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A Brief Account of the Adventures of John Colter, Famous Trapper and Mountain Man of Yellowstone (1902)

Hiram Martin Chittenden

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A Brief Account of the Adventures of John Colter, Famous Trapper and Mountain Man of Yellowstone (1902) Hiram Martin Chittenden
Hiram Martin Chittenden (1858–1917) was a leading historian of the American West, especially the fur trade. A graduate of West Point, he was the Seattle district engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers.

The author is an army engineer officer, whose professional career has been largely passed in the trans-Mississippi country, and he has visited nearly every section which was frequented by American traders.

Captain Chittenden has exploited original materials, many of which have never been printed. Among these are the records of fur companies, the early correspondence of fur traders, journals of expeditions, and the records of steamboat voyages.

In this brief account, the author tells the story of John Colter (1774 – 1812 or 1813) who was a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804–1806). Though party to one of the more famous expeditions in history, Colter is best remembered for explorations he made during the winter of 1807–1808, when he became the first known person, of European descent, to enter the region, which became Yellowstone National Park, and to see the Teton Mountain Range. Colter spent months alone in the wilderness, and is widely considered to be the first mountain man.

Contents
• Colter in Lewis and Clark expedition —
• Remains in the upper country—
• Enters Lisa's employ —
• Sets out to find the Crows —
• Crosses to Pierre's Hole —
• Fight with the Blackfeet —
• Colter starts for Fort Manuel alone —
• Crosses Yellowstone Park —
• " Colter's Hell "—
• Colter goes to Three Forks —
• Terrible adventure on Jefferson Fork —
• His miraculous escape —
• Result of Colter's adventures —
• His subsequent career.

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