Steven Burnett started fast. He converted at age 16 and was ordained a teacher, then an elder, and then a high priest before he turned 18. He was filled with the Holy Ghost and a desire to take the gospel to his relatives. He led his parents into the Church and was called to preach in January 1832 (D&C 75:35) and again in March by section 80.

Stephen and Eden Smith started their mission on July 15 and spent a few days together declaring the gospel in villages south of Kirtland, Ohio. Stephen also went east with success. He “was the first one that sounded the glad tidings of the everlasting gospel” in Dalton, New Hampshire. By 1838, Stephen felt completely disillusioned. He tried but failed to regain the Spirit. Finally, he “proclaimed all revelation lies” and left the Church. He said that the foundation of his faith failed and the entire structure fell in “a heap of ruins.” Joseph thought there was more to it. He thought that Stephen’s unwillingness to consecrate his life to the kingdom of God contributed to his unconversion.

---

2 Levi B. Wilder to the editor, February 15, 1835, in Messenger and Advocate 1:5 (February 1835): 75.
Three pages of Eden Smith’s journal, Church History Library, Salt Lake City, covering July 15-19, 1832, the days he and Stephen Burnett preached together in villages south of Kirtland, Ohio.
and we attended and preached and stole all night and till after breafast this morning. 

17 Went onto Randolph the 21st of 15 miles and saw man and told him we

Bisney and he in our by us to go to the house with him and he spent an hour more and we attended and preached.

18 We travelled on north two miles and talked with Presbyterian Priest and
told him concerning the Book of Mormon and concerning the Gospels of Jesus Christ and be able for proof for the Book of and we cited him to the Bible and be said he did not believe that and we told the situation he was in and what he must do left him and went on our way and went into
to thence. Like the drivers of 10 miles and
I rode all night 18 were too late to get across
and we was told that the possibility was
that we could get across at the after
night but we could not and I left broth
Stephen on Sunday the 19 and I traveled
14 miles to turnage and I rode all night with
Brother J. Fields 20 I traveled to Cheyenne
22 miles 3 Augt. 1832 Eden Smith
Farm, knowing to some of the
within I believe the remainder

Rev. 25 Augt. 1832

David P. Bransford

George Johnson