

Library Notes

Mr. Theo. C. Ressler of Williamsburg, Iowa, has recently placed in the State Historical Library, a copy of memoirs of two Iowa "Forty-Niners," Abraham Owen and John Jacob Ressler, who traveled with the company of gold seekers from Iowa City to California in 1849. This mimeographed brochure, "PARTNERS IN THE GOLD RUSH," was edited by Mr. T. C. Ressler. It is the first publication in an investigation of the Iowa City expedition which traveled under the name of "The Sacramento Mining Company."

Museum Notes

An artfully hand-made working replica of one of the rarest and most historically important handguns ever made, has been recently donated to the Iowa State Historical Museum. This gun, an 1836 Colt Patterson, was the first fore-runner of what was to become the "gun that won the west." It was invented by Samuel Colt and manufactured by him at his small arms factory in Patterson, New Jersey. While it was quite successful mechanically, the 5-shot, .36 caliber cap and ball weapon was a financial flop, and the U. S. Army, for which it was designed, turned it down as being too complicated. About 1000 of the "five shooters" were manufactured, and many found their way into the hands of the men who fought in the Mexican War and the Seminole Indian Wars.

The gun was donated by Mr. Glen Morose of Des Moines and is presently on display.

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