

History
what you learned
why it's significant to you/others/formers

Bethany

- 2 - What you learned about your relationship with yourself, others, God
- 1 - What did you learn about: history, biology, writing, recreation management

What Did you learn about ...

History

In general, I began to ^{better} understand that people have laws. Reading essays about Israel Bennion, past polygamist wives, Brigham Young's interactions w/ others, and material on the mountain meadow massacre informed me about peoples thoughts, words and actions. Israel and others like him strongly believed in the correlation between farm and crop.

Polygamist Wives struggled with their relationships. Esther Ann and her younger sister-wife felt detached and dejected from society. None could have foreseen their lives turning out the way it did. Sharing a husband, struggling to support children in a split relationship - being turned out of a house due to another woman's jealousy.

Husbands became responsible for a plethora of people. They didn't typically have a single place to stay and they struggled to keep tensions low. Today people don't understand polygamy. In Chip Wardle's book Canaries on the rim he talks as if The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day saints are embarrassed about their past. Riley Nelson asked me what I thought about polygamy. "It's difficult to understand."

Riley responded with "I don't like it".

Before INHUT, I used to just try and ignore it. I suppose I used to do the same.

People in our group, and many other teenagers often say "I'm glad we know better now".

But what if in 100 years our great grandchildren look back on our lives with a frown and say the same thing?

Over INHUT I've come to better understand — not only what happened across Utah but why it happened. People strive for ideals, and often fall short. It still happens today. There are beautiful attributes that could have come — and did. Some cases might have come from practicing polygamy. It could have been about sacrifice, selflessness, and trust. An expansion of love and patience — a test for faith.

In the Mountain Meadow massacre, people were scared, angry, hoping to protect their people.

In the hands of mortal men — things become messy: we make mistakes. We fall short of or see good ideals.

In many ways we're no different than the past. Everyone has to walk the road that requires improvisation and choices.

It's important to understand that we, like those before us are fallible ~~to~~ beings.

I am learning about tolerance and forgiveness and the importance of the atonement.

Biology

I like plants. Everything in this world is so intricate and unique.

We live in a complex world.

I've become more aware of the material things I possess - including food.

I think I live like a king. I pop something in the microwave and walaah!

Food. Clothes and shoes are basically handed to me.

I didn't nourish any seeds or spin any fibers.

Everything I possess comes from somewhere from something.

The wildflower Flax is one of my favorites now.

Before I knew I hadn't noticed it on the front of my cereal box. Before I knew

I hadn't known it made linen, or that its

stems were silky smooth. And yeah - it's edible.

I want to be more aware of what surrounds me and come to better understand this complex world with complex ecosystems.

Writing

I'm learning to be more honest with myself. It's been brought to my attention that I make things too dramatic, flowery and abstract.

I want to ground myself in facts so that I can have a foundation to grow off of.

~~It's important to give oneself direction...~~

If I don't know where I am, how can I get anywhere or fix what needs to be fixed or address things that need to be addressed.

Growth requires honesty — and humility to give it. Writing helps one to work through thoughts and to identify patterns. It's a tool for reflection — a different kind of mirror.

Recreation management.

The wilderness provides a new canvas for identity.

Strip away possessions, familiarity, friend groups / social structure and what is left?

You see others, including yourself more completely.

You also become more aware of your limits

but your confidence tends to grow. Confidence grows because your accomplishments are raw.

Battles are fought on the rock or pushing yourself through water. Overcoming fear, comforting others.

You have to face what's in front of you to get through the obstacle

What you gain remains with you.

We can bring people back to these places so that they can enhance their connection with the earth,

with themselves and with a group of people

Recreation as therapy

What did you learn about yourself // others // God-
^{your relationship}

Others

I can connect with all sorts of people.
 I think I tend to be standoffish.
 I don't always embrace what makes
 people unique. When I'm more open
 and tolerating of differences
 I make connections that can last me a
 life time and I grow to appreciate
 those those around me.

Myself

I've been pretty stubborn in the way I
 think. I have ideals of "shoulds"
 and "should nots" but I can
 push against those. It's okay
 to re-write the way I think.

God.

Holy goodness he's patient.
 and the atonement ... How much --
 thinking about the intensity
 of the atonement after watching
 the Salt of the Earth stretch of
 my mind.

This world has so much. God created
 all of this for us ...