



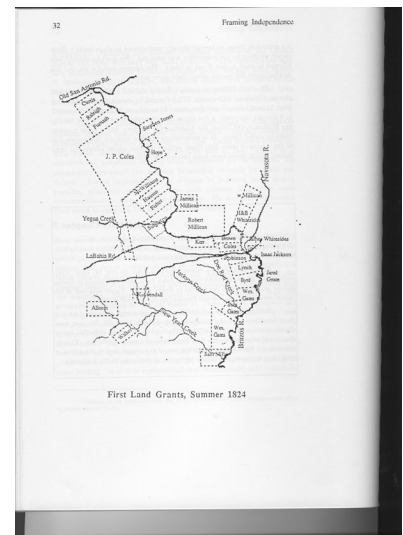
## Andrew Robinson (The Old Three Hundred)

Andrew Robinson may well have been the very first of Austin's colony to cross the Brazos River and camp near the La Bahia Crossing. This area was to become the town of Washington-on-the-Brazos. Andrew claimed to have seen the cliffs before, when he traveled to San Antonio in 1812 as a part of the Magee Guitierrez Expedition. This time he brought his family; his wife Nancy, a son, Andrew Robinson, Jr., a daughter, Patsy, and two slaves. He planned to stay in one place despite his earlier tendencies to roam the rivers and creeks, then, expand the glory of it all in a tavern where he found willing listeners.<sup>1</sup>

On July 8, 1824, Robinson received title to two sitios and a labor of land that is now part of Brazoria, Washington, and Waller counties. The census of 1826 listed him as a farmer and stock raiser aged over fifty. Though Robinson may not have been dedicated to farming, he was astute and careful to fulfill the law stipulating that the land was to be cultivated within two years of the date of the title or run the risk of being forfeited. To assist him with this requirement it seems he may have obtained the help of his son-in-law John W. Hall for on May 20, 1831, Robinson gave the Halls a section of land with the requirement that they care for him in his old age.<sup>2</sup>

According to facts researched by Mary Ann Moore and recorded in her publication, Framing Independence, a letter to Stephen F. Austin from John Gaines illustrates the problem of collecting debts on the frontier. Apparently, when Robinson crossed the Sabine River at Gaines Ferry in traveling to Texas in 1821, Gaines supplied him with ammunition for protection and for hunting, for which he was indebted. In 1824 Gaines traveled to the Brazos River to collect on his long overdue bill. He felt he was receiving a run-around from Robinson, Hall and John P. Coles and even complained to Austin in a letter.<sup>3</sup>

Nevertheless, Andrew Robinson was active in politics and shared in the responsibilities of governing thrust upon those living on the frontier. Along with his neighbors, Lynch, Byrd and others, he signed a petition to appoint the Baron De Bastrop as deputy from Austin's Colony to



<sup>1</sup> Moore, Mary Ann, *Framing Independence*, Self-published, p. 7

<sup>2</sup> "Robinson, Andrew," *Handbook of Texas Online*, Texas State Historical Association

<sup>3</sup> Moore, Op. Cit. p. 38

the Mexican legislature in 1824. He held an election on January 1, 1825 in his home where John P. Coles was reappointed alcalde to the Brazos District as it was renamed Bravo District. In July 1830 his house was a polling place for the election of state officials. By 1830 he had completed a ferry at the La Bahia Crossing and built a hotel. He and Hall later built a saloon. In 1833 Robinson and "Jack" Hall sold the first lot for a residence to John Wesley Kenney. <sup>4</sup>

The time of his death is unknown but in October 1833, William Barrett Travis declined the administration of a Robinson estate, apparently that of Andrew Robinson. The Robinson who marched with Travis against the Mexican garrison at Anahuac in 1835 was probably his son, Andrew Robinson, Jr. <sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Moore, *Ibid.*, p. 39, p.107

<sup>5</sup> "Robinson, Andrew," *Op. Cit.*