



Student Name:
Class Period:
Date:

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 Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge. Then, answer questions about it.

Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge 1824–1913

Born in New England in 1824, Sarah Ann Hardinge was an unlikely chronicler of Texas history. A woman with no formal art education, she nonetheless produced an important visual record of the state in the 1850s.

Hardinge and her husband arrived in Texas in 1852, hoping to sell land she had inherited from her brother. As they traveled, staying in hotels or with people they met, Hardinge created meticulous watercolors of her surroundings.

Her works feature faithfully reproduced buildings, such as San Antonio's San Fernando Cathedral and Mission Concepción, while her landscapes are more impressionistic. Trees, rivers, and terrain are rendered with a sense of perspective that suggests the vast scale of Texas—the scope of its land and the openness of its atmosphere. Hardinge also documents the Texas frontier economy. Livestock dot the fields while enslaved laborers are shown working the land.

Hardinge and her family returned to Boston in 1856, having failed to obtain any wealth from her brother's land holdings. When she divorced her husband in 1865, Hardinge turned to her artistic accomplishments with new urgency. She patented a process for tinting and enhancing photographs and supported her family on its sales.

Hardinge died in New Jersey in 1913. Her paintings are now preserved at Fort Worth's Amon Carter Museum of American Art.

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Why did Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge travel to Texas with her husband?
2. What types of things did Hardinge capture in her art work?

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.** Compare the way that a painter and a writer are able to capture the same scene. What is different and what is the same?