

# Jenson



HAIGHT CREEK STAKE | 2012



# TREK

*How Firm A Foundation*

## *Family Journal*

Dave Jenson

Laurie Jenson

Rachel Putnum

Rey Eads

Chritian Kamalu

Adam Berry

Abbey Thaxton

Brianna Linford

Derick Gwynn

# Jenson Family



## Dave & Laurie

### Pioneers We Honored and Remembered on Trek:

**James Iverson  
Asenath Duncan**

#### To Our Family:

From Pa:

I could not have asked for better young men and women to join in our Trek family. We had an instant bond. Our Stake Leaders were definitely inspired in placing us together. Each member of our family brought unique talents, experience, and personality to our family. You were an inspiration to me. How happy you were to be there. How helpful you were. How good and righteous you were. How strong you were on the trail.

Thank you so much for making our Trek such a wonderful experience.

From Ma:

To my amazing Trek children: I express my deepest gratitude to all of you for making this Trek experience one of the most wonderful, spiritual experience of my life! Pa and I were extremely blessed to have each one of you as part of our family. The friendships and bonds that were made instantly on the bus that morning was an answer to our prayers. Because of this closeness that I felt from each of you, it made my job as your Ma a privilege, and because of this closeness and friendship that was developed between us as a family, that allowed the Spirit to be with us through the whole Trek experience. I learned so much from you! THANK-YOU beyond words!!!!

# Jenson Family

#### What We Learned on Trek:

From Pa:

I was humbled and in awe of many things on Trek.

In awe of how the pioneers could do such a hard thing – We merely had a very small taste of their experience.

In awe of how they could bury their loved ones and move on – even on the same day.

In awe of how they could just keep going. Not knowing where their next meal would come from or if the rescuers would even find them.

In awe of the wonderful and powerful spirit I felt all along the trail. Martin's Cove, Rocky Ridge, Rock Creek Hollow – all felt like the Celestial Room in the Temple (even with the nonstop wind and dust blowing).

In awe of the spirits that I felt were with me at different times on the Trek. My mom (who passed away in January). My dad (who passed away seven years ago). My Granddaughter Lily (who passed away last October). James Iverson, the ancestor that I walked for. Although I never have known him, I felt his spirit at many times along the trail and can't wait to meet him one day.

In awe of what a wonderful wife I have been blessed with. In awe of what a wonderful family I have been blessed with.

In awe of the many blessings I have been given in my life.

From Ma:

I was honored to be able to witness the youth in this setting. I learned of their goodness, their strength, their willingness and ability to do hard things, their lack of complaining, their excited, happy attitudes, their kindness to one another and willingness to help one another, and their reverence in the sacred places where we were. I learned that many of the youth are facing their own Rocky Ridges in a storm, but that they are strong, and have faith like the pioneers, and I have no doubt they will rely on this faith to see them through the storms of life. I learned that with the help and encouragement of family, and also the help of our Savior, we can do all things. I learned a much greater appreciation for what our ancestors went through, and the faith that they had.

# Jenson Family

## Our Testimonies:

From Pa:

I know the Church is true. That Jesus Christ is my Savior. That Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God and that the Book of Mormon is the Word of God. I know that the Pioneers were real people that did real and miraculous things with the help of our Savior. Trek was a marvelous blessing and testimony builder for me. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

From Ma:

I am so thankful for the opportunity to have had this experience. It has truly been a life changing experience. The spiritual feelings that I had for four days were a confirmation to me of my Savior's love for me. I long to have that "spiritual high" constantly in my life now. I know that he was with the pioneers, and I know that he is with me as I face the storms in my life. I know that when I try to do things on my own, I am weak and fall short of what I need to be doing in my life. I am thankful for the strength and peace I receive when faced with the storms of life. I know that my Savior lives and loves me and that he does not leave me without help or comfort in times of need, if I rely on him through prayer and through reading the scriptures. I love the gospel and the guidance it gives me in my life. I am so thankful for all the tender mercies that have been given to me throughout my life. I know this church is true and I am so thankful for the knowledge the gospel gives me that families are forever!

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

# Jenson Family



## Brianna Linford

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

**Mary Abigail White Savage**

### **To My Family:**

Dear Ma, Pa, and Family,  
You were absolutely an answer to my prayers leading up to Trek. I was touched by each of your testimonies and I learned so much from each of you. Pa, I am so grateful that I was blessed with a hard-working pa like you. Thank you for your positive attitude, your jokes, and your powerful testimony.

With you leading the family, I always felt that we were all safe and in good hands. Ma, thank you for your sweet spirit and perseverance. Your encouragement and your testimony were inspiring. You were both a blessing to me and I know that you were meant to be my Ma and Pa on this Trek.

Rachel and Abbey, I don't know what I would have done without your smiling faces. Thank you for your sweet spirits. I am so happy that I got to know both of you. You were both certainly meant to be my Trek sisters. I learned so much from you and I have missed you every day since Trek. Rachel, I can't believe I didn't know what a fantastic second-cousin I had before now. You are one of the smartest girls I know and I am so grateful for your fun personality that made me feel like I was really part of a family. Abbey, I am so grateful for your contagious enthusiasm—it kept me positive when I was tired or feeling negative. You are so funny and loveable. You are both so strong and righteous and I feel very blessed to know you.

Adam, Rey, Derrick, and Christian—You guys are amazing. I am so grateful for a group of hard-working brothers like you. You all made me smile everyday with your humor and songs. Adam, thank you for constantly making me laugh with your smart sense of humor. I now firmly believe in your theory that what one lacks in musical talent he can make up for in volume—you proved it. I am so grateful for your role as the oldest brother and for your strong testimony. Rey, thank you for inspiring us all with your "Peanut Butter & Jelly" song and for your hard work. I'm grateful that you were always there to lend a hand and that you never rested until the job was completely finished. Thank you for all the little things that you did for me and for all of us along the way. Derrick, I'm so grateful for your jokes and your positivity. I don't think I ever saw you without a smile on your face. Thank you for your great enthusiasm. Zero, your mischievous grin will forever be etched into my memory. I'm so grateful for the spark of fun and energy that you gave to our family. Your upbeat attitude gave life to our family when we were all worn out. Thank you for your contagious smile and fantastic collection of Disney songs. You boys really proved yourselves over Trek. Thanks for being there to give us ladies a hand and for keeping me laughing. I love all of you! Thank you for an amazing Trek experience!

# Jenson Family

## What I Learned on Trek:

On the first Trek that I attended, I learned a great lesson on the power of prayer. I was reminded of that great blessing throughout this Trek. I was reminded that Heavenly Father is constantly listening to me. He answers my prayers specifically, not always in the time or the way that I intend, but He does answer them. And when He does, He does so in a way that is exactly what I need.

I learned that I am strong; stronger than I ever knew that I was. The Woman's Pull taught me that the Lord has blessed me with great power and great potential. It taught me that if I will do all that I can, I can achieve anything with the Lord's help. I am more capable than I have given myself credit for in the past.

I learned how it feels to be surrounded by the Spirit at all times. I was reminded of how literally Christ has carried me, and suffered for me, and died for me. I understand how central the Gospel is to my life and how beautiful it can make my life.

## My Testimony:

I know that Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, live and love me more than I can comprehend. I know that Christ is my Savior and that suffered and died for me and knows me in every way. I know that my Father in Heaven hears my prayers and answers them. He cares for me as a literal father. He has supported me in the past and will continue to support me. I know that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is the true Gospel, restored to the earth in these latter days. I know that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God and that President Thomas S. Monson is a true prophet of God today. I know that the Book of Mormon is true. I am so grateful for the blessing of the Gospel in my life. I am grateful for my family and I know that I can be with them for time and all eternity. I love my family and this Gospel. I say these things, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

# Jenson Family



## Adam Berry

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

**To My Family:**

**What I Learned on Trek:**

**My Testimony:**

# Jenson Family



## Rey Eads

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

Thomas Mendenhall

### To My Family:

I am so grateful to all of my trek brothers and sisters and my Ma and Pa for making trek such an enjoyable, fun, and rich experience that it was! You helped me understand what's most important in life, your family, your ancestors, your friends, and striving to make it into the celestial kingdom, so that you can see them again, be with them forever. Ever since I took my bucket home at the closing of trek, I felt an empty space in my

life, I missed you all and wanted to be with you again. I wish I could have such life-changing and spiritual events every week, Love you guys!

### What I Learned on Trek:

I learned on trek that you can feel incredibly close to people when you accomplish great things with them, and I learned how close you can feel, to god, when you're on sacred ground, where the veil is so thin. I learned that ancestors, angels, loved ones, do help you when challenges arise, they love you. We can do great things. Blisters hurt. Our ancestors are amazing. I learned that a lot of planning went into making trek happen. Trek is truly a life-changing experience.

### My Testimony:

I know that this church is true, how could it be that these saints who came across the plains, bearing harsh trials, poorly equipped, would do this if they didn't believe that they'd be saved a place in the celestial kingdom if they died before making it to their destination. What they did, they did, with faith, believing in god. It shouldn't have been possible for even one to make it in such conditions to zion. Adding, how could a man who had poor penmanship and could barely read, write a book as true and perfect as the Book of Mormon? It's not possible, Joseph Smith Jr. was and is a true prophet. God helped him translate the Golden Plates, I know that this is true. How could every one, of so many souls on a trek, feel the spirit, say that they had the best trek family, and share so much love with each other, while doing hard things? It is not possible, with any other group. I know that trek is inspired by god and that we can do hard things, and I love my family and my trek family, and everything the lord has given me, for he has given me all that I have, I love him, I know that my little Jonathan was there helping my sister up the hill at women's pull, and angels were with all the other women of our stake. I testify that the plains of Wyoming, and hills, where the pioneers tread, are sacred and holy grounds; that the veil is incredibly thin. I testify that I was inspired by god through the holy ghost to know what I should do, in troubling circumstances, I love my god, my family, my stake, and this church; and I say these things in the name of our amazing loving Savior; even Jesus Christ, Amen.

# Jenson Family



## Derick Gwynn

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

Jeremiah Leavitt

### To My Family:

You guys were the best. Thanks for all the support. It was so much fun because I was with you. Thank you so much for being my trek family I really appreciate it.

### What I Learned on Trek:

I learned that even hard things can be fun. I also learned that when we all work together we get the work done faster and it is easier. Though the journey maybe rough the end result is worth all the effort that you put in.

### My Testimony:

I know that the pioneers did the hard things they did so that they could have a better life. The pioneers suffered much but the Lord was helping them all the way and so were guardian angels. I know that if we push on in the right direction even if it is hard the Lord will do all he can to help us get back to him. Amen.

# Jenson Family



## Rachel Putnam

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

Maria Christian Linford

### To My Family:

You were the best Ma and Pa I could have had. I was glad I was put in a family with a Ma and Pa that I knew, I'm glad I got to know you better.

I had the best trek family ever! I love the way we worked together and yet we had a lot of fun on the way. It made the difficult things easier to do with all the support we had.

### What I Learned on Trek:

I learned how grateful I am for the pioneers and how they traveled to Utah. I learned that I can get to know total strangers quickly and become closer to them than I could ever have imagined. I realized I can do things that I didn't think I could do. I learned how strong all of us really are.

### My Testimony:

My testimony grew so much while I was on trek, the spirit that I felt in all of the sacred places was amazing. I loved all of the reenactments; they really helped show how hard it was for the pioneers. I can't imagine doing what the pioneers did to come to Utah, how strong they were. My favorite part was the women's pull, it was the most difficult part but it was amazing. I'm so grateful to be a member of this church, I know that the Savior lives and loves me. I'm so glad that I got to go on trek.

# Jenson Family



## Abbey Thaxton

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

Susan Hammond Ashby Noble

### To My Family:

As I walked on the bus the first day, I knew the Lord blessed me when I met my family. I am so grateful for everything you did to make this trek a wonderful experience for me and also our entire family. Thank you for the kindness you showed, thanks for all the extra treats you brought, thanks for the strength and encouragement you gave me on the Women's Pull. But most of all, I am thankful for the Christ like example you showed each day. It really made each day amazing and memorable.

### What I Learned on Trek:

I learned there are always people there for me, whether it is my friends or family pushing and pulling a handcart with me, or a teacher giving me extra help on some homework. I know there is one person who will always be there that I can count on. The Lord knows how it feels to go through tough times. He knows better than anyone. The Lord knows what is best for us and can always help us, only if we turn to Him for aid.

### My Testimony:

Participating in Trek has deeply increased my gratitude and feelings about the pioneers. Doing the things we had to do on Trek was tough, but the pioneers went through a much harder time. I know the pioneers made it because of their faith and trust in the Lord. They went through so much, but because of the Lord's mercy a lot of the pioneers were able to finish. I know when I am struggling or going through a difficult time, I can turn to the Lord for strength and courage, just like the pioneers. I know when I prayed to the Lord for extra strength to make it up the hill of the Women's Pull I was blessed. I am grateful for all the ways my testimony grew because of the things I heard and experienced on Trek.

# Jenson Family



## Christian Kamalu

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

James Kirkwood

### To My Family:

Thanks for all of the support you both gave me during trek.  
(And the lemon heads)

### What I Learned on Trek:

It was pretty hard but a fun experience and it was worth it.

### My Testimony:

The pioneers were helped and guided in their darkest hours only through their faith in Jesus Christ. I know that if we have unwavering faith in Jesus Christ, all things are possible.