

BECAUSE THEY
MARCHED

ALSO BY RUSSELL FREEDMAN

Becoming Ben Franklin

How a Candle-Maker's Son Helped Light the Flame of Liberty

The Boston Tea Party

Buffalo Hunt

Freedom Walkers

The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Give Me Liberty!

The Story of the Declaration of Independence

In Defense of Liberty

The Story of America's Bill of Rights

Indian Chiefs

An Indian Winter

Lafayette and the American Revolution

The Life and Death of Crazy Horse

Washington at Valley Forge

The Wright Brothers

How They Invented the Airplane

BECAUSE THEY MARCHED

*The People's Campaign for Voting Rights
That Changed America*



RUSSELL FREEDMAN



Holiday House / *New York*

Picture credits appear on page 79.

Text copyright © 2014 by Russell Freedman

All Rights Reserved

HOLIDAY HOUSE is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Printed and Bound in April 2014 at Tien Wah Press, Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia.

www.holidayhouse.com

First Edition

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Freedman, Russell.

Because they marched : the people's campaign for voting rights that changed America / Russell Freedman. — First edition.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-8234-2921-9 (hardcover)

1. Selma to Montgomery Rights March (1965 : Selma, Ala.)—Juvenile literature.
2. Selma (Ala.)—Race relations—Juvenile literature. 3. African Americans—Civil rights—Alabama—Selma—History—20th century—Juvenile literature. 4. African Americans—Suffrage—Alabama—Selma—History—20th century—Juvenile literature.
5. Civil rights movements—Alabama—Selma—History—20th century—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

F334.S4F74 2014

323.1196'073076145—dc23

2013038991

To Dick and Joan Bahm
Friends from the beginning





Dr. King used to say there is nothing more powerful than the rhythm of marching feet, and that was what this was, the marching feet of a determined people. That was the only sound you could hear.

John Lewis, *Walking With the Wind*



CONTENTS

<i>Chapter One: The Day the Teachers Marched</i>	1
<i>Chapter Two: “White Folks’ Business”</i>	6
<i>Chapter Three: Selma’s Students Lead the Way</i>	15
<i>Chapter Four: “March, Dammit!”</i>	24
<i>Chapter Five: Bloody Sunday</i>	34
<i>Chapter Six: Turnaround Tuesday</i>	45
<i>Chapter Seven: A Good Day to Be Alive</i>	54
<i>Chapter Eight: Because They Marched</i>	67
Epilogue	71
Time Line	74
Source Notes	76
Selected Bibliography	78
Photo Credits	79
Index	80

TIME LINE

- 1954** The U.S. Supreme Court outlaws segregation in the nation's public schools.
- 1955** Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a city bus, beginning the year-long Montgomery bus boycott.
- 1960** The sit-in movement begins when four black students take seats at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina.
- 1961** The first freedom riders, seven black and six white volunteers, leave Washington, D.C., on buses bound for Alabama and Mississippi.
- 1962–63** SNCC field workers begin a voter registration project in Selma, Alabama.
- 1963** Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his "I have a dream" speech at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, August 28.
- 1964** Dr. King is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, October 14.
- 1965**
- January 18** The voting rights campaign begins in Selma with a march led by Dr. King.

- February 18** Jimmie Lee Jackson is shot by an Alabama state trooper during a voting rights demonstration in Marion, Alabama. His death six days later inspires plans to march from Selma to Montgomery.
- March 7** On a day remembered as “Bloody Sunday,” six hundred voting rights marchers are attacked by state troopers and sheriff’s deputies as they cross Selma’s Edmund Pettus Bridge.
- March 9** In a second attempt to march to Montgomery, 1,200 marchers confront waiting state troopers, kneel on the highway to pray, then return to Selma on “Turnaround Tuesday.”
- March 15** President Lyndon B. Johnson, in a nationally televised speech to Congress, calls for voting rights legislation.
- March 21–25** Voting rights demonstrators complete the 54-mile Alabama Freedom March and hold a rally at the state capitol attended by twenty-five thousand people.
- August 6** President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- 1967** Thurgood Marshall is sworn in as the first African American Supreme Court justice.
- 1968** Martin Luther King is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, April 4.