

# Pioneer Ghost



By Larry Danek

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

While this is the fifth book in Larry Danek's series about the Nomadic Ghost, it is also a tale of the beginning. In this slim volume of sixty-nine pages, we journey back to the American West and join a wagon train heading to Oregon. Thirteen-year-old John Vanderwick travels alone and appears likely to not survive the journey. With help from the Nomadic Ghost he continues on, aids others in the wagon train. Meanwhile the Ghost begins to understand his role in the afterlife and accomplishes a mission he has been chosen for.

The story is meticulously told as if by the ghost himself and is a quick yet compelling read. It is available on Amazon.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*Pioneer Ghost* begins when The Nomadic Ghost enters the body of John Vanderwick, a small, sickly thirteen-year-old boy, who has died after being left behind by a wagon train heading for Oregon. The ghost is not sure what his mission is and finds the body very weak and needing rest. However, they eventually catch up to the wagon train that had abandoned John. After eating

and getting some rest, they decide to leave the train because the body is still too weak. Before leaving, the ghost/John is able to get a gun from one of the trail hands named Tom Brown. John already had a knife and a small bag with a flint in it.

As they rested and waited for a later wagon train, they killed six Indians and rescued an Indian woman named Ina and a little blond-haired girl around five years old named Patty. When more Indians attacked, Ina proved to be a very good shot. Afterwards, they ended up with twelve horses that had belonged to the dead Indians. Then they helped the wagon train they left, defend itself against an Indian attack, joining it, after a deal is made concerning the horses. Many things happen as the story progresses. When they reach Fort Henry, The Nomadic Ghost discovers the real reason for this adventure.

Once again, Larry Danek has written an exciting story with believable characters. It's well written and the story moves right along. I recommend this book to one and all, especially those that like ghost stories and/or pioneer stories.

Reviewed by Beth Camp

Larry Danek. *Pioneer Ghost*. Who doesn't love a ghost story, especially as we head closer to Halloween? How about a ghost story set in the Old West? *Pioneer Ghost* begins as a young boy is abandoned by a wagon train boss who figured he was too sick to make it to Oregon Country, even after he paid his way. If you've read any of Danek's other stories of the Nomadic Ghost, you know what follows: An intriguing tale that's hard to put down, well developed, believable, and endearing characters matched to a plot with surprising twists; and settings that bring those west-bound settlers in the path of attacking Native Americans, without relying on stereotypes. Engrossed, I enjoyed reading *Pioneer Ghost*, appreciating anew our history as well as this well-written tale.

Reviewed by Kevin Hostbjor

A wonderful ghost story set in the Old West. The *Pioneer Ghost* takes us on an incredible journey through the old west, where wagon trains and their accompanying passengers struggle to

reach the Oregon territories. Along the way, one boy's tale is interrupted by a ghost on a mission. I stumbled across this book at a craft fair and never regretted choosing it. The novel is short, but the story is fully fleshed out and engrossing. Enjoyable read. Recommended.



*Page revised 05/02/2025 dam*  
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