

Leary



HAIGHT CREEK STAKE | 2012



TREK

How Firm A Foundation

Family Journal

John Leary

Kori Leary

Nathan Soderberg

Landin Harris

Evan Connell

Kate Hadley

Aubrey Louder

Logan Shrader

Leslie Allsop

Leary Family



John & Kori

Pioneers We Honored and Remembered on Trek:

**John Kistfelt Johnson
Jane Treharne**

To Our Family:

From Pa -

Leslie – I stand in awe and respect of you. Coming on trek right after a week of band camp was remarkable. I can't believe you did it. You didn't complain once – what a woman!

Aubrey – I am humbled knowing of the sacrifice you made coming on trek. The Lord will bless you. Your physical strength was so much appreciated. Your testimony is so pure and strong.

Kate – Your positive attitude and happy, gracious smile made us all so happy. Our family would not have been the same without you being a part of it. You are such a caring person.

Nathan – What a joy to have you in our family. You discovered that you had strength you didn't know you had. I could see your testimony and love of the Savior grow with each experience.

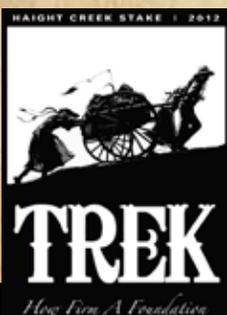
Logan – You are amazing. Trek probably meant more to you because of the physical pain you endured. That endurance and knowledge will be an asset to you through your entire life.

Landon – What can I say – you are our Sunbeam. We loved having you in our family. The Lord has great things in store for you. You need to find out what they are and seek after them.

Evan – You brought our family together. You made us great. Your example, your sense of humor and good nature lifted us all and made trek a better experience for every one of us.

I can't believe how much I grew to love each one of you. We all are so different yet after sharing such great experiences together, we have become so much alike.

Thank you for coming on trek and sharing your testimonies with us. Thank you for opening your hearts and being part of our great trek family.



Leary Family

From Ma -

Although John and I were the pa and ma, I would just like to tell the kids in our trek family how much I love and appreciate each one of them. What a great family we were blessed with, each person making their own unique contributions and making our family so complete. We had many laughs and a lot of fun, but we also had very spiritual and sacred experiences. We not only got to meet and make new friends with each other, but we also got to know a little bit more about ourselves and what we are capable of. I can see so much potential in each one of you. Thank you everyone for working so hard and doing your part. I look forward to watching you as you continue to grow and move forward in your lives. I am so thankful for the opportunity that I had to get to know each one of you. I know that you will be blessed as you are steadfast and always anchor your faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ. He is our rock, our firm foundation.

What We Learned on Trek:

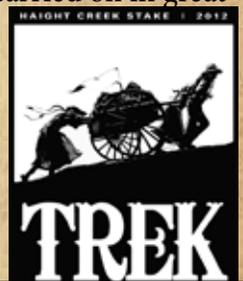
From Pa -

I learned firsthand and in a small way what our pioneer ancestors experienced and the sacrifices they made to come to Zion. As we physically and spiritually prepare our lives, the Lord has great things in store for us. As we focus our thoughts and energies toward serving, the Lord will pour out blessings upon us. I gained a greater appreciation for how fabulous the youth of the church are today. They are strong, valiant, helpful and spiritual. Trek taught me that I am able to do very hard things – that I can focus my efforts and energies on doing righteous things and not concern myself so much with the insignificant day to day things that tend to clutter our lives. I learned that mortality is our temporary home. It's a brief sojourn that is intended to last but a passing moment. Then we can return home to our real home. We will be able to live again with our Father in Heaven. That is what our families and the church are all about. That is why we keep the commandments and take upon ourselves the ordinances of salvation and exaltation. That's why we do what we do in the church. Trek draws us to Christ. It was a sacred experience that I will cherish through my life. Each of us paid a price to come to know Jesus on Trek. And come to know Him we did. Our testimonies were strengthened and we felt abundantly of His spirit through our experiences.

From Ma -

I learned many things on trek and also had many other things reaffirmed to me. I learned a lot about Faith. The Lord blesses us to be able to do hard things; yeah, no funeral on the trail for this old lady. He will always help us accomplish the things that he asks us to do. If we have righteous desires and put forth the time and effort to prepare ourselves for what we need to accomplish, the Lord does truly bless us to be successful and accomplish what He needs us to do. I am sure that if the Willie and Martin handcart pioneers had been asked a year or two previously to their trek if they thought that they could make it through the trials that they went through, they would have given a definitive “no”. Yet they did make it, and they carried on in great

strength and faith in the Lord. Because of their examples, when I am faced with difficult challenges, it is my determination to erase the doubts I have in myself and put my trust in the Lord to help me be steadfast and accomplish all that he needs me to accomplish. I gained such a great love and appreciation not only for the pioneers in general but for my own pioneer ancestors. How thankful I am for their love for the Gospel and their obedience to the call of a Prophet.



How Firm A Foundation

Leary Family

It was reaffirmed to me, that we can accomplish greater things as we work together. I found great joy in watching the youth of our stake pitch in and work so hard and give so much to make their families strong; what great youth we have in this stake! Because so many people so willingly shared their talents, time and resources, we were all blessed to be part of an amazing and life changing experience. The spirit of love and service was ever present. I feel so blessed to live amongst such great leaders and people who so willingly server each other.

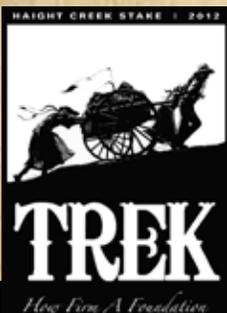
As we were doing the reenactment of the Gadd family I had a very sweet and tender experience as Kate gently guided me across the trail blindfolded. As we were walking, there were times that I could hear the handcart ahead of me going over rocks and sometimes rugged ground. Without saying a word but through gentle nudges, there was only one time that I even felt these rocks under my feet. This particular time I felt Kate's nudge, yet I was a little slow in responding to it, thus I tripped a little. There were a few time where Kate had to quietly tell me that I needed to either step up or down because of a hill or slope. As I was walking along to these gentle nudges, I couldn't help but compare this to how the Holy Ghost works in our lives. The Holy Ghost gently guides us, it does not force us. If we listen and act upon these promptings we are protected and blessed. If we are slow to act upon these promptings, we will stumble. We all have ups and downs in our lives, but if we will keep our hearts and minds open to the gentle promptings of the Holy Ghost and continue to listen to the spirit, we will be able to navigate through our hills and valleys more easily.

My experiences on trek have blessed me and my family so much and will continue to bless me throughout my life. Words cannot express my deep gratitude for being given the opportunity to participate in such a great experience.

Our Testimonies:

From Pa -

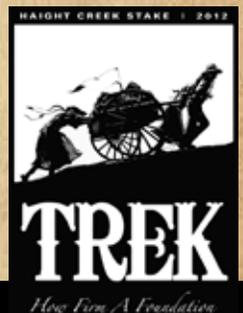
I know that Christ, creator of this earth, willingly took upon Himself the sins of the world. He did this out of obedience to His Father and love for each of us. He has provided the gospel for us to live that we may return to Him and His Father. I know the fullness of the gospel is again upon the earth and was restored through the prophet Joseph Smith. I know the priesthood authority of God is once again on the earth. It possesses the power of God upon the earth and administers all the ordinances of salvation and exaltation. I know the Book of Mormon is a true record, kept by ancient prophets and written for our day that we may have their testimonies of Christ. A living prophet who speaks with God is once again on the earth and leads the Savior's church, even the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Of these truths I humbly and gratefully testify in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, our Redeemer.



Leary Family

From Ma -

I have a testimony of the Savior and his love for each one of us. I have personally felt of His love and mercy toward myself and others that I have been called to serve. Because of His great love for us he was willing to suffer the pains of Gethsemane, that he could understand our pains and suffering. Because of this love, he was willing to die on the cross that we can repent of our sins and enter into God's presence. I have a testimony of the prophet Joseph Smith, I am thankful for his righteousness and obedience and his wiliness to suffer so much to restore the Gospel in this dispensation. I know that President Monson is a true prophet; I have felt his righteous spirit entering into a waiting room, even before he actually entered that room. I love the scriptures and I know that the Book of Mormon is true. I know that it was written for us as a guide in these last days. As I read the scriptures, I am filled with a love for my Savior and have a greater desire to be more obedient and live my life in a righteous way. I know that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true; it brings me much joy and peace in my life. I am deeply grateful to be a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and know that it is the Lord's true church. I Say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.



Leary Family



Evan Connell

Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

Thomas Tovey

To My Family:

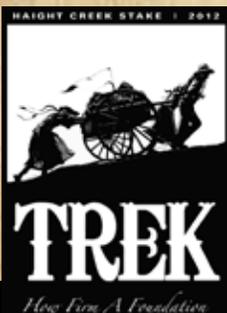
Thank you so much for your love and example. I had a great time getting to know you and love you.

What I Learned on Trek:

I learned that the kingdom of God is worth any hardship.

My Testimony:

I believe that Christ suffered and died for me, so that whatever mistakes I make I can get up and continue to fight another day.



Leary Family



Kate Hadley

Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

Margaret McBride

To My Family:

Thanks so much for making trek an amazing experience. I know I was put in that family for a reason. One of the things I miss most is Pa's laugh and laughing until I was in tears with Ma. I am so grateful for all you taught me and told me. Thanks for preparing so well and for helping me along the trail. Thanks for watching after me, asking how I was doing, and getting my food when I couldn't because of my toe, Thanks for laughing, crying, pushing, pulling and making memories together.

What I Learned on Trek:

I learned that the Lord knows me individually. I learned that the struggles I had were nothing compared to what my ancestors did because of their love and knowledge of this gospel. I learned that my ancestors are proud of me and the choices I made and that I need to make the right decisions so I can be with them. Hard work and organization carry you far. Obedience is the key to most anything. I am stronger than I know. I need to read the Book of Mormon every day with a purpose.

My Testimony:

I know my Savior lives and that He atoned for my sins. I know the gospel is true. God lives. Jesus is the Christ. Temples seal families. We were brought here for a reason and we each have divine nature. Families are forever. The Lord will provide if we do what is right. Scripture study brings happiness. Diligence brings deep learning. When I serve others I am serving God. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.



Leary Family



Logan Shrader

Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

Mary Goble

To My Family:

I would like to share my thanks to all the members of my family. I had a great time working, and spending time with them. Though I'm not like my family members, I learned to love them, and learned that we aren't so different after all. I'm grateful that I could be with you guys. You are the best family out there, and the best family for me.

What I Learned on Trek:

"For some must push and some must pull as we go marching up the hill, so merrily on the way we go, until we reach the valley-o." These words describe trek very well. Trek was hard and we all took our turns pushing, and pulling, and through all this pain, no harsh words came out, and we all still managed to laugh and get along with each other. Trek was hard for us but we had it a lot better than the pioneers. And I am grateful that I could experience a small piece of what the pioneers did.

My Testimony:

Through the few days of trek I learned what work is, I'm actually pretty lazy, and doing this was hard for me at some points. I learned through this hardship what the pioneers had to do, and they risked their lives just to reach Zion. On trek I got swollen calf's and my back ached because of my scoliosis. Many times I wanted to ride in the cart, but I kept thinking to myself what the pioneers did, and I'm sure they had swollen calf's, and I'm sure some of them had scoliosis. And yet they still pushed on. They were so set to making it to Zion. I made it through all the miles and didn't ride in the wagon once, and the feeling of knowing that I did it, was one of the best feelings anyone could have. I have a testimony, that through hard work comes blessings, and if we put our faith in the lord, and put one foot in front of the other in the direction of the lord, we will be happy and we will have more appreciation and love in our lives. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ amen.

Leary Family



Landin Harris

Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

James Loader

To My Family:

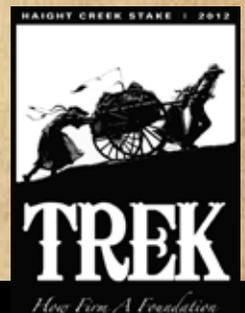
Ma and Pa, you made Trek an amazing experience by sharing your testimonies with us and helping us understand better what we were doing. You kept us going and were always there for us. You always made sure we had a smile on our faces and that always made pushing and pulling a little easier for us. Thanks for doing all that you did for us.

What I Learned on Trek:

Trek helped me better understand what the pioneers went through. Before, it was always something they did. They didn't just walk to Utah. They struggled and pushed themselves and died to reach Utah. We were out there for 4 days and it was tough. We were fed well and we had tents and doctors and everything that we could have needed or wanted. The pioneers had almost nothing and they went on in the middle of winter. They were freezing, hungry and sick. I better understand the sacrifice they made now.

My Testimony:

I have a testimony of God and that he lives and watches over us. I know he cares about us and he challenges us in life to make us stronger. I know he wants us to return to live with him and that we will with our families and loved ones.



Leary Family



Leslie Alsop

Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

To My Family:

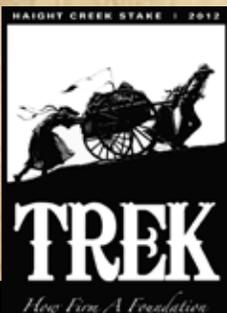
Thank you so much for being my Ma & Pa! You guys were great. I couldn't have asked for better parents.

What I Learned on Trek:

I gained a greater appreciation for my ancestors.

My Testimony:

I know Jesus lives and that he loves us. I know if we pray, our prayers will be answered. I know that Joseph Smith was a true prophet.



Leary Family



Nathan Soderberg

Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

George Eyre

To My Family:

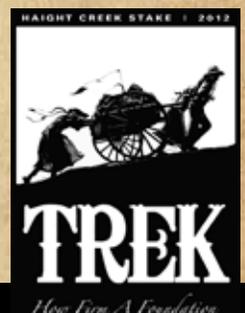
Thanks for making trek so great. I really had a fun time with you and with our family. I love you guys. I loved how Pa was really strong and Ma was really kind to us all. I really loved being with all of you.

What I Learned on Trek:

I really learned a lot about the Pioneers and how amazing they are. It was amazing to learn that I could really do it even though it was hard. I really am grateful for my family. I also learned that the Savior lives and loves me.

My Testimony:

I learned to love the Pioneers and I really appreciate all they did for us. I also know that Jesus lives and loves us. I know that the church is true and I really am thankful for that. I am thankful for all the Pioneers did for me. They really gave a lot so we could have the gospel in our lives.



Leary Family



Aubrey Louder

Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

Sarah Hurren

To My Family:

Thank you so much for all your hard work you put in to make this trek so great. I know it must have been hard to come on trek, but by doing so you have made everyone in our families life so much better on trek. One of the things I was most nervous about was my family, but I know we had a great one! Thanks so much!

What I Learned on Trek:

I learned that I am so much stronger than I thought I was. I also learned to trust in the Lord and His guidance. I was not sure about trek and was really worried about who my family would be. I didn't want to go on trek. Now I have learned so much about the Lord and His gospel and know that I need to listen to the Holy Ghost and its promptings because it will lead me in the right direction and I will become closer to God. I know going on trek was the right decision.

My Testimony:

I know that this church is true I know that the Book of Mormon is a true book and that Christ is our savior and that he died so that I can go to the celestial kingdom. I know that trek is a good experience and that all young people should get the opportunity to experience its blessings.

