

Smalley



HAIGHT CREEK STAKE | 2012



TREK

How Firm A Foundation

Family Journal

Tiffany Smalley
Bobby Smalley

Anna Van Drimmelen
Bryson Steiner
Savannah Vance
Brayden Ross
Josselin Williams
Kyle Allred
Nathan Tingey

Smalley Family



Bobby & Tiffany

Pioneers We Honored and Remembered on Trek:

**Charlotte Smalley
Elizabeth Whitney**

To Our Family:

From Pa:

What an amazing time I had with some of the greatest kids I have ever met. Each had their own strengths that contributed to a wonderful experience. I can only hope that they learned a fraction from me as I gained by spending just a few short days with them. I consider each of you a good friend, a good student, and a great teacher to me. Thank you so much for letting me spend that time with you. I will never forget it! I hope you will always feel like you can talk with us and that you will keep in touch as the years go by. I am excited to see how your lives turn out. As you continue on life's exciting journey...don't forget our poem and "Don't Quit"! You need to believe that you can be anything you want to be. As I think of each one of you and who you are, I believe with all of my heart that you really can do it.

From Ma:

I am so happy I was able to be part of all these amazing youth's lives, even if it was for only a few short days. I know they inspired me more than I ever could them. They are an incredible group. They all worked hard and pulled together. We have amazing youth in our stake. I cannot believe their testimonies and the determination they all have to stay close to our Heavenly Father. It is like nothing I ever remember seeing as a youth myself. I want them to know that I believe they already possess the strength to have anything they want in life. They will all go far, because they know why they are here. I love them all dearly. I am very blessed that I had them in my family. I could not have hand picked a better group. I wish them all the best life has to offer.

Smalley Family

What We Learned on Trek:

From Pa:

The greatest thing we can do is to serve each other. Just as Christ served us by giving his life, we can show a similar sacrifice as we serve each other. Trek gave me the chance to focus on others rather than my own concerns. I wanted to make sure everyone was safe, happy, and warm with a full belly. But what I really wanted was for everyone to gain something from the experience that could affect their lives in a positive way. I feel compelled to serve others more now than ever before. I hope that we can all strive to think about those in our lives and what we can do for them.

Our family learned that we can do hard things. Whether it's pulling a handcart over Rocky Ridge or the women's pull while the men watched or anything else our lives may be faced with, we can do it. Even if it's just 6" at a time, if we don't give up, if we don't quit, and we count on the Lord to do what we cannot, we can accomplish anything

From Ma:

I learned that I am stronger than I thought I was and this is only through my Father in Heavens strength that he gives me. I feel that the pioneers were modern day heroes. They did hard things, in fact impossible things. The only way they could have possibly achieved all that they did was through the strength of our Father in Heaven. Through him, all things are possible.

Smalley Family

Our Testimonies:

From Pa:

Why? Why did they do it? Why did those people...those pioneers give up everything...their homes, their jobs, almost everything they owned to come across the plains with handcarts? Why did they give up loved ones along the way? Why in so many cases did they give up their own lives? How is it that they could bury a small child or a spouse in the frozen ground in the afternoon and sing praises to the Lord that evening? As I work to understand it, I ask myself if I could do it. Is my testimony that strong? Is my heart so full of the truthfulness of the word that I could go and do whatever the Lord commands? It is my hope that we all strive to learn what they knew. I hope to build on my testimony until the "Fire of the Covenant" burns in my soul the way it did for those people. They didn't hope that it was true, they didn't think it might be true, they didn't have an inkling...no one does what they did because someone else said it was true. Those people knew it, believed it and lived it. They were willing to give up everything so that they could focus everything (that matters) on the Lord. They didn't spend one day or even three hours a week devoted to the Lord, they spent every waking hour focused on the Lord, the church and serving others.

It is my prayer that each of us can strive to become more like those Saints of years past in spiritual, physical and mental strength. As we work to become more like those that came before, we will be working to be more like our big brother Jesus Christ.

I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

From Ma:

I know that my Heavenly Father lives and loves his children. He is there to strengthen them in hard times. I am grateful for the sacrifice the early Saints made so that we could have the restored gospel today. I know Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. I am grateful he was willing to go through the most difficult things imaginable in order to restore the gospel to the earth today. The saints had such courage. I am in awe and have so much gratitude for all they did. I know my savior lives. I am grateful for his love and the atonement in my life. I am thankful that I am a member of this church. I am blessed with the peace it brings to my life. I thank my Heavenly father for my wonderful family. I love them dearly. I am so happy that we all were able to go on TREK together and have that wonderful experience to reflect on in our lives. It was a very wonderful experience.

Smalley Family



Savannah Vance

Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

To My Family:

What I Learned on Trek:

My Testimony:

Smalley Family



Bryson Steiner

Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

John Lowe Butler

To My Family:

I couldn't have had a better time with any other parents. You both always put us before yourselves, Pa always giving us rest on the trail, and Ma always making sure we had enough food to eat. Thank you so much for being my parents on trek! I loved it. And I love you both!!!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 you have to rely on the Lord for help. When you seem like you can't go another step, you can pray to receive strength. I learned you have to rely on your family to help you get through things. You have to at least have 2 people to set up those tents. There is no way you are going to get that tent up all by yourself.

My Testimony:

I know the Lord helped us on Trek this year. I know he lives and loves each and every one of us. I know that we can be forgiven of our sins, and become like our Savior. I know the scriptures are true and that the Prophet is true in what he says and does and that he will not lead us astray. I know that Joseph Smith is a true prophet. And I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Smalley Family



Kyle Allred

Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

To My Family:

What I Learned on Trek:

My Testimony:

Smalley Family



Anna Van Drimmelen

Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

Margaret Johnson

To My Family:

Oh my goodness I don't know where to begin in telling everyone how much I love you! I'm so grateful that we got the Smalleys for our Ma and Pa, because they were amazing. Our family just clicked from the beginning, and we only got closer after that. Thank you everyone for pulling your weight and covering for me that first day when I was sick. I will be forever grateful to you for that. Bobby, you are like a father to me now,

your willingness to serve me and the love you showed for everyone was incredible. Boss (Ma), thank you for always looking out for us and being aware of everyone's needs. You are beautiful, and I look up to you so much. Savanna, I am so glad that I met you! You are such a sweetie, and I really lucked out having you as a sis. Jo, you're awesome girl! We had so much fun, and you're such a fun person to be around. Kyle, you're the best big bro ever, thanks for watching out for me, and I will most definitely say hi to you in the halls. Bryson (Brycon?) you're so easy to talk to, and you make everyone feel at ease. I loved talking to you on the bus ride there, and on the trail. Forgiveness, keep up that forgiving attitude! You're the best. Let's go ride some horses sometime, k? Nate, I thought you were an awesome guy back in Choraliers, but now I think you're even greater! Thanks for staying with me the whole time that last day when we were pulling the cart. Love you all!!! 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:

Trek has taught me so many lessons, that I know will stay with me and continue to teach me for the rest of my life. My respect for the pioneers has grown so much after all of my experiences. It's mind blowing to me that there were pioneer children doing what we did for days on end. That right there shows me that people had very strong testimonies of the gospel back then. Testimonies so strong, that they were willing to give up everything they had worked for up to that point, and leave for the Salt Lake Valley. Just like Joseph Smith and Hyrum sealed their testimonies with their deaths, many pioneers did the same on the trail. Whenever we visited a gravesite, I felt an overwhelming peace, which confirmed to me that those who died there were received up to their Father in Heaven. From the women's pull, I learned that there is an incomprehensible strength inside of us, that we use to overcome trials. Rocky Ridge showed me that teamwork really does work, and that getting through hard things brings people closer together.

Smalley Family

My Testimony:

I don't believe in coincidences. I never have, and I never will. I know that the family I was put into wasn't a coincidence, and that every experience I had on trek wasn't a coincidence either. There are so many small miracles that have occurred in my life from the day I was born. On trek, I got to experience even more miracles. Each miracle testifies to me that Heavenly Father does live, and that Jesus Christ is a real person who died for every single one of us, who has literally felt every painful thing we've ever gone through. I know that because of the life Heavenly Father has provided for me, and the miracles I have witnessed firsthand, I can never deny his existence. The scriptures, although written long ago, have advice and counsel specifically written for us in this time. I've learned how to pray for answers, and miraculously find phrases and scriptures that fit perfectly what I was looking for. I know that the atonement and forgiveness is real. I've felt its healing powers when I've made mistakes, and when I've needed help letting go of pain that came from other people's decisions. No matter how many times you mess up, Heavenly Father waits for you with open arms, and his love for you will never go away. I know that with a surety. I have realized that there are personal missions waiting for each of us here on this earth. Patriarchal blessings give us just a glimpse of that. Personal Revelation is a beautiful thing that each of us can acquire. I loved having our solo time up on that mountain. I saw the beauty of God up there, and I felt his love. Sometimes we have to step away from the world, and find a quiet, peaceful place to seek answers from him. He is waiting for us to ask for his help, and it's a humbling thing when we finally realize that we can't do something by ourselves any more. I know with my whole heart that this gospel is true, and I wouldn't be where I am today without it. I love my Savior and my Heavenly Father, and I know that trek is inspired. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Smalley Family



Brayden Ross

Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

To My Family:

Thanks so much for all you did at trek Smalleys! You guys were so great. You made trek all that more amazing for me. It will be an experience I will remember for a long time. It was so much fun having parents who were involved in what the kids were thinking and wondered how they were liking trek. I look forward to getting the family together again for some fun! Thank you again so much!

What I Learned on Trek:

I learned that it was really hard for the pioneers to do this stuff and it made me eternally grateful to them for what they did. I also learned that all of the things the pioneers sacrificed were more than we could ever imagine. I learned that Christ helps us in all that we do and has a definite purpose for all of us in life. It was a huge learning experience for me and my family.

My Testimony:

I have a testimony that the pioneers were called of God to do what they did for us. It was an amazing experience to go on trek and it strengthened my testimony a lot. I was really touched by all the reenactments and it was a lot of fun. I had a lot of spiritual experiences on this trek, and I would recommend anyone to go on it. It is a life changing experience. I had a great time on it and I will miss it very much.

Smalley Family



Nathan Tingey

Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

Anson Call

To My Family:

Hi Ma and Pa! I would like to thank you for being my Ma and Pa. My mom and dad were also Ma and Pa's on trek so I know a little bit of what you went through. Thank you for being welcoming on trek and for the little necklace of "the rock of our foundation." It was really cool.

Thank you also for all the time that you gave up for trek and our little trek family.

What I Learned on Trek:

WOW! Trek taught me a lot! The main things that it taught me was that the Martin/Willie Handcart Company endured a lot and God helped them a lot. God gave them immense power that helped them endure to the end.

Trek also taught me how much we have in our lives. we have been given many different kinds of distractions that can lead us away from the gospel. Some distractions that the pioneers could never have thought of. But we can never forget that there is opposition in all things. Most of the distractions can also be used as tools and power to share the gospel.

My Testimony:

I know that this gospel is the only true church upon this earth today. I know that the scriptures are also true, as long as the bible is translated correctly. I know that the power of God is here on earth today and that I have part of it, otherwise known as the Priesthood of God. I know that as long as the we use the Priesthood correctly, and if God is okay with it, we can perform miracles today, just as Jesus preformed years ago. I know that we have a true prophet with us today. And I know, from the deepest point in my heart, mind and soul, that God and Jesus Christ live, just as we will also live again.

Smalley Family



Josselin Williams

Pioneer Name I Honored and Remembered on Trek:

Sarah Ann Brett

To My Family:

Thank you so very much for making me do this retched thing. Hahah jk. Well thanks for being great trek parents. You guys were very awesome. And funny. And awesome. Again. I am grateful for your testimonies. I am grateful that I was put in your family. You guys were exactly what I prayed for. (You know. Cause I prayed to be in a good family and stuff)

What I Learned on Trek:

I learned what the pioneers went through in a whole different level. I learned a lot that I really don't know how to explain. Whether I know it or not I know I learned something more than what the pioneers went through. I just don't know it yet. I know that if the pioneers could do it, if my ancestor who walked with the Martin Willie Company could do it. I can do anything that I want to accomplish. I know that the pioneers were strong. And I am grateful for them.

My Testimony:

I know that God lives. And he is there. I know that he knows me personally. I know that he knows what's best for me in the time that I need it. Like not making the Davis high soccer team. If I had made it, I wouldn't have been able to go on trek. I believe in the Atonement. Sometimes I don't understand it but I know it's true. I am grateful for Joseph Smith and all the prophets. I am grateful to be here on earth and be here with my amazing family(my real family. No offense) I am grateful for my parents. I know that they only want the best for me and will support me with anything. I know that Jesus Christ is the savior and that he gave his life for us. And I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.