

*John Colter, Discoverer of Yellowstone Park.* By STALLO VINTON.

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John Colter was a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and was permitted to leave that party on its return, from the Pacific when it reached the Platte River at its junction with the Missouri. There he joined the trading party of Manuel Lisa, of St. Louis, and returned to the Rocky Mountain region.

Many years ago Mrs. Victor recorded the adventures of "Joe" Meek; later DeWitt C. Peters gave to the world the best account of the life and experiences of "Kit" Carson; General Grenville M. Dodge published an unpretentious pamphlet regarding "Jim" Bridger, already out of print, and a Salt Lake house has just issued a volume of nearly 550 pages about this noted scout, trapper and trader.

The Mountain Men of one hundred years and more ago were the real leaders of the expeditions of Pike, Bonneville, Fremont, Emory and others working westward from the Missouri River toward the Pacific, and they were the harbingers of American civilization in the old Oregon country.

There were other notable frontiersmen, trappers and explorers, whose experiences in the early days in the great west deserve biographers and who will leave a permanent record of their heroic lives and notable services in real pioneering.

Ewing Young was one of them. He gave Kit Carson his first lessons in mountain lore preparatory for his notable career as guide and Indian fighter. Young's death was the indirect cause of the formation of the Provisional Government of Old Oregon.

Jedediah Smith was another notable western character.

Mr. Vinton has done a real public service in his presentation of John Colter.

The most notable natural features of the Rocky Mountains were discovered by Colter. He was the first white man to invade Wyoming. He discovered several of the northerly passes through those mountains, and was the first to visit and describe Yellowstone Lake and its surrounding wonders, but was characterized as a monumental liar when he told of them.

To the student who is interested in the Rocky Mountain region and its dauntless pioneers the list of references presented by Mr. Vinton will also be interesting and valuable.

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