

*About the Author*

Mary Culver began writing short stories and poetry as a child, and continued on during high school, adding newspaper articles on a variety of subjects, first as a contributing reporter, then as the editor of the school paper.

Her intention, on entering Bryn Mawr College was to enroll in a major in English emphasizing creative writing, but she drifted into Russian Language and Literature, and Political Science, getting a degree in the combined major at the University of Michigan. She continued on, getting an M.A. in Russian Studies and Political Science, and took the equivalent of another degree in Journalism.

In 1956 she married Professor Andrei A. Lobanov-Rostovsky, then Chairman of the Russian Studies Program at Michigan, and continued on with her work in Journalism, and Russian Studies, with the idea of writing articles jointly with her husband on Russian affairs, and possibly writing a book together.

With the birth of their two children, she put aside her academic career, although she continued to write, especially children's stories, poetry and an as yet unpublished historical novel set in the Middle Ages.

In 1969 she married Captain William R. Culver, and gained three more stepchildren, daughters of her husband. They moved to Louisiana, and Mary continued her teaching and her education, getting a M.Ed. from Tulane University in education and psychology.

Her teaching career spans the period from 1954-2005, and includes teaching both on the college level and the high school level, and in such subjects as Russian language, Russian history, American Government, World History, Contemporary Issues, and Psychology.

Upon retiring in the spring of 2005, after more than fifty years of teaching, she has returned to her first love - writing, and is presently



completing a series of historical novels dealing with a French Creole family in the period from the 1840's thru the 1890's. Hurricane Katrina led her to want to commemorate New Orleans, and assist in its recovery, so her historical novels are entitled "Before the Storm," "Caught in the Storm," "End of the Storm, and the Journey Home," "Recovery," and "Prodigal from Marengo." Her intent was to compare the impact of the Civil War on a family to that of Katrina, and to dedicate the series to New Orleans now, and its recovery. A first historical romance, preceding the historical series, is this book, "Matters of the Heart - A Creole Love Story." For readers who wish to follow the characters introduced in this book, their stories do continue on in the additional books of the series.

In addition to her writing, Mary is a devotee of Siamese cats, having shared her home with many over the years. She is also a lover of classical music, ornithology, and is an avid reader.