

Carmen Goldthwaite Author Bios

Short form:

Carmen Goldthwaite, career journalist and syndicated investigative reporter, turned those skills into a spade to unearth stories of Texas women ranchers, lives and tales little known or long forgotten. She's written their stories in *Texas Ranch Women: Three Centuries of Mettle and Moxie* and *Texas Dames: Sassy and Savvy Women Throughout Lone Star History*.

She's a popular speaker to Women's Clubs and Texas Daughters of the Texas Revolution, Foundations and Libraries and Archives. She also serves as a Director of SMU DeGolyer Library's Archives of Women of the Southwest and as Writer-in-Residence, TCU Schieffer School/Community Journalism.

Long form:

"I wanted to write, to be a newspaper woman since I read a story of one as a nine-year-old at the Alice, TX public library. Before that, before learning to read, I loved the smell of ink when the daily paper came. Fortune smiled and I got to be a news woman and smell the ink and hear the pounding of the presses (in the old days). Now, I get to continue finding the stories that are little told or long forgotten."

Carmen Goldthwaite, once an investigative reporter for Scripps Howard News, turned those "digging" skills into the fertile fields of Texas

women's research. Fifteen years later, two books rolled out of the publisher's warehouse: first, *Texas Dames: Sassy and Savvy Women throughout Lone Star History* and then *Texas Ranch Women: Three Centuries of Mettle and Moxie*. Both are from The History Press of Charleston. Her earlier investigative reporting led to Texas statewide awards and syndication with Scripps-Howard News and as a correspondent for The New York Times, topping off a 20-year newspaper career.

The Texas women books plus her own history as a "7th generation Texan" contribute to Carmen's popularity as a speaker to Women's Clubs, Daughters of the Republic of Texas chapters, Foundations, libraries and archives.

Now she's again turned to research, writing to tell a story based on early family tales from her mother. This high sea adventure – from Marseilles to Charleston – recounts the danger and survival of children coming to America as orphans. In the case of Catherine Marie DeSpain in the historical novel *Whispering Spirits*, a family saga, as Huguenots. This novel, waiting to be published, has won "finalist" designation in two national contests.

Carmen also has won national awards in short fiction for "Summer's Kiln," a modern cowboy story and "Into the Sun," a post VietNam tale. A couple of personal essays, "Night Bull" and "Burgers and Butterflies," appeared in *Chicken Soup of the Soul: Miracles Happen* and *Chicken Soup of the Soul: The Magic of Mothers and Daughters*.

Other publishing credits include *Wild West*, *True West*, *American Cowboy*, *Fort Worth Texas Magazine*, *Persimmon Hill*, and *Latitudes & Attitudes* magazines. And, she written numerous “how to write” pieces for *Writers Guide 2010, 2011 and 2013* editions and has been published in *The Way West* (Fulcrum) and *Wild Women of the Old West* (Tor) anthologies.

Balancing the need of solitude for research and writing with social contact that’s a must, Carmen teaches creative writing in her Fort Worth Writing Circles. Formerly she taught at both TCU, her alma mater, and SMU. Honored by them, she has served as a director and past vice president of Archives of Women of the Southwest at SMU DeGolyer Library; Writer-in-Residence, TCU Schieffer School/Community Journalism, and former director, Friends of the Fort Worth.