



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 Clara Driscoll. Then, answer questions about it.

Clara Driscoll 1881–1945

“Remember the Alamo” was the rallying cry of the Texians fighting in the 1836 Battle of San Jacinto.

It is often forgotten that by 1903, the Alamo’s neglected convent and courtyard were nearly torn down and replaced by a hotel. The state government, having already purchased the mission’s church, refused to pay for the rest of the grounds—even though they were the scene of much of the 1836 battle.

At that point, twenty-two-year-old Clara Driscoll, whose grandfather had fought in the battle of San Jacinto, stepped forward with her own money to thwart the hotel developers. She collaborated with the San Antonio chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas under the leadership of Adina de Zavala to protect the mission. For her generosity, Driscoll is known as the “Savior of the Alamo.”

Driscoll was born in 1881, the only daughter of Corpus Christi millionaire Robert Driscoll. Educated in Europe, Clara understood the importance of preserving historical sites. “By the care of our eloquent but voiceless monuments,” she wrote, “we are preparing a noble inspiration for our future.”

Driscoll is also remembered for the beautiful Laguna Gloria villa she and her husband built on the Colorado River in Austin. This mansion and its grounds became the original home of the Austin Museum of Art. But it is Driscoll’s rescue of the Alamo, “the shrine of Texas Independence and glory,” as she described it, that is best remembered. When Driscoll died in 1945, her body lay in state at the mission’s chapel, in recognition of her work to preserve it.

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

1. What was Clara Driscoll’s connection to the Texas Revolution?
2. What experience showed Driscoll the importance of preserving historical sites?

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. **Making Inferences.** What is a shrine and why would Driscoll consider the Alamo “the shrine of Texas Independence and glory”?