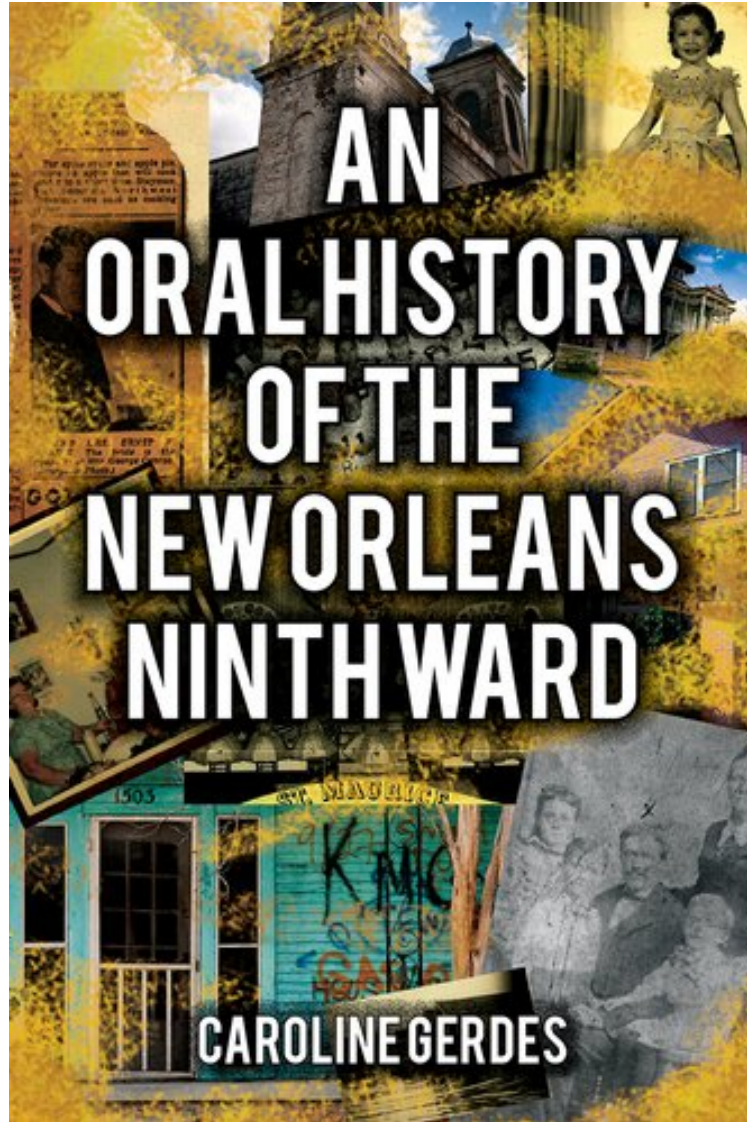


(Mobile book) Oral History of the New Orleans Ninth Ward, An

# Oral History of the New Orleans Ninth Ward, An

Caroline Gerdes

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**Caroline Gerdes : Oral History of the New Orleans Ninth Ward, An** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oral History of the New Orleans Ninth Ward, An:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting oral history of a great placeBy Kindle CustomerEvieCaroline Gerdes' book is very interesting and informative. I lived in the Lower Ninth Ward most of my life with my parents and after I married. It was a great place to grow up. After Katrina, it was so changed and a lonely place. All of your neighbors were gone and the houses were unliveable. But my good memories are mine and they will

be mine until I die. I really appreciate Carolina's interest in our part of New Orleans. Her interviews are informative and show what it was like to live there. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. heartfelt tribute By ACA heartfelt tribute to the immigrant and assimilating families of the ninth ward in 1920's onward. Lots of anecdotes from people who lived there as children. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The stories within contain joy, sadness By Sam Butler Caroline really captures the people of New Orleans in her touching and heartfelt book. The stories within contain joy, sadness, laughter and a perspective of the ninth ward that is compelling and interesting.

Steeped in musical influence, racial dynamics, and culinary significance, the Ninth Ward has distinguished itself as one of New Orleans most influential communities. Extensively researched and carefully recorded, this new oral record features unique interviews with generations of residents. Each source honestly evaluates discrimination, neighbors, poverty, and faith, delivering heartfelt and often harrowing insight into what it means to be from the Ninth Ward. Each chapter chronicles one of the metaphorical and actual storms the area has weathered and is seamlessly woven into a comprehensive record by people who know the Ninth Ward best. A specialist in Ninth Ward history and a New Orleans native, Caroline Gerdes is a freelance journalist who frequently publishes in the Huffington Post and other national platforms. The Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA) and the New Orleans Times-Picayune have interviewed her as a regional oral historian, and she is also a Womens Media Center SheSource expert. Gerdes received a grant from the National Geographic Society to preserve the history of the Ninth Ward through an oral history project, which she has now adapted into this book.

From the Inside Flap Caroline Gerdes beloved Gammie, Yvonne Gerdes, was born in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans and raised her children there. As Gammie's memory failed, then-college student Caroline decided to preserve both her grandmothers stories and the recollections of others in the neighborhoods of the Ninth Ward. Her goal was to document the oral histories while the areas oldest members were still with us. She sought to capture the historic community that started as a cluster of immigrant boroughs, navigated immigration, and weathered Hurricane Katrina. What began as a research project funded by a grant became a labor of love and a fascinating look at the evolution of a neighborhood through the eyes of its vanishing population. Gerdes narrators all lived in the Ninth Ward between 1920 and 1960. Gerdes, along with photographer Robert Giglio, met with each of them to record their priceless tales. Her narrators personal remembrances are grounded by research from noted New Orleans ethnographer and geographer Richard Campanella, who provides invaluable insight into the rich history and ethnic diversity of the area. His research into census statistics revealed a rich mix of Irish, Isleos, African American, Jewish, Cajun, Spanish, Basque, Croatian, and Swiss heritage, with the majority being German, French, and Sicilian. The stories of this pastoral urban neighborhood, with backyard chickens and nostalgia, were sometimes harsh, graphic, and startling, sometimes funny or heart-wrenching, but always revealing. These glimpses into the community help us embrace the spirit of the New Orleans Ninth Ward. Caroline Gerdes was born in New Orleans and raised just across Lake Pontchartrain in Mandeville. Gerdes started her journalism career while still a student at Mandeville High School. During her senior year, she interned as a reporter at the St. Tammany News and saw her first front-page byline at age seventeen. A graduate of Louisiana State University, Gerdes has a personal connection to the Ninth Ward as her father and paternal grandparents grew up there. Gerdes writing can be seen in the Baton Rouge Advocate, Country Roads Magazine, 225 magazine, and on HelloGiggles, Bustle, National Geographic online, Pop City, and the Huffington Post. She worked with the NASA Academy in Washington, DC as a freelance videographer, attended the Columbia University Oral History Summer Institute, and is a frequent guest speaker on recording oral histories. She lives with her husband, Robert Giglio, in Seattle, Washington. From the Back Cover A thought-provoking ride through the rich history of this neighborhood from the flooding of 1927 to Hurricane Betsy, white flight, Hurricane Katrina, and present-day hipster gentrification. Caroline Gerdes captures the spirit and significance of the Ninth Ward through the voices of many generations. Dr. Caroline Heldman, cofounder of the Lower Ninth Ward Living Museum Ever since Katrina, people the world over media, experts, advocates, newcomers have had their say about the Lower 9. In this volume, Caroline Gerdes turns the mic over to the residents themselves. An Oral History of the New Orleans Ninth Ward presents how local folks remember their past, in their own words a valuable contribution to the historical documentation of this city. Prof. Richard Campanella, geographer and author Steeped in musical influence, racial dynamics, and culinary significance, the Ninth Ward has distinguished itself as one of New Orleans most influential communities. Unique, multi-generational interviews, extensively researched and carefully recorded, preserve the experiences of former and current residents as well as the vibrant history of the district. Each narrator honestly evaluates discrimination, neighbors, poverty, and faith, delivering heartfelt and often harrowing insight into what it means to be from the Ninth Ward. Included is an interview with one of the members of the McDonogh Three, who desegregated a Ninth Ward school on the same day as Ruby Bridges famously integrated the New Orleans school system. Chapters chronicle the metaphorical and actual storms the area has weathered and are seamlessly woven into a comprehensive record by people who know the Ninth Ward best. As a freelance journalist, Caroline Gerdes frequently publishes in national platforms. Gerdes received a grant from the National Geographic Society to preserve the history of the Ninth Ward

through an oral history project, which she adapted into this book. About the Author A New Orleans native, Caroline Gerdes is a freelance journalist who has been published in the Huffington Post, Bustle.com, and HelloGiggles.com. She has contributed as an oral historian to the NASA Academy and is a Womens Media Center SheSource expert. Gerdes received a grant from the National Geographic Society to preserve the history of the Ninth Ward through an oral history project, which she has now adapted into this book. She lives outside of New Orleans with her husband.