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They Called Us River Rats: The Last Batture Settlement of New Orleans

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these waters may be within just one hundred feet of a shark.” However, he goes on to assure us through his research that “attacks on humans are extremely rare” (cover).

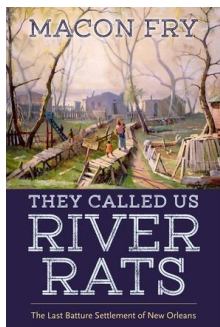
Add to the assurance that shark attacks on humans are rare, Creswell gives evidence that sharks “keep our oceans clean” and “bring balance to our oceans.” His chapters hold tremendous advice and factual assistance to help us understand these ocean creatures. He says “all sharks, regardless of size should be admired, appreciated and respected for their beauty, for their survivability, for the important role that they play in the world” (p.3).

Chapters cover particular research related to shark attacks, causes of death in coastal waters of the Carolinas, and specific Carolina shark attacks from 1817-2019.

Recommended for public libraries, marine libraries, and science collections.

Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS

They Called Us River Rats: The Last Batture Settlement of New Orleans



Macon Fry
Jackson: University Press of
Mississippi, 2021
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232 p. \$25.00 (Hbk)

There has always been an allure to living on water in a sailboat, a yacht, a ship, a homemade raft, or a pleasure cruiser. The adventures of living on water is real to Macon Fry as he shares his fascinating experiences living on the Batture Settlement of New Orleans in *They Called Us River Rats: The Last Batture Settlement of New Orleans*.

Fry’s boyhood summers of the ‘60s were spent in a cabin on the Rappahannock, a tidal stream off the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. Fry says, “the Rappahannock taught me that rivers are places where days are long and punctuated by the rhythm of waves and storms...Riverbanks and mud flats were places to find and catch things and sometimes eat them...” (p.xii). His fascination with the outdoors and rivers grew into a love he

held within himself.

Fry explains when he chose to look for a place to begin his life after college he discovered the Batture settlement of New Orleans. A thin line of land between the Mississippi River and New Orleans was home to “river rats” that Fry joined and became immersed in the ways of those people who braved the elements of the water and the weather to make a life.

Fry’s writings and story-telling are fascinating reading. There are many photographs of the houses on stilts, other “river rats” and their families, camp housing of varied structures, drawings of the Camps (assigned spaces for dwellings) along the Batture and facing the Mississippi. Fry draws upon his years of writing, to compile the stories of his experiences as well as his interviews with dwellers in the Batture—fortune tellers, faith healers, and wild bird trappers. *They Called Us River Rats* is delightful reading and recommended for school, academic, public, and science libraries.

Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS

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