



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 Jane Y. McCallum. Then, answer questions about it.

Jane Y. McCallum 1877–1957

On June 28, 1919, Jane McCallum wrote in her diary, "Somehow I felt too thankful to be jubilant. We have a great responsibility and I pray God we may meet it squarely and successfully."

The responsibility McCallum referred to was the right to vote—a right American women finally won in 1920 with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. As a leader of Texas women's fight for suffrage, McCallum always met her civic responsibilities "squarely and successfully."

Born in 1877 in LaVernia, Texas, McCallum moved to Austin in 1903 when her husband became school superintendent. In 1915, she was elected president of the Austin Woman Suffrage Association. As she campaigned for women's voting rights, McCallum faced heated criticism. Undaunted, she gave speeches, wrote newspaper columns, and lobbied legislators—all while running a busy, active household.

After women's right to vote had been secured, McCallum took on new responsibilities. She helped the Texas League of Women Voters fight for education, health care, and child labor laws. She was executive secretary of the Women's Joint Legislative Council, a powerful group sometimes known as the "Petticoat Lobby." She also served as Texas Secretary of State under two different governors.

McCallum died in 1957 and is remembered for her lifelong dedication to giving women a voice in the political process, and making sure that voice was heard.

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

1. In what year did American women gain the right to vote?
2. What methods did Jane McCallum use to convince legislators to vote in favor of the Nineteenth Amendment?

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.** If you were promoting a cause like McCallum, which of her techniques would you be most likely to use?