



# The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch

By Chris Barton

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*A unique biography of a remarkable Reconstruction figure*

John Roy Lynch spent most of his childhood as a slave in Mississippi, but all of that changed with the Emancipation Proclamation. Suddenly people like John Roy could have paying jobs and attend school. While many people in the South were unhappy with the social change, John Roy thrived in the new era. He was appointed to serve as justice of the peace and was eventually elected into the United States Congress.

This biography, with its informative backmatter and splendid illustrations, gives readers an in-depth look at the Reconstruction period through the life of one of the first African-American congressmen.

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## **The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch By Chris Barton Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

Gr 2–5—In this inspiring picture book biography, Barton recounts how John Roy Lynch went from teenage slave to state representative in just 10 years during Reconstruction. The author describes how Lynch was born to an Irish father and an enslaved mother, making him "half Irish and all slave." Lynch learned to read and write and developed into an eloquent speaker, eventually becoming a justice of the peace and being elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives. The vocabulary-rich text may be difficult for younger students, but Tate's illustrations, rendered in mixed media, ink, and gouache on watercolor paper, are extraordinary and carry the lengthy story well. The excellent cartoon-style paintings soften potentially disturbing details, such as the Ku Klux Klan burning a church. The book concludes with a thorough historical note. VERDICT Teachers will find this remarkable story of hope and perseverance a valuable supplement to social studies lessons on the Civil War and Black History Month.—Jennifer Simmons, Anderson County Library, SC

Review

**CCBC Choices** 2016

### ***Publishers Weekly* (STARRED review)**

"Barton offers an immersive, engaging, and unflinching portrait of the difficulties of the Reconstruction era, while Tate's cartoonlike artwork softens moments of cruelty and prejudice without diminishing them."

### ***Kirkus Reviews***

"Published while the United States has its first African-American president, this story of John Roy Lynch, the first African-American speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives, lays bare the long and arduous path black Americans have walked to obtain equality. The title's first three words—'The Amazing Age'—emphasize how many more freedoms African-Americans had during Reconstruction than for decades afterward. . . . A picture book worth reading about a historical figure worth remembering."

### ***Children's Literature***

"This beautiful biography should be in every library frequented by young readers and introduced to them by parents and teachers who will also be amazed by the time and the man introduced to them in these pages."

### ***Mississippi Library Commission***

"A great introduction to some hard subjects — slavery and Reconstruction — for upper elementary and middle school readers. . . . Highly recommended."

### ***Reading While White*(blog)**

"I can't recall when I've seen a book for children that is so deliberate about calling out racism for what it is. And [Chris Barton] does it with such clear, simple language, making this complex period in history accessible to young readers, just as Don Tate's clear stylized illustrations do. Even though the illustrations use a cartoon style, there are no happy, smiling slaves here. What we see instead is the pain and suffering they endured and later, the look of pride and determination on the face of John Roy Lynch, a free man. . . . Chris Barton's book can serve as a model for White authors who choose to write about African American history for children."

## ***Washington Parent***

“Chris Barton has penned another fascinating picture-book biography. . . . With its timeline and engaging mixed-media illustrations by Don Tate, this book helps to fill the big gap for books about the Reconstruction Era.”

### About the Author

Chris Barton won a Sibert Honor in 2010 for his first book, *The Day-Glo Brothers* (Charlesbridge Publishing). He also wrote *Shark vs. Train*, which garnered numerous awards and was a New York Times bestseller. He currently lives in Texas. Visit his website at [www.chrisbarton.info](http://www.chrisbarton.info).

Don Tate has illustrated numerous critically acclaimed books for children. In 2013, he earned an Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Honor Award for his book *It Jes' Happened: When Bill Traylor Started to Draw* (Lee & Low Books). Visit his website at [www.dontate.com](http://www.dontate.com).

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Eugene Obrien:**

This *The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch* are reliable for you who want to be described as a successful person, why. The reason why of this *The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch* can be on the list of great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple examining food but feed you actually with information that possibly will shock your before knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions in e-book and printed versions. Beside that this *The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch* forcing you to have an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you tryout of critical thinking that could it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

#### **Chad Brown:**

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#### **Joshua Stamper:**

*The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch* can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to get every word into joy arrangement in writing *The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch*

yet doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can drawn you into new stage of crucial pondering.

**Cleora Yarbrow:**

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