



Lee County Historical
Markers
Compiled by
John Evans Booth



Marker # 13130
Adina Cemetery
CR 309, FM 696

Adina Cemetery Following his service in the Civil War, Alabama native R.L. Cain came to Texas and settled in this area. In 1867, he deeded five acres to Lee County for a cemetery for this area, known then as Cain School Community. The settlement's name changed to Adina when its post office was established, and the cemetery became known as the Adina Community Cemetery. Predating Cain's deed for the cemetery, the earliest known burials here are the unmarked grave of an infant, the child of a family camping in the area, and that of Martha Cane Slaughter, who died in 1871. In 2001, six burials from the Medavid and Craddock families, originally located in nearby Craddock Cemetery, in Bastrop County, were reinterred here next to members of their extended families. The graves include that of William B. Craddock, one of many victims of the violence that plagued the area in the 1870s and 1880s. Maintained and operated by the Adina Cemetery Association, the graveyard includes burials of veterans of the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. The headstones in the well-shaded burial ground tell the stories of the early residents of Adina and surrounding communities. Historic Texas Cemetery - 2002



Marker # 12024

Site of Bethany Lutheran Church and School

1 mi. E of Giddings on US 290; 2.5 mi. S on CR 226 (James Turman Rd.) .5 mi. W on CR 224; 3 mi. S on CR 225 - Bethany Cemetery
Lee County

Established as a German-English mission church in 1895 by the Rev. G. W. Buschacher, Bethany Lutheran Church called the Rev. H. P. Grief as first pastor. Teacher Ernest Lubner managed the Bethany School. In 1902 the mission board withdrew support for Bethany. The congregation was served by full-time pastors from 1914 to 1925, after which vicars conducted the school and services; formal rites were performed by visiting pastors. In 1964 the mission at Greens Creek was razed. Records went to an area museum and the church bell to Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Littlefield. The Bethany Cemetery is all that remains. (1997)



Marker 8141
Bethel Union Baptist Church
887 W. Hempstead St., Giddings

The La Grange Baptist District Association of Texas was organized in 1874. That same year, land was purchased in Giddings for a church that had recently been organized in a private home. A church building was soon erected, located south of the courthouse in a section of town known as The Flat. At the first service held in the new church, a name was adopted, Willow Grove Baptist Church. Also at that service, the Rev. I. Tolliver was named minister. Some years later, another church located in The Flat, St. Paul Chapel, and the Willow Grove Baptist Church merged to form one congregation. The church moved to its present site, at the corner of West Dallas and Hempstead streets. Following the union of the two congregations, the name was changed to Bethel Union Baptist Church. The official organization date of the church is 1886. The church continued to serve its community for a number of years. Eventually, part of the congregation left to form another congregation. Additional property was added to the church in 1911, 1940, 1942, and 1943. Five former pastors of Bethel Union Baptist Church have served as moderators of the La Grange Baptist District Association. Texas Sesquicentennial 1836 - 1986



Marker # 8169
William Preston (Bill) Longley
Giddings Cemetery
Giddings

(October 6, 1851 - October 11, 1878) Texas outlaw Bill Longley was from a respectable family, but his hot temper, his fondness for liquor, and unsettled conditions during Reconstruction led him to become one of the most daring gunslingers of his day. He was said to have killed 32 persons before his capture in 1877. Tried for a Lee County murder, he was hanged in Giddings in 1878. Before Longley died, he repented and urged others to avoid his example. His grave was once outside the cemetery bounds.



Marker # 8152
City of Giddings
Main and E. Richmond St., Giddings

County seat of Lee County. Named for Jabez D. Giddings (1814-78), of Washington County, one of four brothers from Pennsylvania who were Texas transportation pioneers and business leaders. The town was established as a shipping point when Houston & Texas Central Railroad (in which J. D. Giddings was a stockholder) reached here in 1871. A second and third railroad (San Antonio & Aransas Pass, 1889, and Hearne & Brazos Valley, 1913) increased city's prestige. Commission form government was adopted in 1913. A diversified economy developed.

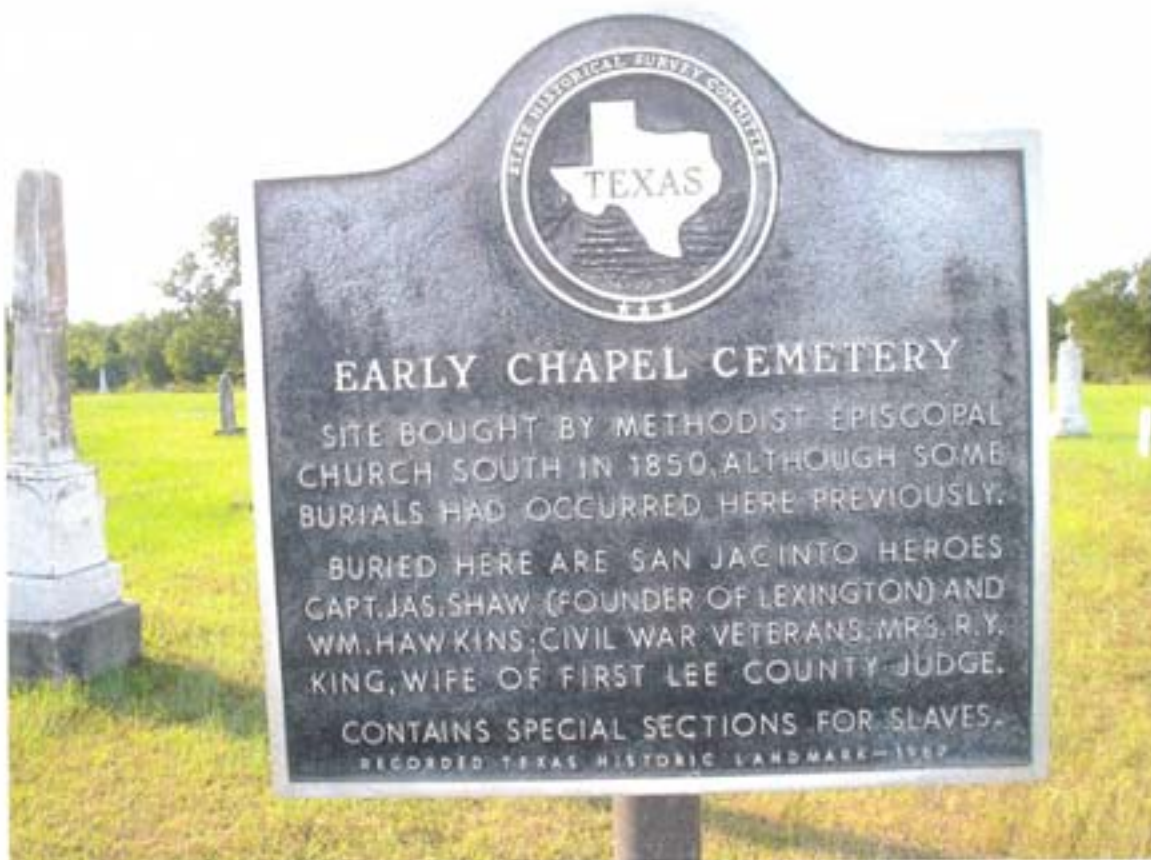


Marker # 8164
County named for Robert E. Lee
Courthouse lawn, Giddings

(Star and Wreath) County named for beloved Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Led army of Northern Virginia which included famed Hood's Texas Brigade. He said about them "I never ordered that brigade to hold a position that they did not hold it." "The enemy never sees the backs of my Texans." In the Battle of the Wilderness the Texans, seeing Lee set to lead the charge and fearing for his safety, halted, shouting, "General Lee to the rear," until he complied. Lee once declined furloughs for the Texans for he needed their services. He considered them his best shock troops. About Lee's surrender a Texan said, "I'd rather have died than surrendered; but if Marse Bob thinks that is best...Marse Bob is bound to be right as usual." COLONEL ROBERT E LEE IN TEXAS 1857-1861 Robert E. Lee spent 25 months on the Texas frontier, proving and seasoning grounds for great army leaders in the impending Civil War. With the 2nd U. S. Cavalry at Camp Cooper, he led a 1,600-mile scouting expedition into Indian country. He commanded the 2nd, first at San Antonio - leading the attempt to capture Mexican bandit Juan Cortina - next at Fort Mason. Lee learned how to adapt himself and his men to outdoor life and adverse conditions he later faced on battlefields. Knowledge of the ways of his fellow officers who later held high ranks in both armies...

Marker # 8142
Dime Box
Dime Box

Founded 1913. Name derived from the practice of leaving dimes in community mailbox on Old San Antonio Road in return for items from Giddings. Nation's first town to contribute one hundred per cent to "March of Dimes" program, 1945. Official national program opening held here in 1946.



Marker # 8144

Early Chapel Cemetery

3.5 mi. east of Lexington on FM 696, then south on dirt road about .2 mile

Site bought by Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1850, although some burials had occurred here previously. Buried here are San Jacinto heroes Capt. Jas. Shaw (founder of Lexington) and Wm. Hawkins; Civil War veterans; Mrs. R. Y. King, wife of first Lee County judge. Contains special section for slaves. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1967



Marker # 8159

King's Highway - El Camino Real - Old San Antonio Road
in roadside picnic area by West Yegua Creek bridge; 1.5 mi. east of FM 1624 / SH 21

First opened by Louis de St. Denis, 1715; route from Mexico to Louisiana. This location
within sight of famous "Old Evergreen Tree."



Marker # 8147
First Baptist Church of Lexington
Third and Burns St.

The Rev. E. E. Lee of the nearby Prospect Church inspired Elders John Claybaugh, J. W. D. Creath, D. Fisher, and J. G. Thomas, with nine charter members, to organize this church in Jan. 1855. The original building was erected later that year. The Rev. J. G. Thomas was the first pastor. Sunday School was founded in 1866. Prospect Church disbanded in 1949, and members joined the Lexington Church, which has built five successive houses of worship, has belonged to five regional Baptist associations, and has been served by twenty-nine pastors.



Marker # 8146
First Baptist Church
Across from the Lee County Courthouse
Main St., Giddings

Founded 1872. In 1873 had 16 members, with J. Budd as pastor. First building (1881) was west of present site. Pastors serving 10 to 15 years in church's century of growth to 300 members: Q. T. Simpson, W. W. Burr, Peter DeYoung, H. L. McLerran, J. W. Tripp. Present pastor is evangelist John Karcher. (1972)



Marker # 8148

First Methodist Church
297 E. Monroe St. at S. Williams, Giddings

Founded 1871 with 24 charter members; first congregation to be organized in community, before platting of town in 1872. The Rev. William C. Lewis was first pastor. Early trustees included W. H. Cherry, Thomas Cox, R. D. McClellan, P. H. Merchant, John W. Moore, S. R. Mullen, H. Petway, W. A. Rector, W. B. Seay, T. G. B. Willard. Lay delegate to 1902-03 annual conferences was B. J. Fletcher. First church building was erected in 1879. Originally part of a circuit, Giddings in 1938 became a station charge. Present sanctuary was built in 1957.



Marker # 8149

W. Austin (US 290) and Main St., Giddings

Lee County's oldest banking institution. An agent for progress in this area. Founded 1891 at merger of P. M. Cuney & Co., private bank, with First National Bank of Elgin (founded in 1890 by 30 merchants and ranchers). The officers were Dr. J.A. Fields, president; Cuney, E. J. Archinard, I. J. Fariss, J. L.



Marker # 8150
First Presbyterian Church
Grimes and Hempstead St., Giddings

Founded 1876, with thirteen charter members, under the direction of Rev. H. B. Burr and Rev. R. H. Byers. Edifice designed and built in 1886 by the ruling elder, Frank Morris. Annex constructed in 1952. Oldest church building in Giddings in continuous use. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1967



Marker # 8151
Fletcher House
171 Hempstead at Grimes St., Giddings

Built by August W. Schubert, 1879. Bought 1894 by Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, to house a ministerial college, which closed prior to 1900. Sold to Baylis J. Fletcher, Lee County treasurer and legislator. Presently owned by the Fletcher family. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1966



Marker # 12025

Gloyna School

3 mi. E of Lincoln on SH 21, then .2 mi. E on CR 440

Established as Hannes School No. 43 in 1893 when F. Soder deeded two acres to school trustees, the Gloyna School was renamed in 1900 when Christian Gloyna bought the surrounding land. The facility became Gloyna Common School District No. 17 in 1909, and encompassed almost 10,000 acres within its boundaries. The one-room school also was used for community religious activities. Twenty-four students attended class regularly by 1911. A larger building replaced the original structure in 1923. Enrollment dropped in the late 1940s. Gloyna School was annexed by the Dime Box School District in 1950. The 50 years of service provided to this German community by Gloyna School is a reminder of the vital role of rural education in Texas' past. (1999)



Marker # 8155
Hawkins, William W.
in Early Chapel Cemetery, 3.5 mi. east of Lexington on FM 696 .2 miles to the south on
dirt road (in far NW section, 3 markers from fence)

(Star and Wreath) Soldier at San Jacinto, 1836. Texas Ranger, Republic of Texas.



Marker # 8163
Helen Knox
Giddings Cemetery
Giddings

(1885-1959) Historian-financier. One of the few women given athletic letters (in tennis) at the University of Texas. Born in Giddings, daughter of bank president W. A. Knox, she became (1927) manager of women's accounts, Chase National Bank, New York. Known for her writings on banking, she was chairman of finance in restoration of home of Gen. Robert E. Lee; she belonged to Colonial Dames and D. A. R., and was president (1944-46), National Association of Bank Women.



Marker # 8172
Henry Prentice Redford
Giddings Cemetery
Giddings

(May 27, 1819 - February 27, 1900) Born Derry, N. H.; came to Texas, 1831. Joined army, 1835. Fought at Battle of Gonzales, 1835; Siege of Bexar, 1835; San Jacinto, 1836 (all in Texas Revolution). Fought in Indian wars: wounded at Battle of Plum Creek in 1840. In Battle of Salado Creek, 1842. In Mexican War he joined 1st Texas Cavalry, 1846-47. Fought at both Resaca de la Palma and the Siege of Monterrey. Married (first) Sarah Card and (second) Julia Kersting.



Marker # 8156

Holy Cross Cemetery

7 mi. SE of Giddings on FM 448, then 2 mi. east on CR 214

Lee County

At former site of Holy Cross Church, founded here in Rabb's Creek area in 1873. Opened at the death of Pastor Johann Zapf (1873), the cemetery has 53 graves. Parish sold church site, retained cemetery; built a new church near Warda (2.25 mi. S) in Fayette County, in 1882.



Marker # 8157
Indian Camp Branch
in roadside picnic area on US 77 just south of Lexington

Located along an old buffalo trail, this creek was once fed by a spring and was a favorite camping place for Indian hunting parties. It was named Indian Camp Branch by James Shaw (1808-1879), a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto (April 21, 1836), to honor the hospitality of a band of friendly Tonkawa Indians he encountered near this site in 1837. Shaw built a cabin in this area and was soon joined by other Anglo-American settlers. A teacher, surveyor, and postmaster, Shaw also served as a senator and representative in Congresses of the Republic and state of Texas.



Marker # 8154

James Goucher

4 mi. S. Giddings off FM 448 on CR 217 cross fence at walkover
Lee County

In this grave rest James Goucher and five members of his family murdered by Indians November 26, 1836. With the true pioneering spirit he had opened the first road from San Felipe to the settlements on the Colorado known for many years as "Goucher's Trace."

Marker # 8158



King's Highway - El Camino Real - Old San Antonio Road
at bridge - Yegua Creek - Lee / Burleson counties; down in ditch on south side of SH 21
by the bridge

First opened by Louis de St. Denis, 1715; route from Mexico to Louisiana.



Marker # 8165

Lee County

on US 290 2.5 mi. west of Giddings in roadside picnic area

Located on Old San Antonio Road, on land surveyed in 1821 as part of the original colony of Moses and Stephen F. Austin. In 1854 became site of major settlement by Wend from northern Europe, led by Pastor Johann Kilian. Had only school in U. S. that taught in Wendish-- language surviving only here and in Australia, in the modern world. County was created from Bastrop, Burleson, Fayette and Washington. Organized in 1874, it was named for Robert E. Lee (1807-1870), general of the Army of Northern Virginia, in the southern Confederacy, 1862-1865. Giddings is the county seat.



Marker # 8166
Lee County Courthouse
Main St., Giddings

Designed by J. R. Gordon along lines similar to New York State Capitol and several buildings at Harvard University. Classified as Richardsonian Romanesque style, after the famous Louisiana-born architect Henry H. Richardson. Built by Sonnefield, Emmins and Abright of San Antonio, 1899. Replaced first courthouse, which burned 1897. Located on crest of divide separating the Colorado and Brazos River basins.



Marker # 12026
Lexington Memorial Cemetery
CR 410, .25 mi. E of US 77, Lexington

A Methodist Episcopal church, locally known as the German Methodist Church, was organized in Lexington in 1882. The church purchased two acres of land for a cemetery in November 1898. The first recorded burials on this site were those of two-year-old Reinhold Retzlaff and four-year-old Gustav Hillegeist in the spring of 1899. Also interred here are Civil War veterans Bernhard Retzlaff (who fought for both the Union and the Confederacy), Jacob Seifert, and Gustav Urbantke, who served as a lay minister for forty years. Others buried here include members of the Bauer, Grusendorf, Hillegeist, Hornung, Letterman, Otto, Peterson, Raesener, and Raschke families. All were charter members of the church. (1999)



Marker # 8168

Lexington Schools

in front of old elementary school and now the new high school building

First local school session was held in 1849 in log home of Capt. James Shaw (1808-79), founder of Lexington, then in Burleson (since 1874 in Lee) County. Andrew Neill Lodge No. 138, A. F. & A. M., to which Shaw and other patrons belonged, joined with newly-formed School District No. 9 in 1854 to build a 2-story schoolhouse-lodge hall a mile south of town. In 1860 the school became Lexington Male and Female Academy, using same hall. A frame schoolhouse (1892) and one of brick (1910) antedated the present plant that was begun in 1936 with high school building. Incise in base: Sponsors: 8th Grade Class of 1970-71



Marker # 8153
Leon and Hempstead St., Giddings

Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1865, this Masonic Lodge had its beginnings in the community of Evergreen (about 5 mi. N). Relocated to the new town of Giddings in 1872 after the railroad bypassed Evergreen, the lodge has played an important part in the civic life of its adopted city. Over the years, lodge facilities have been shared with the public schools, as well as with a number of community organizations and governmental agencies. A new lodge hall was built at this site in 1969-70. The lodge continues to be an active part of the community.



Marker # 8180
Milton Garrett York
Courthouse lawn, Giddings

Was born in East Texas (San Augustine County) on Sept. 5, 1843. After the death of his parents, Aaron and Ruth (Lucas) York, he went to live with an uncle in Arkansas. Milton returned to Texas about 1860 and briefly taught school in the Evergreen community, in what is now Lee County. After serving in the Confederate army from 1861 to 1865, M. G. York returned to this area and married Matilda Heck. They settled on land along the Brenham-Austin Trace and lived there until they moved to Giddings about 1880. As a member of the J. G. Giddings Masonic Lodge, York was a strong supporter of education for the children of the area. After Lee County was created in 1874 out of portions of Bastrop, Burleson, Washington, and Fayette counties, he was appointed to a commission, along with C. Perry, A. P. Gaines, Solomon Fehr, and O. G. Jones, to help organize the new county. He later was elected county commissioner of Precinct 1. York's interest in public affairs continued with his election to the Texas House of Representatives in 1890. He represented Lee and Burleson counties during his two-year term. Upon his death in 1911, M. G. York was survived by his wife and six children. His role in early Lee County history is an important part of the area's heritage.



Marker # 8143

Old Dime Box

1.1 miles west of intersection of SH 21 and FM 141

Dime Box

County's second oldest community. Located in Texas founder Stephen F. Austin's "Old Three Hundred" colony. First known as Brown's Mills. Present name derived from practice of leaving dimes in box at Joseph S. Browne's Mill so that postman John W. Ratliff would bring items from Giddings to community members.



Marker # 8145

Old Evergreen Tree

.5 mi. south on FM 1624 from SH 21/FM 1624 intersection; half-way between SH 21 and US 77

Said to have sheltered in 1714 explorer Louis de St. Denis-- probably first white man ever here. Site of pioneer court trails in 1870s. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1967



Marker # 8160

Intersection of FM 2440 and SH 21

In roadside picnic area 4 miles from Bastrop/Lee County borders

King's Highway - El Camino Real - Old San Antonio Road

First opened by Louis de St. Denis, 1715, route from Mexico to Louisiana.

First opened by Louis de St. Denis, 1715; route from Mexico to Louisiana.



Marker # 8161

King's Highway - El Camino Real - Old San Antonio Road
at Lee / Bastrop County border on east side of SH 21 at Presidential Corridor Marker

First opened by Louis de St. Denis, 1715; route from Mexico to Louisiana.

Marker # 8162

King's Highway - El Camino Real - Old San Antonio Road

Centennial



Marker # 8170

McClellan, Robert Devlin, and Sarah Lewis Rainey McClellan
 Giddings Cemetery
 Giddings

First professional educators in Giddings, opening a private school in 1874. In 1883, start of Giddings public free schools saw the McClellans heading the first faculty. McClellan (January 19, 1837 - December 30, 1888), a noted mathematician, taught until his death; Mrs. McClellan (deceased February 2, 1914) remained at her post until 1895. Patterns they set still shape schools.

Marker # 8176

Serbin

6 mi. south of Giddings on FM 448, 1.5 mi. west on FM 2239 at CR 209



Trilingual (Wendish-German-English) community founded 1854 by 588 S\Wends under leadership of the Rev. John Kilian. The Rev. Kilian (evangelical Lutheran) named place Serbin because the Wends were descendants of Serbs. A thriving town 1865-1890; had grocery, dry goods, jewelry, drug and music stores; shops of wagon maker, blacksmith, saddler; post office, 3 doctors, 2 dentists. On Smithville-Houston oxcart road-- sending out cotton, other produce, and hauling in staples. Decline began about 1890 as railroads bypassed settlement by several miles.



Marker # 8178
Shorter Chapel, A. M. E. Church
613 W. Houston St. at Titus St.
Giddings

Organized in 1875, this was one of the first black churches in Giddings. The congregation was named for the Rev. James A. Shorter (1817-1887), ninth bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Rev. Anthony Anderson (1843-1922), one of the founders of Shorter Chapel, provided lumber for the first church building. That structure was destroyed by a storm in 1915. Members now worship in the third building erected at this site.



Marker # 8173

St. John Lutheran Church

1 mi. north of FM 1624 / SH 21 intersection

With the assistance of pastors from neighboring communities, a Lutheran congregation was organized to serve the Lincoln community in April 1886. The Rev. Th. Wolfram arrived in 1887 to serve as St. John's first resident pastor. Ministers in the early years also filled the role of teachers at the school located on the church grounds. An 1892 sanctuary constructed during the pastorate of the Rev. Louis Ernst served the congregation until it was damaged in a 1957 tornado. St. John Lutheran Church stands as an important part of the heritage of Lee County. Texas Sesquicentennial 1836 - 1986



Marker # 8174

St. Paul Baptist Church

Church has been torn down.

E. Hempstead at S. Navarro, Giddings

This congregation was organized in 1870 by ex-slaves Bob Bennett, James Collier, Andrew Jackson, Elijah Lewis, Alfred Williams, Steve Williams, Henry Wilson, and their families. They worshiped first in a residence provided by Alford Williams, then erected a sanctuary in an area known as "The Flat." One prominent early member was Matthew Gaines (1842-1900), a former slave who became a minister, state senator, and spokesman for civil rights. St. Paul Baptist Church moved to its present location in 1911. The congregation supports a variety of community service activities.



Marker # 8179

Trinity Lutheran Church

6.5 mi. north on FM 1624 from FM 1624 / SH 21 intersection; west on CR 309, .2 mi.

Since organization on March 11, 1870, the center of religious, educational and social life in Fedor community. First to sign constitution of congregation were A. Handrick, A. Symmank, C. Dube, P. Pahn, A. Suchy, A. Bleumel. First pastor was the Rev. Johann Pallmer. On original board of elders were G. Boback, A. Lehmann, G. Schroeder. Given 50 acres of land by Boback, church bought another acre for building site. Parochial school was opened by the Rev. John A. Proft, first resident pastor. Longest tenure (nearly half a century, 1876 to 1923) was by Pastor G. Birkmann.





Marker # 8171
 United Methodist Church of Lexington
 Rockdale (FM 696) and 2nd St.

The Lexington Methodist Episcopal Church, South, appears in the records of the East Texas Conference as early as 1850, with the Rev. Jefferson Shook assigned as pastor. Its history, however, can be traced through the histories of four other Lee County churches. The Liberty Methodist Episcopal Church, South, met west of Lexington, and the two congregations shared the same pastor. When the church disbanded in the 1930s, some of the members joined this congregation. Tanglewood Methodist Episcopal Church, South, served the Tanglewood community (5 mi. N) During the 1930s the congregation sold its land and church building and forwarded the proceeds to the Lexington Church, and the few remaining members came into this congregation. The Early Chapel congregation met in the northern part of the county as early as 1850. Members of the dwindling fellowship voted to move their memberships to the Lexington Church in 1927. The German Methodist Church in Lexington was founded in 1882 with the Rev. Jacob Ott as first pastor. In 1939 the two Lexington Methodist congregations merged. With its membership additions over the years, the United Methodist Church of Lexington has grown to provide significant service and leadership to the community.