

# Stevenson, James Porter (1808–1885)

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By: [Jeanette H. Flachmeier](#)

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**Stevenson, James Porter (1808–1885).** James Porter Stevenson, Methodist minister, son of Rev. [William Stevenson](#) and Polly (Campbell) Stevenson, was born in Smith County, Tennessee, on May 2, 1808. He lived with his family in Louisiana before he attended August College, Kentucky, during the presidency of [Martin Ruter](#). In 1830 or 1831 Stevenson was licensed a Methodist minister in Louisiana under his father as presiding elder. He was stationed at Natchitoches in 1833, when he was invited to come to Texas to preach, despite the Mexican laws prohibiting Protestant services. He held unmolested camp meetings in present Sabine and Milam counties. Refusing to organize a church in violation of the law, he did organize a religious society, which was led by Samuel McMahan and became the nucleus of [McMahan's Chapel](#), which was given permanent church organization by [Henry Stephenson](#). James P. Stevenson continued his missionary activities from Monroe, Louisiana, in 1834 and moved to East Texas in 1835. After the [Texas Revolution](#) he became a local preacher and farmer. He married Tabitha Cumi Roberts on June 21, 1836, and the couple had twelve children, eight of whom lived to adulthood. In later years he moved to Stephens County and died near Breckenridge on July 10, 1885. He was buried at the Breckenridge Cemetery.

