



Student Name:  
Class Period:  
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## Meet the Originals

*Texas Originals* is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on Jane McManus Storm Cazneau. Then, answer questions about it.

### Jane McManus Storm Cazneau 1807–1878

Writer and promoter Jane Cazneau helped shape Texas and American history in the mid-nineteenth century.

Cazneau was born in New York in 1807. Working as a journalist in the 1840s and 50s, she campaigned tirelessly for Texas independence. Her columns in periodicals such as the *New York Sun* helped sway public opinion in support of Texas statehood—and America’s “manifest destiny” more generally. Cazneau’s campaign was hardly selfless. She speculated in Texas land and, in 1834, even explored the possibility of settling her family in Stephen F. Austin’s colony.

In 1850, she and her husband moved to Eagle Pass to open a trade depot and explore mining opportunities along the border. She later wrote a memoir recounting her experiences. Of Texas, she wrote, “There is no country under the sun in which a sober, sensible, and industrious man can more certainly realise a quick independence and a delightful home.”

During the Mexican War, Cazneau became an unofficial diplomat when President James K. Polk sent her on a secret peace mission to Mexico City. She became the only American journalist to issue dispatches from behind enemy lines.

In later years, Cazneau lived mostly in the Dominican Republic, where she continued to promote American expansion. She passed away in 1878. One historian has since remembered her as “perhaps the most unusual and mysterious woman” in nineteenth-century America.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Jane McManus Storm Cazneau. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Jane McManus Storm Cazneau shape Texas’s history?
2. What role did Cazneau play during the Mexican-American War?

**Going Further:** Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Creating Connections.** What is manifest destiny? How does Cazneau’s writing support this idea?