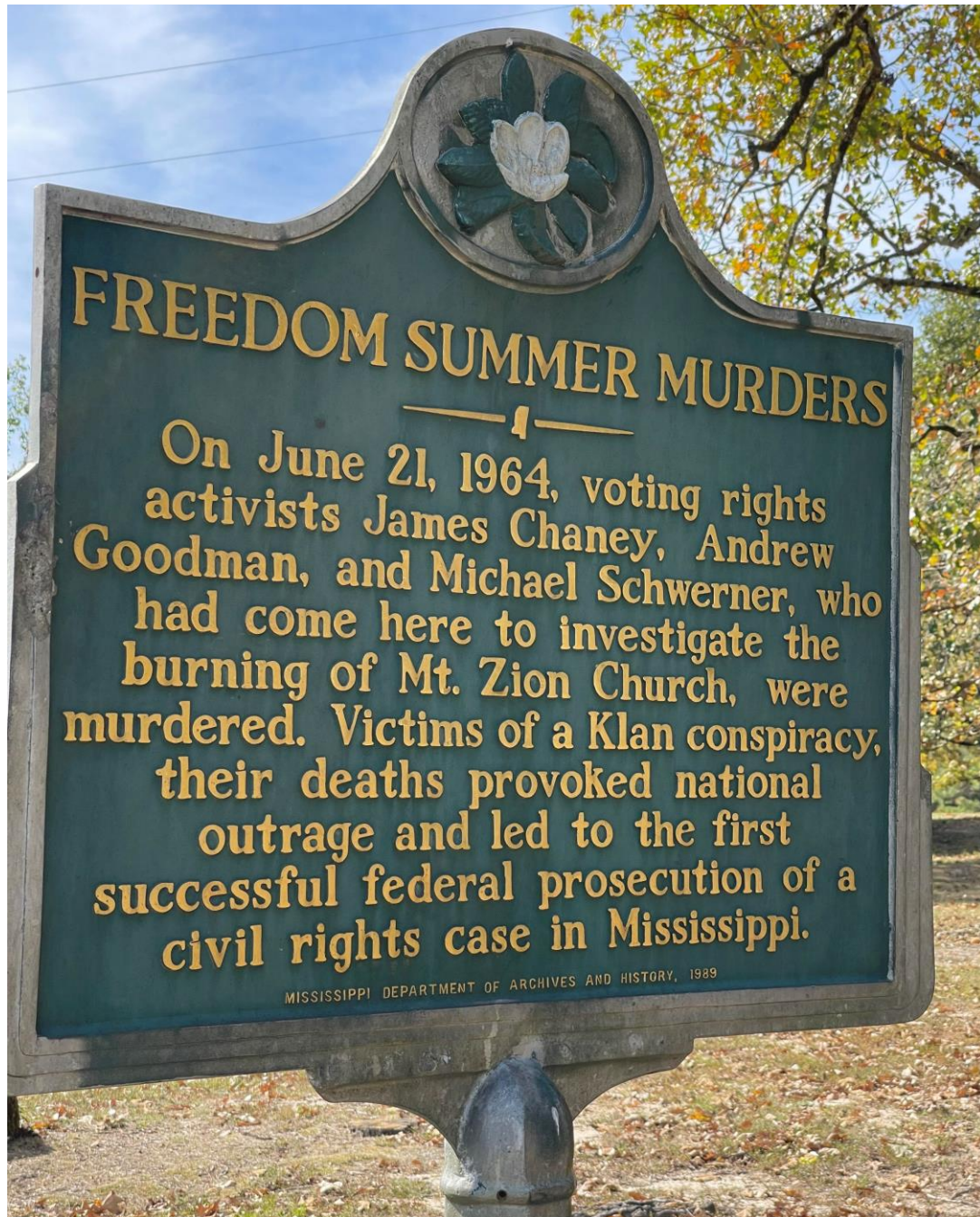


# Day 3 – “Whereof what’s past is prologue; What to come, in your and my discharge\*”



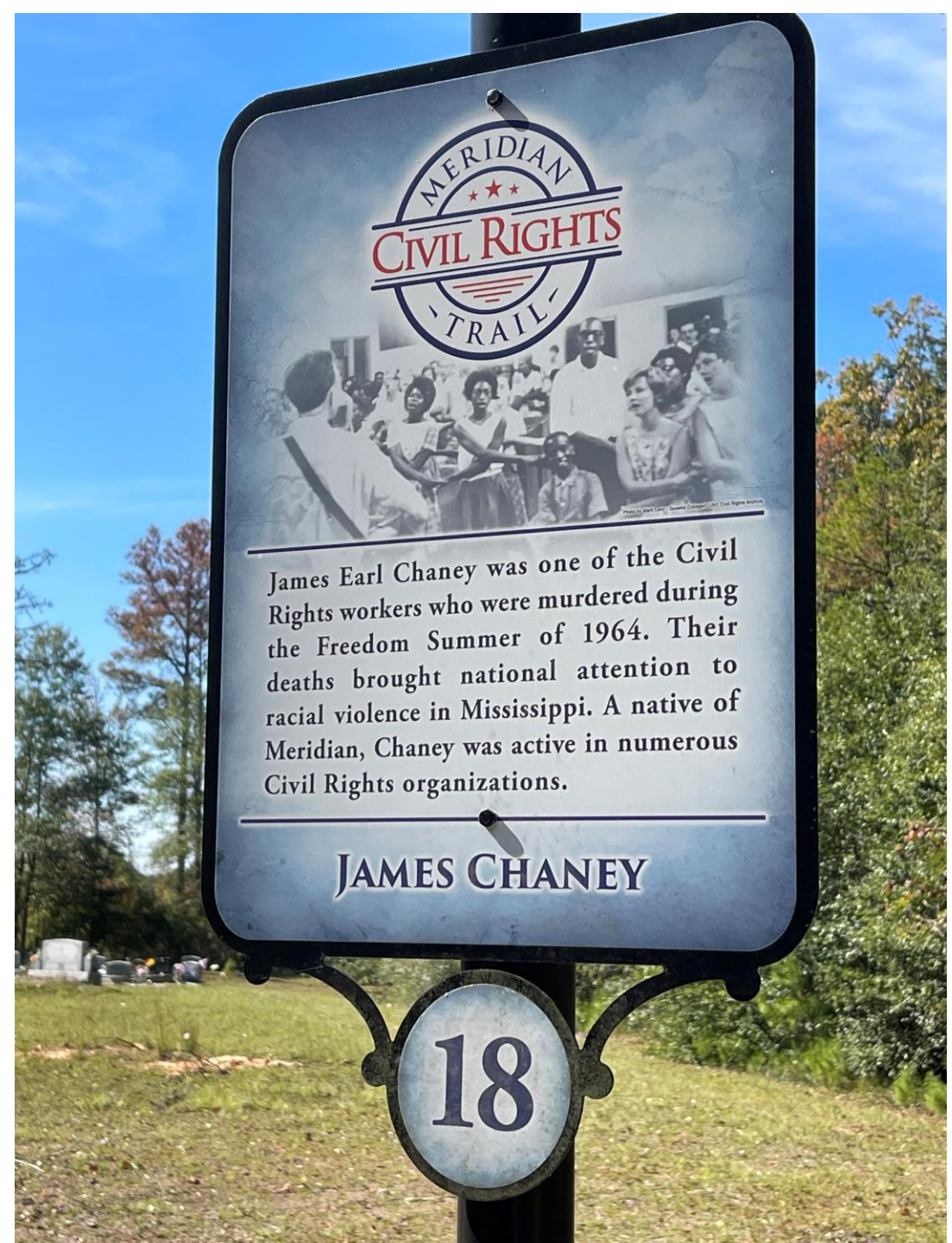
**\*The Tempest, Act 2, Scene 1**





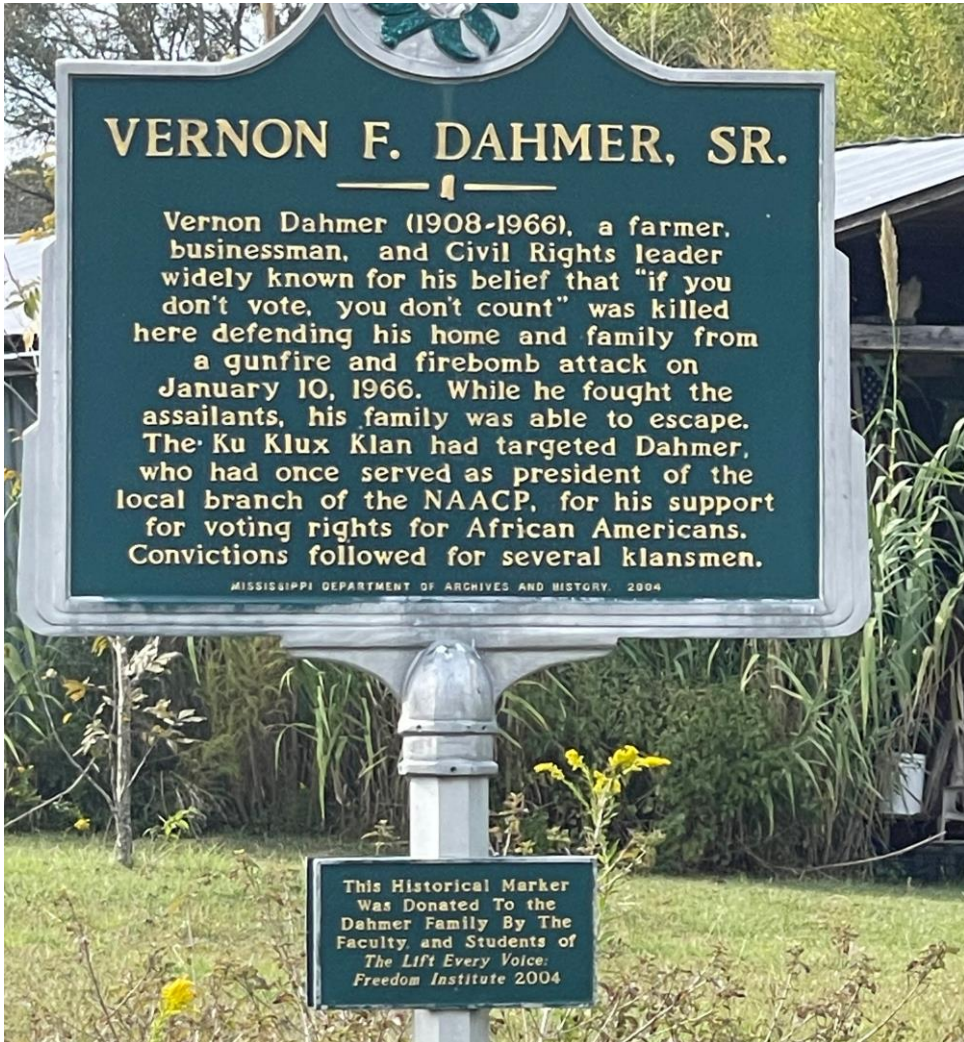


Angela was three days old when her father was murdered.





# Dennis Dahmer shares is father's stories





# More Stories of Courage & Commitment

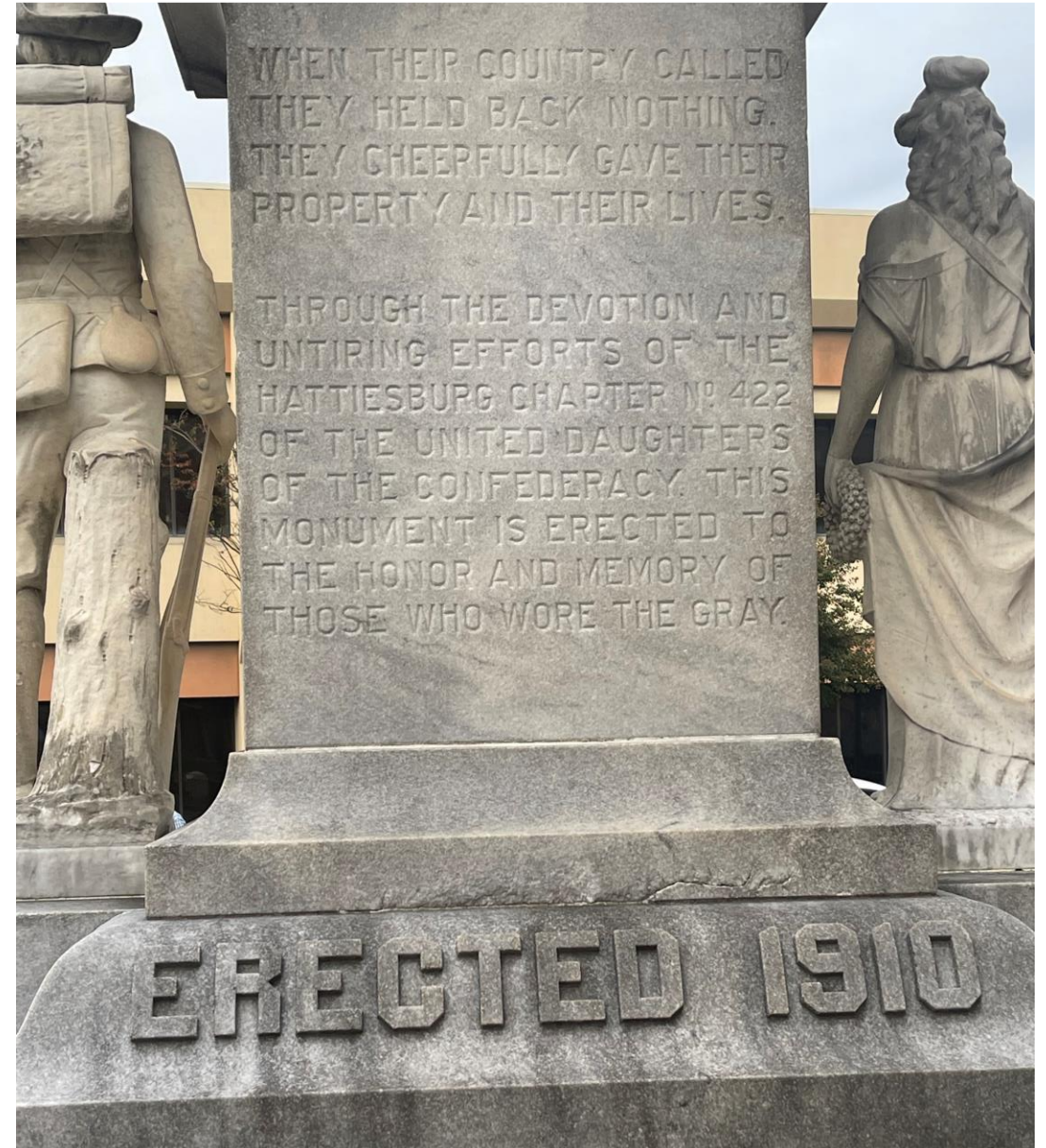






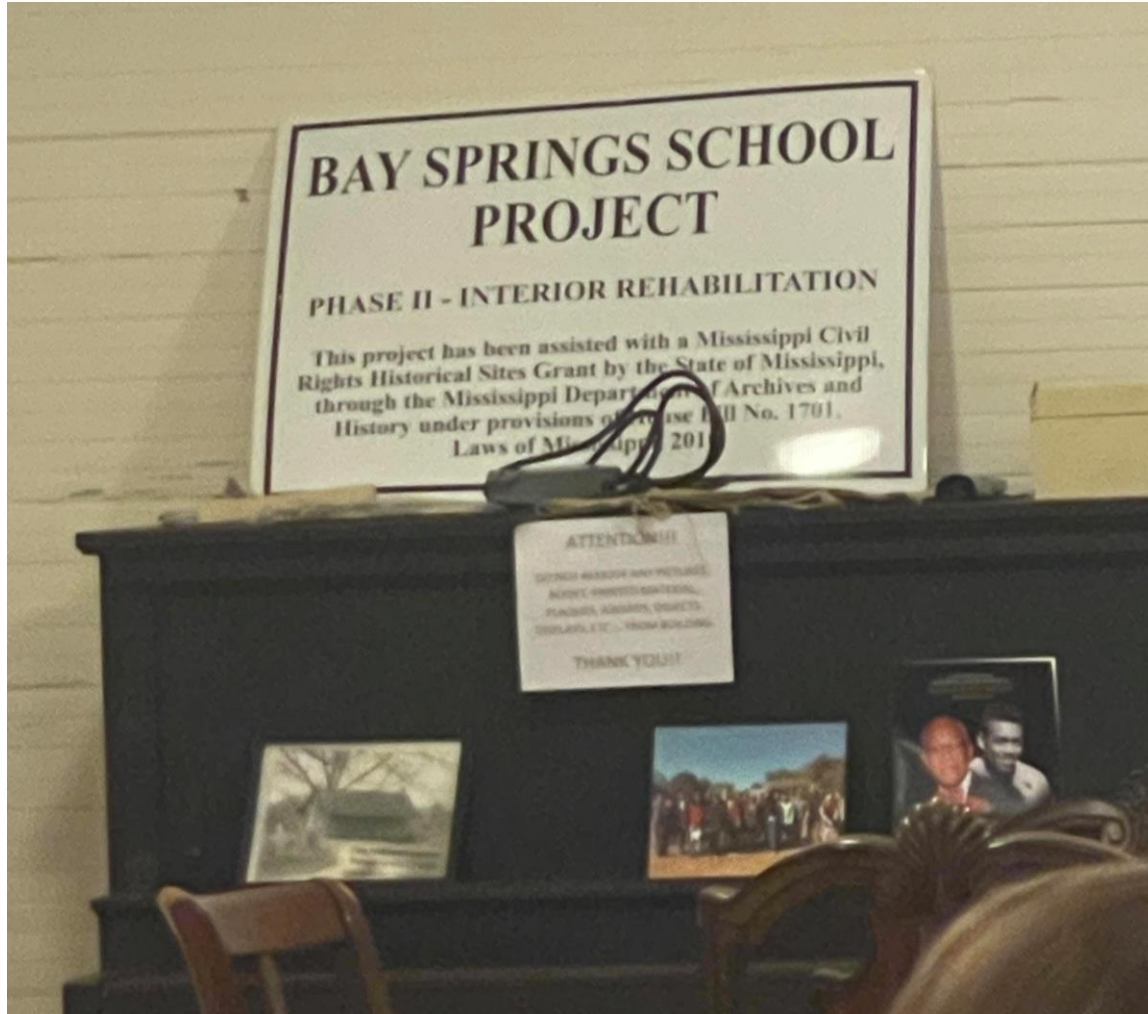


# Around the corner, the Lost Cause Monument





# Our last supper together at one of the Rosenwald Schools\* hosted by Dennis Dahmer



\*Julius Rosenwald (CEO of Sears, Roebuck and Co.) built 5,300 schools (633 in Mississippi) in the 1900s for black children in the Deep South. About 500 remain standing with about half being restored for further use.