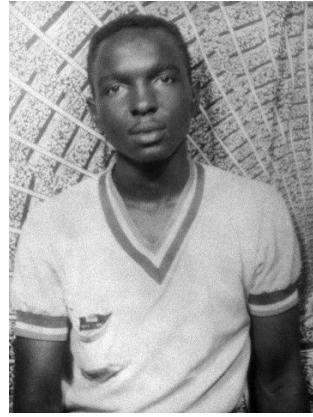




0. James Chaney - Story Preface

1. The Way We Were

2. Freedom Riders

3. Michael Schwerner

4. Andrew Goodman

5. James Chaney

6. Training for Confrontation

7. The Stage is Set

8. The Attack

9. The Aftermath

Meanwhile, a young black man named James Chaney was working at the CORE Center in Meridian, Mississippi. He was called J.E. by his family and friends, and he was the son of a dairy farmer and a mother who worked as a domestic servant for a white family for two dollars a day. J.E. was a skinny boy, but had a reputation as a good baseball player and was an outrageous flirt with the girls in the community. He was no stranger to prejudice, seeing his mother come home exhausted from work for a wage he knew was unfair. He also knew that if he walked through white neighborhoods, sometimes white neighbors would turn their dogs loose on him, for no reason.

He worked at CORE helping blacks gain new job skills and teaching them to read. In January, 1964, Mickey and Rita Schwerner came to be the new leadership of the Core Center in Meridian. They were immediately taken with the black man who worked so hard at the Center, and J.E. became their friend.

Soon, Mickey and J.E. were working together to register black voters. They co-planned a public boycott of the local Woolworth's Drug Store to demand that they hire black workers. They talked to local black citizens to enlist their participation and make a stand after so many years of being disrespected.

Their work enraged the established white community in Meridian, who labeled them as "agitators." The police targeted Mickey and he was arrested at the boycott and briefly held in jail.

In April, 1964, Mickey, Rita, and J.E. were asked by CORE leadership to go to the CORE Center in Ohio to train new recruits for summer demonstrations in the Southern States. There they first met Andy Goodman.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/James-Chaney-James-Chaney-Andrew-Goodman-and-Michael-Schwerner-Courageous-Mission)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/James-Chaney-James-Chaney-Andrew-Goodman-and-Michael-Schwerner-Courageous-Mission>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/James-Chaney-James-Chaney-Andrew-Goodman-and-Michael-Schwerner-Courageous-Mission)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/James-Chaney-James-Chaney-Andrew-Goodman-and-Michael-Schwerner-Courageous-Mission>

Media Stream



James Chaney

"James Chaney", „African American Registry,Fair Use

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/James-Chaney>