

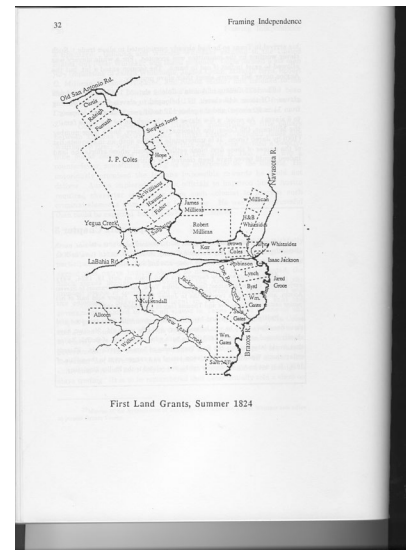
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James Lynch, The Old Three Hundred



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In telling the stories of the settlers among the First 300 who were recruited by Stephen F. Austin to colonize the area now called Washington County, we find a young farmer, James Lynch. Lynch came to Texas with his wife, Anna and their young son. His settlement was between Andrew Robinson and Micajah Byrd on the Brazos River. Coming to Texas as an entrepreneur to acquire free land offered in the colonization plan of 640 acres for the head of the household, 320 for the wife and 100 for the child, Lynch shared in the community development by participating in the committees to build roads and in jury duty to protect his family and community from thieves and marauders.

Mary Ann Moore in her publication, Framing Independence, tells of James being a part of a six man jury formed by John P. Coles for the trial of Peter Whitaker, accused of stealing hogs and horses. Whitaker, his stepfather and brother were convicted and banished from the Colony for their deeds. Their stock was taken and distributed to the injured parties.



On April 20, 1824, Lynch was listed as one who voted for the Baron de Bastrop as colonial deputy to the state convention of Coahuila and Texas. That same year on July 16, he received title to a sitio in what is now Washington County. The census of March 1826 listed him as a farmer and stock raiser, aged between sixteen and twenty-five.

In 1830, the Mexican government decreed that a network of roads be built to allow all forts to be accessible by roads. Lynch's name appeared on a committee list to build a road between San Felipe and Joel Lakey's home on Caney Creek. This road was part of the network leading to Fort Tenoxtitlan. Lakey's place was also connected to the La Bahia Crossing leading to Goliad.

Following the establishment of the district of Brazos by the legislature of Coahuila and Texas in 1834, the citizens of Washington-on-the-Brazos petitioned their chief at San Felipe de Austin to grant the community municipal status. Lynch's name was on the list of petitioners. The petition was approved and the first election was held on July 18. Lynch ran for sindico

procurador but lost to A.C. Reynolds. Eight months later, that municipality would be the site of the declaration of independence from the Mexican government.

James Lynch must have died in 1836 or 1837 as a commissioner was appointed in 1837 to partition the land belonging to the heirs of James Lynch.*

*Information taken from [Handbook of Texas Online](#) and [Framing Independence](#), Mary Ann Moore.