



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 Betty Eve Ballinger. Then, answer questions about it.

Betty Eve Ballinger 1854–1936

Betty Eve Ballinger was born in Galveston in 1854, nearly twenty years after the Texas Revolution. As a young woman, she was captivated by stories of the struggles of Texas patriots. Her grandfather, William Houston Jack, fought at the Battle of San Jacinto.

After studying in New Orleans and Baltimore, Ballinger returned to Galveston, where she and her cousin Hally Bryan Perry cultivated their interest in Texas history. They decided to form a genealogical organization to preserve the memories of those who fought for the republic. The two recruited other women and, in 1891, formed the organization now known as the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Today, the DRT continues its mission of preserving historic sites, providing educational programs, and encouraging historical research. Due to the efforts of Ballinger and the DRT, statues of Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston stand in both the Texas and United States Capitols.

Ballinger was also active in a number of progressive reform organizations, especially following the 1900 Galveston hurricane. With groups such as the Women's Health Protective Association and the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs, she advocated for environmental protection, public health, fair labor practices, and woman suffrage.

As Betty Ballinger preserved the Texas past, she also shaped its future. She died in 1936—the centennial of the Battle of San Jacinto.

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Betty Eve Ballinger. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What organization did Betty Eve Ballinger help to found?
2. Ballinger advocated for a number of progressive reforms. Name three of them.

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. **Taking a Position.** Ballinger worked to preserve Texas historic sites. If you learned that an older building that you thought was important was at risk, what would you do to protect it?