Contents

Introduction 1

PART 1
Fighting for My Rights: One SNCC Woman’s Experience, 1961–1964 7

From Little Memphis Girl to Mississippi Amazon 9
Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons aka Gwendolyn Robinson

PART 2

What We Were Talking about Was Our Future 39
Angeline Butler

An Official Observer 45
Constance Curry

Onto Open Ground 49
Casey Hayden

Two Variations on Nonviolence 53
Mildred Forman Page

A Young Communist Joins SNCC 55
Debbie Amis Bell

Watching, Waiting, and Resisting 61
Hellen O’Neal-McCray
PART 3
Movement Leaning Posts: The Heart and Soul of the Southwest Georgia Movement, 1961–1963

Ripe for the Picking
Janie Culbreth Rambeau

Finding Form for the Expression of My Discontent
Annette Jones White

Uncovered and Without Shelter, I Joined This Movement for Freedom
Bernice Johnson Reagon

We Turned This Upside-Down Country Right Side Up
Joann Christian Mants

Everybody Called Me “Teach”
McCree L. Harris

I Love to Sing
Rutha Mae Harris

Since I Laid My Burden Down
Bernice Johnson Reagon

We Just Kept Going
Carolyn Daniels

PART 4
Standing Tall: The Southwest Georgia Movement, 1962–1963

It Was Simply in My Blood
Peggy Trotter Dammond Preacely

Freedom-Faith
Prathia Hall
PART 5
Get on Board: The Mississippi Movement through the Atlantic City Challenge, 1961–1964

Standing Up for Our Beliefs
Joyce Ladner

Inside and Outside of Two Worlds
Jeannette King

They Didn’t Know the Power of Women
Victoria Gray Adams

Do Whatever You Are Big Enough to Do
Jean Smith Young

Depending on Ourselves
Muriel Tillinghast

A Grand Romantic Notion
Denise Nicholas

If We Must Die
Janet Jemmott Moses

PART 6

The Energy of the People Passing through Me
Gloria Richardson Dandridge

PART 7

Peek around the Mountain
Joanne Grant

My Real Vocation
Dorothy M. Zellner
A SNCC Blue Book
   Jane Bond Moore

Getting Out the News
   Mary E. King

It’s Okay to Fight the Status Quo
   E. Jeanne Breaker Johnson

SNCC: My Enduring “Circle of Trust”
   Judy Richardson

Working in the Eye of the Social Movement Storm
   Betty Garman Robinson

In the Attics of My Mind
   Casey Hayden

Building a New World
   Barbara Jones Omolade

PART 8

Fighting Another Day: The Mississippi Movement
after Atlantic City, 1964–1966

A Simple Question
   Margaret Herring

The Mississippi Cotton Vote
   Penny Patch

The Freedom Struggle Was the Flame
   Elaine DeLott Baker

An Interracial Alliance of the Poor:
An Elusive Populist Fantasy?
   Emmie Schrader Adams

We Weren’t the Bad Guys
   Barbara Brandt

Sometimes in the Ground Troops, Sometimes
in the Leadership
   Doris A. Derby
PART 9


There Are No Cowards in My Family
  Annie Pearl Avery

Singing for Freedom
  Bettie Mae Fikes

Bloody Selma
  Prathia Hall

Playtime Is Over
  Fay Bellamy Powell

Captured by the Movement
  Martha Prescod Norman Noonan

We’ll Never Turn Back
  Gloria House

Letter to My Adolescent Son
  Jean Wiley

PART 10


Neither Black nor White in a Black-White World
  Elizabeth (Betita) Sutherland Martinez

I Knew I Wasn’t White, but in America What Was I?
  Marilyn Lowen

Time to Get Ready
  Maria Varela

Born Freedom Fighter
  Gwen Patton

Postscript: We Who Believe in Freedom

Index

Illustrations follow pages 84, 156, and 270.