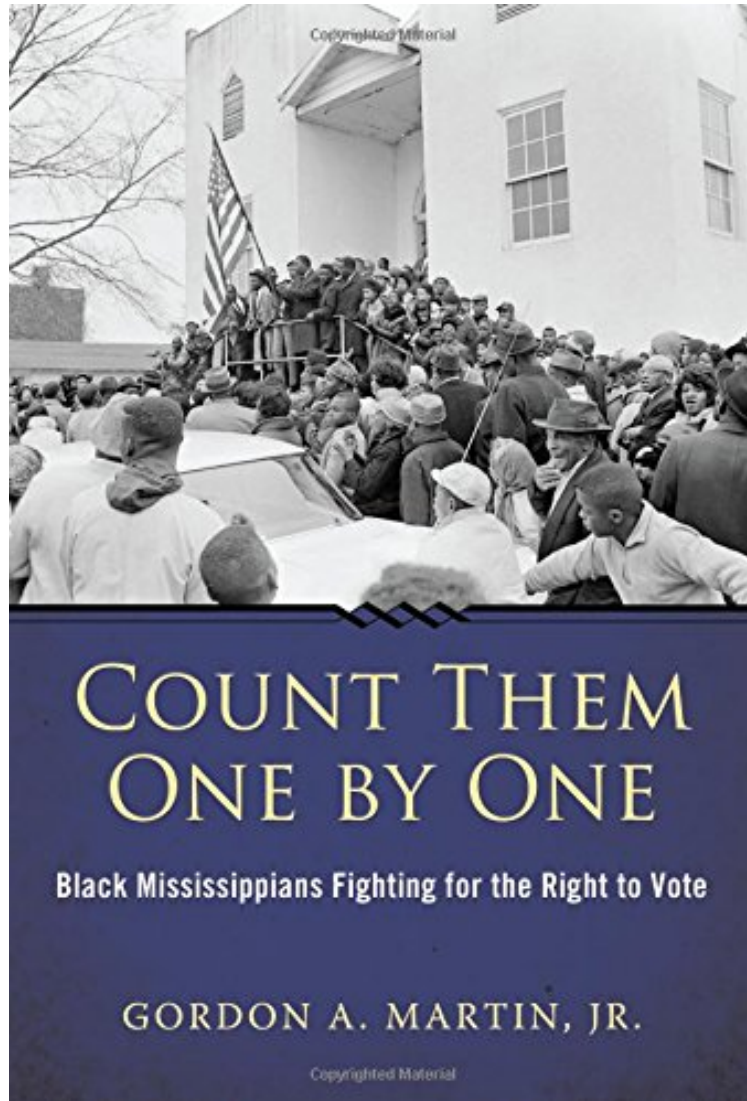


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## Count Them One by One: Black Mississippians Fighting for the Right to Vote (Margaret Walker Alexander Series in African American Studies)

*Gordon A. Martin Jr.*

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**Gordon A. Martin Jr. : Count Them One by One: Black Mississippians Fighting for the Right to Vote (Margaret Walker Alexander Series in African American Studies)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Count Them One by One: Black Mississippians Fighting for the Right to Vote (Margaret Walker Alexander Series in African American Studies):

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Still Counting . . . By Alan Oubre I was a pre-teen in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi during the events portrayed in this book, and have lived here since. I knew many of the characters, or their family members and friends. From that perspective, I appreciate the careful recounting of the Theron Lynd case, and the manner in which the author draws precise portraits of the people among whom I live. I certainly appreciate the tone of the book; many authors have chosen to over-dramatize this singular historical period with caricatures of individuals and races as completely evil or saintly. Then, as now, we are all degrees of good and bad. This is history, written carefully by a participant, who has researched very carefully and produced a fine book that is a "keeper." I have shared this discovery with friends who are mentioned in the book or whose relatives were directly affected, and will continue to do so. Winning the right to vote did not ensure freedom or racial equality. Although our community has achieved remarkable gains in 50 years, the races remain stratified socially, economically, geographically and politically. Generally, we work together well, but we don't often play together, and we don't worship together. The races live by and large in parallel universes, dealing cordially with each other as necessary, then retreating quietly to be among those who look like us, sound like us, think like us. Buy this book; read this book; think about how far we have come, and how much further we must go. Thanks to Gordon A. Martin, Jr. for writing it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a thought provoking personal memoir of these tumultuous times By John R. Gallagher It is hard to imagine what these people went through only 50 years ago - the book presents an amazing and very personal view of these historical times. The author continued to fight for justice throughout his legal career and should be commended for this book.

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Count Them One by One: Black Mississippians Fighting for the Right to Vote By Robert A. DeSimone Gordon Martin provides an excellent and insightful account of the obstacles faced by African Americans in their quest to exercise their right to vote in the South culminating in the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This book is a must read for anyone interested in the history of the civil rights movement in this country and how it relates to current issues involving race and power, which affects a person's ability to participate in the political arena.

Forrest County, Mississippi, became a focal point of the civil rights movement when, in 1961, the United States Justice Department filed a lawsuit against its voting registrar Theron Lynd. While thirty percent of the county's residents were black, only twelve black persons were on its voting rolls. *United States v. Lynd* was the first trial that resulted in the conviction of a southern registrar for contempt of court. The case served as a model for other challenges to voter discrimination in the South, and was an important influence in shaping the Voting Rights Act of 1965. *Count Them One by One* is a comprehensive account of the groundbreaking case written by one of the Justice Department's trial attorneys. Gordon A. Martin, Jr., then a newly-minted lawyer, traveled to Hattiesburg from Washington to help shape the federal case against Lynd. He met with and prepared the government's sixteen black witnesses who had been refused registration, found white witnesses, and was one of the lawyers during the trial. Decades later, Martin returned to Mississippi and interviewed the still-living witnesses, their children, and friends. Martin intertwines these current reflections with commentary about the case itself. The result is an impassioned, cogent fusion of reportage, oral history, and memoir about a trial that fundamentally reshaped liberty and the South.

What a gripping book *Count Them One by One* is. It brings to life a fifty-year-old civil rights case in Mississippi that helped start our nation on the road to racial democracy . . . For me, this book is a stirring journey in time . . . *Count Them One by One* could be a great movie. It has heroes and villains, and it teaches lessons of freedom and justice. Those are lessons we should learn, again, and so should our children. Armand Derfner, *Charleston Post and Courier* A wonderful new book! . . . I'm sure it's going to touch a lot of people. Robin Roberts, *Good Morning America* Martin's gift as a storyteller invites readers to understand the heroes and villains and why they acted as they did . . . He makes the story lively and suspenseful. Choice, American Library Association A masterful combination of historical memoir and scholarly research. John Dittmer, professor emeritus of history, DePauw University, author of *Local People: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi* From the Inside Flap The personal account of a community and a lawyer united to battle one of the most recalcitrant bastions of resistance to civil rights About the Author Gordon A. Martin, Jr., Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, is a retired trial judge, and an adjunct professor of law at New England Law School (Boston). His work has been published in the *New England Law Journal*, *Commonweal*, the *Jackson Clarion-Ledger*, the *Boston Globe*, the *New England Journal on Criminal and Civil Confinement*, and other periodicals.