

## LEE COUNTY FACTS

- The State of Texas has 254 Counties.
- The County we live in is Lee County and was created in 1874.
- Lee County was named for Confederate General Robert Edward Lee who was stationed in Texas when the southern states began seceding in 1861.
- Giddings is the County Seat and was named after J.D. Giddings, a member of the Somervell Expedition and the lawyer who established Brenham's first bank and built the Washington County Railroad.
- The original Lee County Courthouse was built in 1878 and burned in 1897.
- The second Lee County Courthouse was completed in 1899 and continues to be a functioning Courthouse to date. It cost \$32,270 to build.
- The Courthouse is shaped like a cross running North to South and was fashioned in the Richardsonian Romanesque style by J.R. Gordon, an architect from San Antonio, Texas.
- The Lee County Courthouse is one of the few buildings that has a Rotunda. Our Rotunda is the opening in the center of the building that begins in the basement and continues all the way up to the bell tower. The Capital Building also has a Rotunda.
- During the early years of the twentieth century, the courthouse remained the center of community focus. The bandstand provided a forum for public speakers and a band. The sidewalk was used by kids to roller skate and people often attended court for entertainment. The Courthouse was also where people went to file deeds and vote.
- In 1920 a weight from the Courthouse Clock fell through the roof and stairway into the basement.
- The bell tower is the highest point in Lee County. From the bell tower you can view the whole city.