

For SPACIOUS SKIES

by **Johnny Sundstrom**

Abe Saunders was wounded in one of the last battles of the War between the States. This novel recounts his healing, marriage, and an overland wagon journey in the last great wave of pioneering westward migrations. Here are the constant struggles faced in overcoming nature's challenges, the sometimes violent human tensions encountered along the way, and the heartfelt aspirations for a new life among the ranchers, miners and Indians on the still-untamed frontier.

“A kind of madness sets into the brain when the wind never stops and the dust fills your eyes and every other opening. Some of the people on the wagon train went silent, some talked only to themselves, while others yelled or sang to keep their spirits up...”

Inspired by the biblical epic of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar, this story evokes the timelessness of love, faith, hardship and triumph, and the restless urge to follow one's destiny into the future.

JOHNNY SUNDSTROM has lived most of his life in the American West, and has crossed the continent overland many times. He is a part-owner and manager of a livestock and forestland operation in western Oregon. As founder and Director of the Siuslaw Institute, he provides natural resources consulting and administers watershed restoration projects.

He also serves as head track and field coach at the local high school. For more than 40 years he has spent part of every summer visiting his relations in Wyoming. He graduated from Williams College with a degree in English Literature, has written extensively over the years, and previously published the novel, *Dawns Early Light*.