

Section 80

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.¹ Stephen also went east with success. He “was the first one that sounded the glad tidings of the everlasting gospel” in Dalton, New Hampshire.² 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.”³ 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.⁴

¹ Eden Smith, Journal, Church History Library, Salt Lake City. Stephen Burnett had earlier preached with Eden Smith's father John. See Lyndon Cook, *The Revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith* (Provo, Utah: Seventy's Mission Bookstore, 1981), 170, 314.

² Levi B. Wilder to the editor, February 15, 1835, in *Messenger and Advocate* 1:5 (February 1835): 75.

³ “[Letterbook 2](#),” p. 64, The Joseph Smith Papers, accessed July 7, 2020.

⁴ “[Elders’ Journal, August 1838](#),” p. 57, The Joseph Smith Papers, accessed July 7, 2020.

and Baptised one and labored thre
 the week 29th went to main and held
 meeting the distance of 44 miles Returnd home
 and labored as before
 10th August
 I at tended meting with the church
 and labored thre the week
 12 I went and met brother march at
 New portage ^{17 miles} and preached and the
 Returnd home and labored untill
 15th Brother Stephen Burnett and my
 self left Chipaway and traveled
 18 miles State Township and stode all
 night it rained very hard till
 in the afternoon and we started
 about 2 o'clock and went 2 miles
 to a lit the village Old Greentown
 and told the people our business
 and they gave out an appointment

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 Stodd
Allright and til after brefast this ~~was~~
morning ^{the} 17th Went onto Randolph the
Dis of 15 miles and saw a man and told him our
Business and he invited us to Gate the house
with him and he givout an A point ment
and we attended and preached
18th We travelted on north two miles and
Cald with A presbyterian Priest and
told him concerning the Book of monon
and concerning the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and he call for proof for the Book of
and we cited him to the Bible and he
said he did not Recieve 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 thors dike the distance of 10 miles and
 staid all night 18 we toide to get armisting
 and we was told that the Probability was
 that we could get armisting anthe after
 noon but we couldnot and I left broth
 Stephen on Sunday the 20 and I traveled
 14 miles to tarsag and staid all night with
 Brother J. Helton 20 I traveled to Chippewa
 18 miles ^{Chippewa} 21 Aug. 1832 Eden Smith

I am knowing to some of the
 within I believe the remainder

David Trampton

Rec^d 25 Aug. 1832-1832
 + approved

George Johnson