

ANNALS OF IOWA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

TWO NOTABLE GIFTS RECENTLY RECEIVED

PLEASANT J. MILLS, COLLECTION OF GUNS AND WEAPONS

Pleasant J. Mills, born in Des Moines July 6, 1857, died there July 14, 1933, was the son of Colonel Noah W. Mills of the Second Iowa Infantry and his wife, Sarah A. (Hackleman) Mills, who was a daughter of General Pleasant A. Hackleman, one of Indiana's bravest soldiers in the Union Army in the Civil War.

Colonel Noah Mills was in the printing and publishing business in Des Moines, was wounded in the battle of Corinth on October 4, 1862, and died eight days afterward. General Hackleman was killed in action at the same battle on October 4, 1862.

Thus the mother of "Pleas" Mills was the widow of one of Iowa's, and daughter of one of Indiana's war heroes. She transmitted to her son such memories as she would naturally possess and two mementoes sacred to her.

These two were swords these officers respectively bore in battle at death. Her son kept both tokens of his father and grandfather in his own armory throughout the sixty years of his survival, then bequeathed them to his state, to be kept in the collections of the State Historical, Memorial and Art Department in Des Moines. They were delivered on his direction November 22, 1935, by Mrs. Annie May Mills, his widow and executrix, in obedience to the bequest, with many similar objects of less personal significance, yet of high historical value.

The executrix and the Curator interpret the trust to go even farther than the requirement of law, or the letter of the will, in these respects: The sword of General Hackleman, in its private sense, became the property of his grandson, Pleas J. Mills, by

the law of inheritance. It thereafter came to Iowa by bequest. Yet in its symbolic sense it has greater meaning to Indiana than to Iowa.

Therefore, if it is learned that General Hackleman's own state desires it and will give it a repository the equal in safety and character for future record, as Iowa will give that of Colonel Mills's, it shall return to Indiana with the compliments of both Mrs. Mills and our institution.

Thus is conceived a striking example of love and admiration, both domestic and public, which looks toward the ideal for the living and honor for the dead of the two states.

The remainder of the bequest will be assembled and displayed as a unit and as "The Pleasant J. Mills Collection."

THE MINNIE WARRINGTON PAINTINGS OF IOWA WILD FLOWERS

It is with both public gratitude and private emotion we announce the arrival of the work of the heart and the hand of the late Minnie Warrington. These consist of her execution of about 100 specimens in water colors, life size, of the blossoms of native Iowa wild plants. She selected and gathered these mainly in Keokuk County, Iowa, between 1890 and 1925. She had annotated the sheets on which she painted with the dates, the common and scientific names, and occasionally with local lore about each specimen. All of this was seen and commented on in writing with approval by the late Dr. L. H. Pammel.

Miss Warrington was of an exceptionally talented family, pioneers and Friends (Quakers). She was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, February 20, 1863, and came with her parents to Coal Creek, Keokuk County, in 1864, and died there August 29, 1935. She was self taught in the arts of drawing and painting. As a truthful observer, illustrator and narrator of matters in which she was interested, she was both true and thorough.

It is planned to exhibit the collection as soon as our share of the public appropriations shall be resumed to normal proportions. Meantime it will be available to those credentialed as artists or scientists or who are officially concerned with the gift.

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