

Louisiana Author Releases Two New Books

Louisiana author and historian Carola Lillie Hartley has just completed two new books on historic Opelousas, one of Louisiana's oldest cities.

Relive the growth of the seat of St. Landry Parish in "**Opelousas FIRSTS**" and find out how much you never knew about this captivating place. More than a history book, "**Opelousas FIRSTS**" chronicles some of the first facts about the old village. Learn about the first inhabitants, how the first fire department was started, how Opelousas provided entertainment for its citizens, how the railroad first came to town and how businesses started and grew. This 208-page book offers readers an opportunity to learn about the town, the parish and early Louisiana.

The second book, "**Opelousas TALES**", is a collection of some of the city's most colorful stories, featuring people, places, events and politics that left indelible marks on this unforgettable place. This collection of short stories about one of Louisiana's oldest cities is a great read. The 320-page volume includes colorful and informative tales from throughout the history of Opelousas.

The author, Carola Lillie Hartley, is a Louisiana native and has written many other published works. With a career spanning over 30 years in Community and Tourism Development and Downtown Revitalization, she has discovered and celebrated the histories of interesting and diverse cities from Louisiana to Kentucky to New Jersey; yet Opelousas still holds her heart.

Early in her professional career, Carola served as the Executive Secretary for the Greater Opelousas Chamber of Commerce. She later worked as a decorating consultant, and owned her own business for several years. She also served as the consultant for Louisiana Open House in 1990 while working for the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of Tourism. She served on the Louisiana Rural Tourism Task-force and worked with the Louisiana State University Sea Grant Program to create a plan for developing tourism opportunities in Louisiana's rural communities. She directed Main Street downtown revitalization organizations in her hometown of Opelousas, LA, Greensburg, KY, Nicholasville, KY, Newton, NJ and Bridgeton, NJ. She served as a Regional Captain for Kentucky Main Street, and was the chairperson of the South Jersey Main Street Coalition.

During her lifetime, Carola has not only managed and directed volunteers, but has been an active volunteer as well. She was involved in international Cultural Exchange for over twenty years serving as a Regional Director for International Cultural Exchange Services and hosted students from several different countries. She also served as chairperson of the Opelousas Tourism and Activities Committee, the Opelousas Historic District Commission, the Opelousas Film Commission, the Opelousas Museum and Interpretive Center, Le Vieux Village du Poste des Opelousas Historic Village and volunteered for many other community groups. She was a

member of the Nicholasville, KY Rotary Club and a member of the Bridgeton, NJ Rotary Club. She served on the Board of Directors for the New Sweden Colonial Farmstead in Bridgeton, NJ and the Cumberland County (New Jersey) Women's Hall of Fame. She has authored several articles for the magazine published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Main Street Center in Washington, DC.

Carola, who was born in Opelousas and grew up in Breaux Bridge, lived in several other communities including Bridgeton, site of the largest historic district in New Jersey, and one of the largest historic districts in the United States. She and her husband Tim have recently moved to Dubach in north Louisiana. Carola has one son, André Andrepont, who resides in Opelousas with his wife Angelic Lafleur Andrepont and their daughter, Jillian Leigh.

A book signing for the two new publications is set for Thursday, January 15th in Opelousas. The event will be held from 3PM to 6PM at Bodemuller's, the Printer, the publishing company, located at 123 South Main Street in downtown Opelousas. For additional information contact Bodemuller's at 337-942-5712, 337-234-5002 or email carolahartley@aol.com. Visit the website www.opelousastales.com for more information and interesting facts about "**Opelousas FIRSTS**" and "**Opelousas TALES**".

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