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TORREY, JAMES NASH (1821-1843). James Nash **Torrey**, son of Jacob N. and Laura (Kilburn) **Torrey**, was born in Ashford, Connecticut, on January 3, 1821, and came to Texas at the age of twenty to join his **brothers** John F., David K., and Thomas S. **Torrey**.^{qv} The next year he volunteered for what later became known as the Mier expedition.^{qv} When **Torrey** was mustered into Capt. William Ryan's company of volunteers as a private on October 17, 1842, he furnished his own horse and equipment. He was a part of Gen. Alexander Somervell's^{qv} command that left San Antonio in mid-November 1842 bent on a retaliatory raid against Mexico. After they were captured, escaped, and were captured again, the Texans drew lots in what became known as the Black Bean Episode^{qv} to see who would die. **Torrey** drew one of the black beans. Claiming that he had fought for the glory of his country and that he was willing to die for her glory, he turned to a Mexican officer and said, "After the battle of San Jacinto my family took one of your prisoner youths, raised and educated him, and this is our requital." **Torrey** and the other chosen prisoners were executed at dusk on March 25, 1843. During the Mexican War,^{qv} Gen. Walter P. Lane^{qv} returned the remains of **Torrey** and sixteen other executed Texans to La Grange, Fayette County, where they were interred with honor and ceremony on Monument Hill. James **Torrey** left no will, but in 1850 John F. **Torrey** received about \$600 of pay due to his deceased **brother** for service on the Mier expedition, and in 1852 he petitioned Theodore Koester, Comal County Judge, for the government lands due James for his military service.

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Henry C. Armbruster

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