David L. Stephenson was born January 21, 1834 in Blount County, Alabama, a son of James and Nancy (Nations) Stephenson. During the early 1840’s the family lived for a time in Tennessee, then in 1846 came to Texas and resided for a number of years in Harrison County, but soon moved to (Old) Canton… later Omen… in Smith County, Texas.

He enlisted in the Confederate Army on March 22, 1862 at Tyler, Texas for a term of three years. He traveled eleven miles to the rendezvous. Stephenson served in Co. E, 14th Texas Infantry. His name appeared as “sick in camp” on a roll dated October 31, 1862. Nothing more is to be found in his compiled military service records.

When the 1880 census of Smith County, Texas was taken, he was listed as having a wife named Martha who was a native Texan and twenty-five years David’s junior. They had no children listed in the census. David died February 5, 1886 at the home of his sister, Mrs. Alexander H. Currie, in the Smithfield community. He lies buried at Smithfield.

An obituary appeared for Stephenson in the Texas Christian Advocate on June 17, 1886: “STEPHENSON — David L. Stephenson, the subject of this notice, a son of James and Nancy Stephenson, was born Jan. 21, 1834, in Blount county, Ala.; came to Texas with his parents about the year 1847, and in or about the year 1858 professed religion and joined the M. E. Church, South, at Ebel, on this — Starrville — circuit, where he lived a devoted member for near twenty-six years. I knew him well, and the whole of his Christian life. When I was class-leader I held class-meeting with him, when I was an exhorter I held meetings regularly at his church, when I was a local preacher I kept an appointment at his church, since I have been traveling I have been his pastor four years, so I think I knew him well. I have seen him happy, heard him shout aloud the praise of God, but he is gone. On the 5th of February, 1886, at his sister's, in Tarrant county, he passed away. The last words he uttered were: "I am going to heaven." May God bless his aged mother, brothers and sister, and help them meet him in heaven. C. H. Smith.”