

Left: In the early 1960s, many cotton plantations in Mississippi were not mechanized, and people worked the land by hand. This photograph by Dorothea Lange from the 1930s shows cotton fieldworkers at the Aldridge Plantation in Washington County. The scene is similar to the work Jerome Smith would have witnessed during his organizing work in Mississippi. Photograph courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Farm Security Administration, Office of War Information Collection, LC USF34-017135-C. Right: Mugshots [clockwise from top left] of Julia Aaron, Dave Dennis, Jean Thompson, and Jerome Smith after they were arrested during the Freedom Rides through Mississippi. Photographs courtesy of the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission’s photograph collection housed at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The Commission was the state’s official counter Civil Rights agency, which ran from 1956 to 1973, and kept an extensive archive of its surveillance of Civil Rights workers.