

Thomas Hardy

About the Writer

- Born 1840 in Higher Bockhampton, Dorset
- Father was a builder and stonemason
- Two sisters
- Mother could not read or write
- No compulsory schooling in 1840's
- Many rural children grew up illiterate



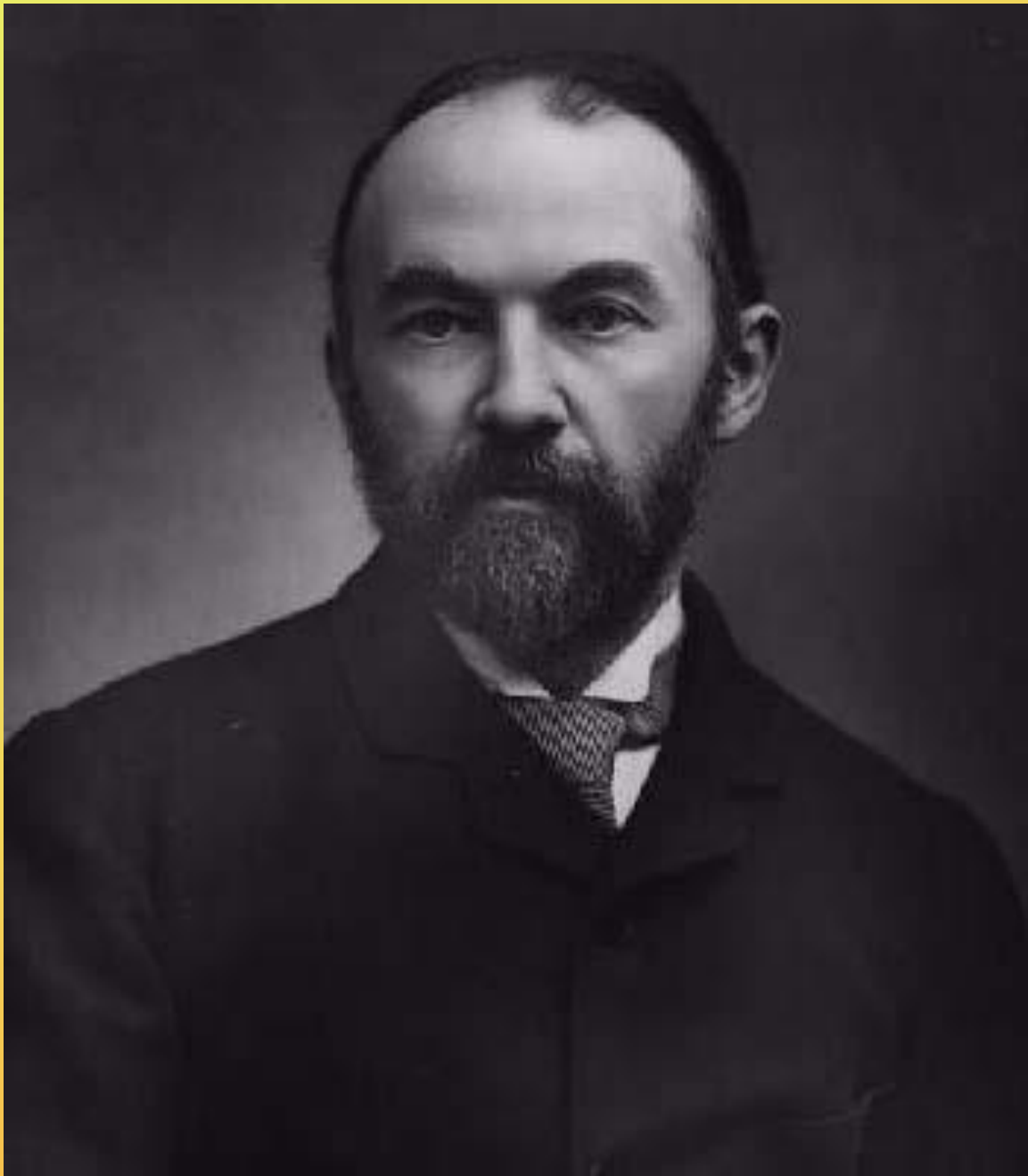
- Mother determined that he should have an education
- Aged 9, attended a church funded school in Dorchester
- Shy & quiet at school
- Mother insisted he read widely at home

- Left school at 16
- Began career as an architect
- Trained with Dorchester firm
- Moved to London 1862
- Learned about church restoration
- Taught himself Latin and Greek before work every morning
- Started to write novels in his spare time
- First novel published 1871





- Returned to Dorchester 1867 to work on church design & restoration
- Married Emma, who he had met in Cornwall, 1874
- Lived in Dorset & London for ten years
- Novel 'Far from the Madding Crowd' published as a serial, became a bestseller



- 1885 moved back to Dorset permanently
- Designed his own house
- 1887 onwards wrote stories based on Dorset life
- Writing made him rich and famous
- 1912 Emma died
- Hardy's later novels were too modern and shocking for Victorian readers







- Wrote poetry mainly about Emma, members of his family and country life
- Awarded Order of Merit for services to literature
- 1913 published final collection of short stories
- 1914 married Florence Dugdale

- Died 1928, aged 88
- Buried in Westminster Abbey
- His heart buried in Emma's grave in Dorset, near the place he was born