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The Pioneers Details

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Author : Huston Horn

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From Reader Review The Pioneers for online ebook

Steven Peterson says

This book was first published in 1974. As I recall, I collected the full set when my son was young (early 1990s), as a fun set of books for him as he grew up. I don't know if the various works succeeded along those lines, but I have sure enjoyed reading these volumes!

This one focuses on the Pioneers. The book begins by noting (Page 6): "The exodus began in 1841, a stream of men, women, and children pouring out of Independence, Missouri. They were headed west. . . . This volume describes the hardships--and rewards--of going west. Page 23 portrays the key trails on a map, to indicate the various pathways taken by pioneers, such as the Oregon Trail, the Santa Fe Trail, the Mormon Trail, the Old Spanish Trail, and the California Trail. Stories are told of the difficult passage along these paths. We even are reintroduced to Daniel Boone, who in his late years moved west to Missouri and traveled to the west, exploring (see the box on page 27). The story of the debate over the border between the United States and Britain is depicted, informing us where the slogan "54 40 or fight" came from. The story of the Mormons move to Utah to escape persecution is told. And the role the "sodbusters" played as they put down roots.

The book is well illustrated and has maps that help make sense of the geography.

All in all, an accessible, well-written introduction to the Pioneers. Not great depth, but good breadth.
