

Sacred Grove –Self Guided Tour

Key to the Map

On June 25, 2012 I was privileged to be part of a small group tour of the Sacred Grove with Bob Parrott, the Forester/Arborer who takes care of all of the trees on the Church historical sites. We spent about 1.5 hours in the Grove with Bob. He gave us a map of the trails when we started out. I did my best to mark a number on the approximate location and wrote a note on what we were told was located at that spot. If you will match the numbers on this list with the numbers on the map, you will also be able to walk the trails and learn about what we saw. Have a great spiritual experience while learning more.

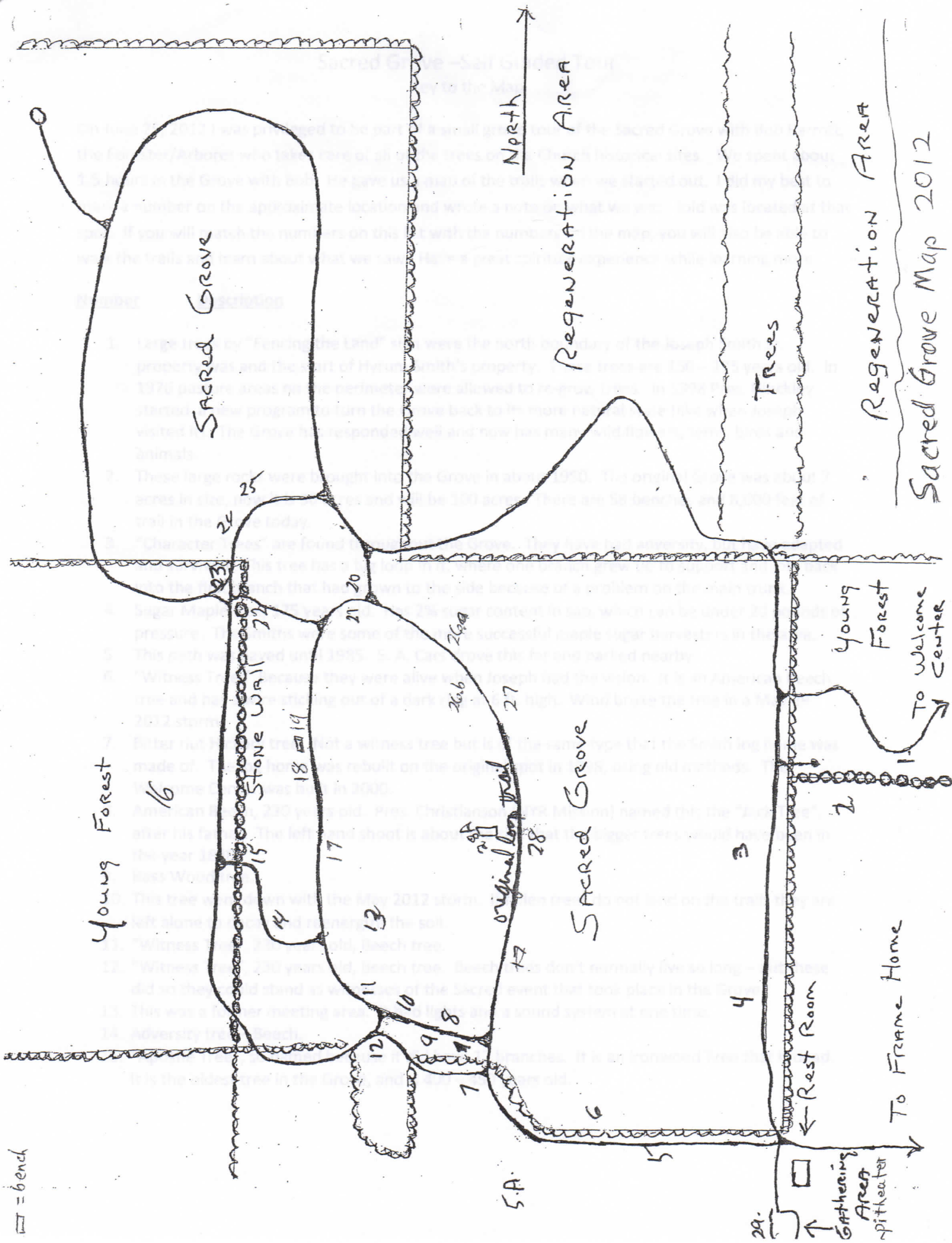
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| 1. | Large trees by "Fencing the Land" sign were the north boundary of the Joseph Smith Sr. property was and the start of Hyrum Smith's property. These trees are 150 – 175 years old. In 1976 pasture areas on the perimeter were allowed to re-grow trees. In 1998 Pres. Hinckley started a new program to turn the Grove back to its more natural state (like when Joseph visited it). The Grove has responded well and now has many wild flowers, ferns, birds and animals. |
| 2. | These large rocks were brought into the Grove in about 1950. The original Grove was about 7 acres in size, now it is 30 acres and will be 100 acres. There are 58 benches and 8,000 feet of trail in the Grove today. |
| 3. | "Character Trees" are found throughout the Grove. They have had adversity, but have adapted and survived. This tree has a big loop in it, where one branch grew up to support and join back into the first branch that had grown to the side because of a problem on the main trunk. |
| 4. | Sugar Maple tree, 175 years old. Has 2% sugar content in sap, which can be under 20 pounds of pressure. The Smiths were some of the more successful maple sugar harvesters in the area. |
| 5. | This path was paved until 1985. 5. A. Cars drove this far and parked nearby. |
| 6. | "Witness Trees" Because they were alive when Joseph had the vision. It is an American Beech tree and has a wire sticking out of a dark ring at 6 ft. high. Wind broke the tree in a May 29, 2012 storm. |
| 7. | Bitter nut Hickory tree. Not a witness tree but is of the same type that the Smith log home was made of. The log home was rebuilt on the original spot in 1998, using old methods. The Welcome Center was built in 2000. |
| 8. | American Beech, 230 years old. Pres. Christianson (NYR Mission) named this the "Jack Tree", after his father. The left hand shoot is about the size that the bigger trees would have been in the year 1820. |
| 9. | Bass Wood tree. |
| 10. | This tree went down with the May 2012 storm. If fallen trees do not land on the trails they are left alone to decay and reenergize the soil. |
| 11. | "Witness Tree", 230 years old, Beech tree. |
| 12. | "Witness Tree", 230 years old, Beech tree. Beech trees don't normally live so long – but these did so they could stand as witnesses of the Sacred event that took place in the Grove. |
| 13. | This was a former meeting area. It had lights and a sound system at one time. |
| 14. | Adversity tree – Beech. |
| 15. | "Apostle Tree", so named because it did have 12 branches. It is an Ironwood Tree that is dead. It is the oldest tree in the Grove, and is 400 – 450 years old. |

16. The Church owns between 4-500 acres of ground around the Temple, Church, Farm and the Grove. The Church recently purchased about ½ mile of land to the west of the Grove. There have been 10 owners of the Smith Farm. Pres. Hinckley called it "The most sacred place on earth." It is like an outdoor temple.
17. Twisty tree. This tree had an interesting life while twisting some of its branches.
18. A. Shagie Maple, 200 year old Witness tree. B. Ironwood, Witness tree, right next to the other.
19. This bench is the highest point in the Grove. Some feel that it could have been the spot where Joseph knelt so many years ago. The forest is full of pillows and cradles where trees have fallen over and changed the surface.
20. Black berry bushes.
21. Red Oak tree.
22. Rocks denoting the west property boundary of the Smith farm.
23. Black Cherry tree used in Elder Marlin K. Jensen's May 2012 CES Fireside video.
24. Bass wood tree.
25. Shag bark Hickory.
26. A & B: May Apple plants with huge, leaves and small berries.
27. Blue Cohash plant- helped with pain during childbirth.
28. Witness Tree, Sugar Maple, 230 years old. It was also used in the MKJ video.
29. Ampitheater, built in about 2008. Bob picked the spot.

It is hoped that you have been able to have a special experience while you walked through the Grove.

Written by Elder Kent Servoss, June 2012.



Regeneration Area
Sacred Grove Map 2012