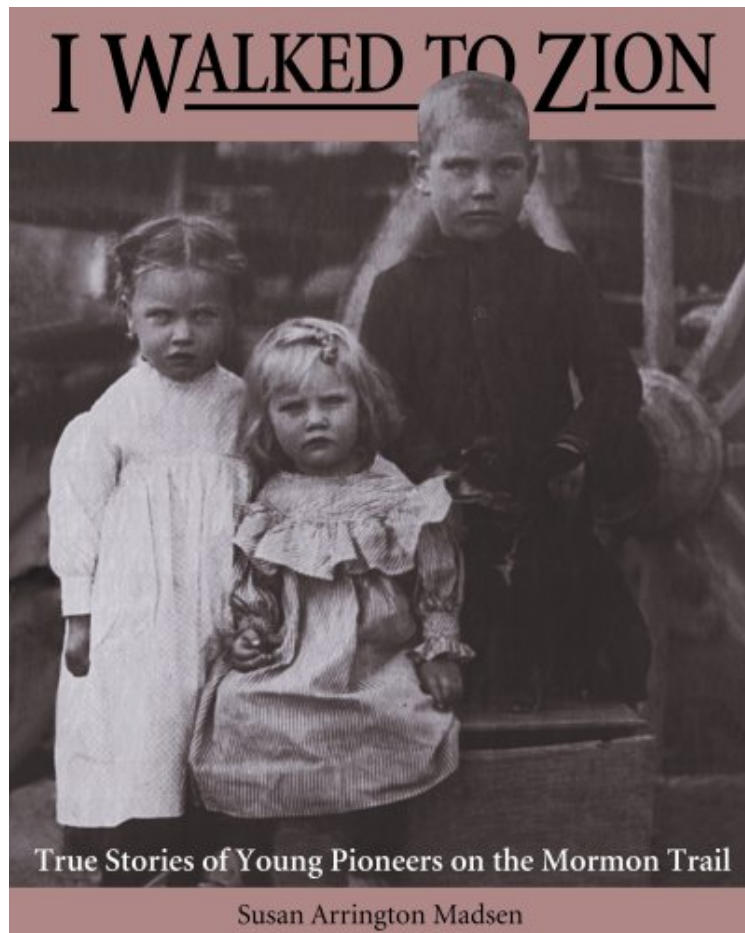


I Walked to Zion

Susan Arrington Madsen

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Susan Arrington Madsen : I Walked to Zion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Walked to Zion:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Want to be inspired? Walk to Zion.By here's what happenedWONDERFUL TRUE stories.Amazing kids who did the impossible. These stories I bought for my children and as I read the accounts found young heroes. The accounts are taken from their histories. I appreciated they were organized into short chapters based on each person. I've read many accounts of these stories and loved the simplicity and power. If you want to inspire kids to become more... this is a great book to begin with!They walked through all weather conditions, hard mountain climbs, icy river crossings, illness and death of their loved ones. They walked because of their faith. They were lead by a Prophet of God who was inspired to migrate all who would come to "Zion" which was declared for this people and time as Salt Lake City, Utah area. Before their leaving, families endured difficult circumstances that are hard for us to imagine during our days. Many families were chased out of town by mobs supported by an "extermination order" and had to leave many of their belongings and their homes behind. Zion was a place of religious freedom where members of the Mormon Church (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)

were to find refuge from those who did not agree with their practices.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good stories, truly enlightening, but needs some editingBy Raspberry G.I read "I Walked to Zion" with a lot of enthusiasm. The book contains many accounts written by young people in their own words. The reader gains a good understanding of what the trek from Illinois to Utah must have been like for children and young adults. Of course youth like to keep their accounts short so most details are missing. Especially missing are the hardships of the menfolk who did most of the physical labor of the trek.Still the reader comes away with an appreciation for the difficulties of the children, and their victories as well. Many of these young folk carried siblings on their backs, cared for the cattle, walked in snow until they were numb, and some of them died of cholera, exposure and starvation.As a Mormon living in modern times, it brought home to me a stark recognition of what my ancestors endured just to be with the saints who believed as they did. Living one's religion in peace was a luxury not afforded to the early saints, and this book takes a hard look at how that affected the youth of the church. Uprooted from their homes in England, Sweden, and other European countries, these children suffered weeks in the dark holds of ships. They emerged in America only to have to travel across its plains, a trek of nearly 1,200 miles, on foot in fair and foul weather. Many of them lost their parents, and gave up everything they had to be with the saints in Zion. I shall always be grateful for their sacrifices.If there is one complaint I had with the book it is that it is very chopped-up. After each individual's story, there is a list of references. While I agree that references are critical, they should have been placed at the back of each book, with an indication of which stories drew from them. In this way, the book would have better continuity.Still, I loved the book and would recommend it to anyone.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy P. RoblesThis is a wonderful book of perseverance and faith. It is about the youth that traveled the trail to Salt Lake City on foot in the 1800s. Most of the stories are gathered from the diaries of those young people. A few are from family members that traveled with the ones that did not make it all the way to Utah. Makes me wonder if called upon could I have traveled like they had to. I have a hard time riding in an air conditioned car to southern California.

What did pioneer children do for fun? What did they fear as they crossed the plains? Susan Arrington Madsen, author of *The Lord Needed a Prophet*, has collected actual accounts of thirty young people (under the age of twenty) who were members of Mormon wagon trains and handcart companies. B.H. Roberts describes how he and his sister traveled from England as virtual orphans until they joined their mother in Utah. Fanny Fry tells of her fear when she was nearly crushed to death by a heavily loaded handcart.

About the AuthorSusan Arrinton Madsen is author of several books. She and her husband, Dean, have four daughters and live in Utah.