

# Ellis



HAIGHT CREEK STAKE | 2012



# TREK

*How Firm A Foundation*

## *Family Journal*

Marvin Ellis

Jolyn Ellis

Thomas Potter

Megan Gilchrist

Jason Wente

Nicole Carling

Adam Taylor

Jacob Burbank

Chloe Millburn

# Ellis Family



## Marvin & Jolyn

**Pioneers We Honored and Remembered on Trek:**

**Charlie Richins  
Jens Nielsen**

**Elsie Nielson**

### **To Our Family:**

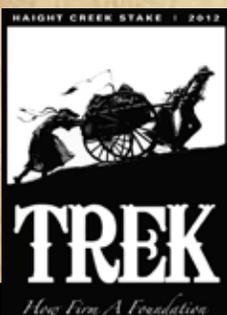
From Pa -

I am so grateful for the family that was given to us. Each one of them brought a dynamic and strength to our family that taught me important lessons. Jacob showed incredible strength and immense depth a soul can have. Thomas taught me to patiently and cheerfully endure pain without complaint and the differences in pizza. Jason taught me humility, tenderness and to enjoy God's creations. Adam the ability to involve others, be yourself no matter what others think and that cowboys still exist. Megan showed the power of hard work and determination can accomplish anything. Nicole was faith in action and her example of letting others server her. Her example helped me prepare for my role as Jens Nielson. Chloe taught me endurance and how to apply oneself to achieve what they want in life. I miss each of my trek children very much and wish it were possible to be involved in their lives beyond 4 days. They have forever changed me.

From Ma-

Hey cute family! I want you all to know how much I enjoyed being your Ma! I loved getting to know each of you and your fun personalities. I loved this whole experience; the sand, wind, toasted sandwiches, daily quotes and especially you and your testimonies! Each of you will forever hold a special place in my heart. I learned some amazing things from every one of you. I feel that by being your

trek ma, I will be a better mom to my kids. I hope that each of you will cherish the experience of trek and the time we had together. I hope that you will look upon trek and remember the individual thoughts and promptings that came to you. This experience has now become a part of your firm foundation.



# Ellis Family

## What We Learned on Trek:

From Pa -

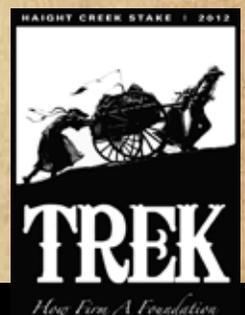
Trek taught me that the pioneers were real. Their miracles were real. There is no way any of them could have walked those 1300 miles without divine help. I love reading and listening about the miracles that occurred for those pioneers and I crave to know one day the stories that were not recorded. On trek I witnessed various miracles in the lives of our family and others. It helped me see that tender mercies happen regularly in our lives every day. Heavenly Father answered my prayers. There was divine help for Jolyn to pull me up Rocky Ridge. She received strength beyond her own to do that reenactment. I felt Jens spirit influence me with my small part. I felt his fatigue and weariness come over me as we descended that hill. I felt his anguish to sit and watch his wife save him.

From Ma - I learned that the stories of the pioneers are real! I now can visualize what it must have been like to walk the path to Zion. I am amazed at the courage and faith each one had to have had to walk 1300 miles. I am so grateful for their faith, devotion, and example. When we were in Martin's cove and Rock Creek Hollow and I looked around at the wilderness, I wondered if they felt scared and frightened. I know that they must have felt that way at times, but they kept going. I realized that they truly had no other choice but to keep going forward. This strengthened my resolve that when things are tough to not give up, but to keep moving forward one day, one step, one prayer at a time. I learned so many things from the re-enactment that Marv and I did that it is impossible to write them all down. I learned that I truly can do amazing things! Even pull my husband up a hill! I learned that the sacrifice in time, money, talents, etc. is SO worth the experience of trek! I will forever love the time I played pioneer!

## Our Testimonies:

From Pa -

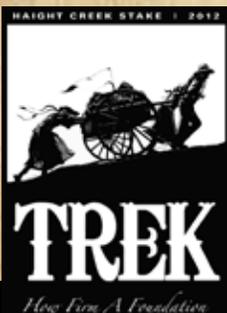
I have such a testimony of the plan of salvation. How this life and the next life are so interconnected. I am thankful for the powerful teaching opportunities this life gives us each day with the adversity and trials we face. How I face those trials teaches me immense lessons that shape me into the type of individuals I desire to become. Our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ care so much for us that it leaves me in wonderment. They hear my prayers and answer them. I cannot think of one prayer that they have not answered of mine. The answers don't always come when I want them or how I always expect them, but they come. I love to watch the hand of God move to bring about his purposes. I am so grateful we have a prophet that leads us today. I am grateful for our leaders who turn to God for direction and inspiration. I love living during an era where we can find answers to very difficult questions about this life and the eternities. I have a testimony of the power of love and how it can change lives. I love my Heavenly Father and I am grateful for how His love improves and heals me. I know the Priesthood of God is upon this earth again and miracles abound by the hands of worthy men and women. What a wonderful time to live.



# Ellis Family

From Ma-

I cherish my testimony. I am so grateful for the experiences in my life that has built my testimony into what it is. I know that this church and this gospel are truly Jesus Christ's church and gospel. I know that I am loved very much by our Heavenly Father. I know that He is aware of me and answers my prayers. He does not always come when I call, but He always comes on time. I know that I can receive direction and guidance through the Holy Ghost with everything in my life. I know that this trek experience has changed who I am. It strengthened me in ways that I am still learning!





## Jacob Burbank

**Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:**

**Jacob Bischoff**

### **To My Family:**

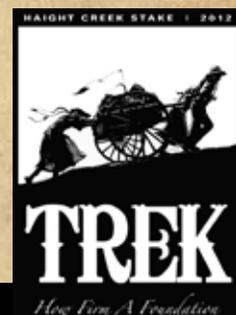
Words cannot do justice the gratitude I feel for being able to go on trek with all of you. For a couple of days, it felt like we really were a family. I still get excited every time I see one of you. Though our lives will all fork down different roads, it is comforting to know that as brother and sisters in God, we can all be in the reunion of our spiritual family together. Thank you for your love and support.

### **What I Learned on Trek:**

I learned that, in order to receive all the gifts of the spirit, you must subject yourself to God and his will and invite Christ to heal you and help you. You cannot make it through this life by yourself. You must learn to accept help and follow God's agenda. He knows the way, and his way is the best way.

### **My Testimony:**

I know that this church is true. I know that God loves me. I know that he speaks to man today, that he is not a dead deity of the past. I know that God has helped me through personal revelation, and that through revelation, he also leads his people through the voice of the prophet Thomas S. Monson. I know that by embracing the healing power of the atonement of Christ, we can receive the greatest happiness that can be attained.



# Ellis Family



## Thomas Potter

**Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:**

**Alowis Bauer**

**To My Family:**

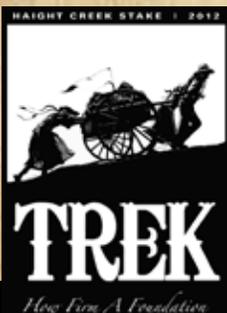
I am so grateful for you guys and for the hard and dedicated work you guys did for all of us. I know at some times it wasn't very easy... but I'm glad you guys were there to help throughout the hard times on the trek.

**What I Learned on Trek:**

I learned that even though a lot of people that really don't know each other that well can make a big impact on other peoples life's. And though times may be very hard you have good friends that can help you throughout pretty much anything.

**My Testimony:**

I know that trek is one of the most spiritual experiences. I know the book of mormon is a true book. I know Thomas S. Monson is a true and living prophet. I'm glad that heavenly father sent me here with a family that loves and cares for me.





## Megan Gilchrist

### **Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:**

**Ann Elizabeth Collier Jones**

### **To My Family:**

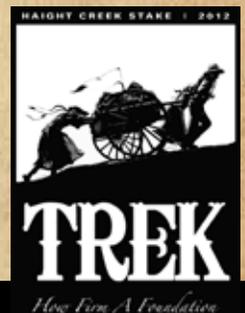
I've learned so much from my Ma and Pa. I'm so grateful that I was in their family, and I won't ever forget them. I'm so glad that I had the siblings that I did, and I want my entire family to know that I truly love them so much! Trek was an amazing experience but wouldn't have been the same without you.

### **What I Learned on Trek:**

I learned so much about the pioneers. I gained so much sympathy and a little bit of empathy for them. My perspective of their trials and hardships changed a lot, and I feel I better understand what they went through. I learned a lot about myself as I came to discover what I could accomplish.

### **My Testimony:**

I know that God loves all of his children. I know he knows me, and I know he loves me and wants me to be happy. I know that if I turn to Him for help or comfort, I will receive it. I know that this is the true church and that the Book of Mormon was translated by Joseph Smith, who is a prophet of God. I know that the trials we go through have a purpose and that if we rely on God, we can make it out of and learn from our challenges. I know that my purpose on earth is to make it back to my Father in Heaven.



# Ellis Family



## Jason Wente

**Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:**

**John Murray Murdoch**

**To My Family:**

All of you guys were great, and I felt lucky to be in such a great trek family. You were all nice and kind, helpful, and very friendly. I'm glad that I was put in a family with all of you, because I think that my experience on trek would have been different if I had been in a different family. Thank you all for being so amazing.

**What I Learned on Trek:**

On trek I learned that people can do amazing things. One of the things that I learned over and over was that with help from others and the spirit, anything is possible. Like when the girls pushed the carts up the hill at the woman's pull, or when our Ma was able to pull Pa up Rocky Ridge. It was incredible to be in such a place where the veil is so thin, and the spirit is so strong. I am glad that I had the opportunity to go on trek, and I hope that someday maybe I can go as a Pa.

**My Testimony:**

I have a testimony that this is the true church. I know that Joseph Smith was the first prophet of these latter days, and that by and through him this church was restored, with help from Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, and Prophets of old. I know that now, Thomas S. Monson is our current prophet, and that he receives revelation from God about things happening in this day and age. I know that the priesthood is real, that the Book of Mormon is a true book, and that the Bible is true, as long as it is translated correctly.



## Nicole Carling

### Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

**Lucy Ward**

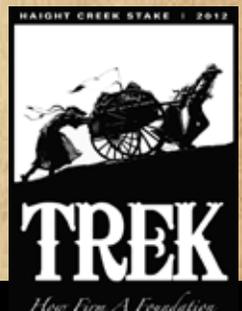
### To My Family:

I was blessed with the BEST Trek Family in the world! I couldn't have gotten better parents! Marv and Jolyn were so great. They were in for quite the week with me. I am a problem child without a doubt! With my MCL injury, asthma, and allergies, I was a lot to handle. Thankfully my Ma was a physical therapist and my Pa was just MARVELLIS (marvelous). They were so good to me! I was just one big service project and they did it well! I got so close to my Ma and Pa and I will stay close to them for the rest of my life! They are definitely like family. My Ma and Pa did

a reenactment on Rocky Ridge. That was the coolest experience. It was also really hard to watch! My Ma is so strong and I am so proud of her for doing that! I don't think I could've. I'm thankful for her amazing example. She's one of my idols for sure! My Pa was so caring. He helped me with everything and showed me so much love. I am so thankful for him and how he changed my life. I learned a lot about service from him. He's also hilarious and that helped on the trail! He's such an amazing man and I'm glad I got to know him! I just want my Ma and Pa to know how much they mean to me. Trek wouldn't have been the same without them. Thanks for everything you guys did. I love you both so much!

### What I Learned on Trek:

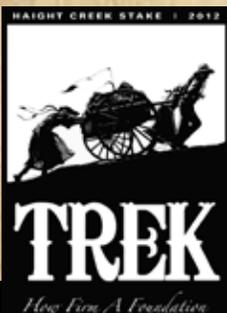
I learned so much on Trek! Service was such a big part of Trek for me. My family was so sweet to help me with everything I needed. They showed me so much love and support. It really touched my heart. I can't thank them enough. I also learned a lot about my own strength. I can't believe I made it through Trek. I had all the reasons in the world to break down and quit but somehow I did it! I know that I couldn't have done it without the Lord. One experience that really helped me see my own strength was the Women's Pull. That was a hard and emotional experience. I wouldn't take it back for anything. I still can't believe I was able to make it up with my knee. The pain was unforgettable but so was the experience. It was something I could not miss out on. I know I was blessed physically and spiritually after that experience. My knee is doing so much better and I am so spiritually strong! I am thankful for the Women's Pull. It really put things in perspective. I love the girls in my family and I'm so proud we got through that!



# Ellis Family

## My Testimony:

Trek really strengthened my testimony. I was very humbled as well! I'm so thankful for the pioneers and their examples of strength and faith. I know that the Lord blessed them because of their obedience and faith in the Lord. I'm so blessed to have been raised in the church. I know that the church is true and that we can return to heaven if we choose the right and strive to be better. Trek really helped me realize how much I truly have. I am so blessed and I have learned to not take that for granted. I love my Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. I'm thankful for Joseph Smith and all of the prophets after him.





## Adam Taylor

**Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:**

**Joseph Egbert**

**To My Family:**

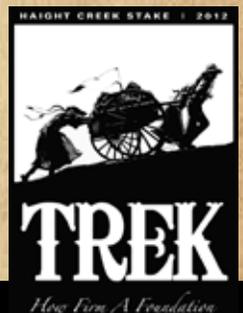
Ma and pa, thank you so much for everything you did for me! I cannot even express how amazing and wonderful you guys are and I want you to know how happy I am that I could have had you guys as my parents on Trek!

**What I Learned on Trek:**

I learned a lot of things on my Trek Experience, but the main thing I learned was how hard and how much effort it would have taken my ancestors. I am so grateful for all of my ancestors. They did so much for me and went through so much just for the gospel, just on faith.

**My Testimony:**

I know that Jesus Christ is my savior and the atonement is very true! I know that my father in heaven loves me and that he truly is the creator of everything. I know that all the prophets are true prophets and that there is life after death.



# Ellis Family



## Chloe Millburn

### Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

**Myron Nathen Crandall**

### To My Family:

I am so grateful that I went on trek. I know that I was meant to be in this family because I wouldn't have had the same experience if I wouldn't have been blessed with my family. My testimony was mostly strengthened by learning from other family members. I know that god put me in this family. Thank you Ma and Pa for the great time and the wonderful lessons, they helped me in many ways.

### What I Learned on Trek:

I learned so many things on trek, I will try to keep this short. I learned that there is a reason for everything, god knows how things are going to end and he knows exactly what we need to go through. So that we can be who he meant us to be. (I don't even know if that makes sense) The biggest thing I learned is that I need to start leaning on god. Sometimes I like to think that I don't need to do all of the things god has asked us to do because I am a "good enough" person or I am doing "ok" without the gospel. I need to start remembering that I don't know best and I have to trust and put faith in god because he already knows I can do anything. He gives his toughest battles to his strongest soldiers.

### My Testimony:

Well I think part of it is up there with what I learned. I will admit, It is kind of hard for me to do testimonials because I don't ever feel like I have one. But I know I felt something on trek and so that is what I will share right now. God works in ways we can't begin to understand, through our greatest trials we can come back better than before. He sees every trial the same way and he cares even about the little things. He is always there even at our all time lows. All he expects from us is our best effort. And his love is unconditional.

