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The Journal

The Journal of Spelean History (JSH) is the Association's publication and is mailed to all members. JSH includes articles covering a wide variety of topics relating to man's use of caves, including historical cave explorations, saltpeter and other mineral extraction, and show cave development. Members are invited to contribute material and to comment on published material. ASHA assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors.

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Update on Research in Kingston Saltpeter Cave, Georgia

Joel M. Sneed

When we were systematically recording all inscriptions written on the walls of Kingston Saltpeter Cave (KSC) back in the early 1980s, we had often wondered whether there were other inscriptions to be found higher up on the walls in places inaccessible to us. Since the cave was the scene of intense excavation of earth in the pursuit of nitrates during the 1800s, most notably during the War of Northern Aggression, we surmised that this could be the case. In nearby Yarbrough Cave we had seen an 1850s inscription high up on a wall of the cave above an obvious prior floor level, that cave having also been mined for saltpeter. Now, three decades later, working from atop a ladder that I carried into KSC for that purpose, I have been able to view and record at least some of those inscriptions that previously eluded us.

Along with this work, and having lugged ladders into the cave, I wanted to check out other areas for inscriptions, not just those that had been out-of-reach but to determine whether others had been covered by the soot of the torches and fires of miners and other early visitors to the cave. One area was of particular interest, a passage not far from the base of the entrance slope.
Through this passage, which one can now walk upright, travel was once not so effortless, and newspaper accounts of early Nineteenth Century visits to the cave reveal the nature of that passage. The writer of an 1839 article from the *Wetumpka (Alabama) Argus & Commercial Advertiser* describes the journey further into the cave from the entrance room:

“From this chamber there is but one avenue leading further into the cavern, and through it we had to pass for some distance on our hands and knees, when we again found space enough to proceed erect...”.

Writing in his *Historical Collections of Georgia* in 1854, the Rev. George White gives an interesting account of his visit to the cave. His description of this same passage does not vary significantly from that in the 1839 account above:

“At the bottom of the first room, as it is usually called, the rocks close in on all sides, except the entrance, and a few feet through which the visitor must pass half bent, if he desires to proceed farther. After going this way for twenty or thirty feet, the opening again becomes suddenly large and extensive on all sides...”.

Upon donning gear to protect me from dust – safety goggles and mask – I climbed my ladder. As I started brushing the ceiling with a fine, dry paintbrush, many inscriptions began to be revealed. In this area all of the ones which I saw and recorded are pre-War, dating to as early as 1802 and up to 1856. Apparently, after the removal of earth made the area less accessible, and with so much soot then on the ceiling, it became less favorable to later inscriptions.

It must be mentioned that there are, in fact, other areas throughout the cave with pre-War inscriptions, with dates on these ranging from 1805 to 1858, including some left by people of prominence in the community. A spreadsheet of all of the inscriptions is contained as an Appendix in my 2007 book, *Bartow County Caves: History Underground in North Georgia*.

One particular 1802 inscription had been overwritten by a large initial of a subsequent visitor, who included the date 1841. This follows the phenomenon that we have found in several places in KSC where different writers over the years have made use of the same area, overwriting previous inscriptions as they utilized the best places available for their writings. I have been finding this in my current research in Grand Caverns, Virginia as well. In KSC, this has proceeded on up to the most recent of times where spray paint was used, and has in many cases totally obliterated the older writing underneath.

My research into who these people were that left their names on the cavern walls in the early Nineteenth Century is continuing and will be published at a later date.
Cold Air Cave

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Cold Air Cave is located in the scenic Delaware Water Gap in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. It was discovered by Mr. Frear in 1872. During the early 1900s it was a tourist attraction for the thousands who visited the resorts in the area. A large cold blast of air continues to emerge from this small 70 foot cavity among the boulder scree along the flank of Mount Minsi, located across the river from the famous "Indian Head" on Mount Tammany. Today it has become a part of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and has all but been erased from the area's attractions.

The History of Clarksville Cave, Albany County, New York

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Clarksville Cave in the Town of New Scotland in Albany County, New York, has a long and varied history. It was discovered at least by 1811. By 1820, it was the first commercial cave in the state of New York. Many famous and not-so famous people visited the cave and left their mark both literally and figuratively. Except Howe Caverns, it is the only other cave in eastern New York for which we have a mid-19th century pictorial record.

The Newsom Family, Early Karst Residents
In Greenbrier County, West Virginia, and Morgan County, Alabama

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In 1797 and 1798, William Newsom bought 606 acres of land in Greenbrier County, WV from Thomas Tinsley and William Frogg, who had been granted the land some eleven years earlier. As described in both deeds, the boundary of the tract crossed Muddy Creek and a branch of Sinking Creek. The water from Sinking Creek resurges in one of the headwater branches of Muddy Creek. Thus in 1798 William, his wife Margaret, five sons and two daughters were living on typical Karst terrain. Here, subsequently, William and Margaret had two more sons and two daughters. William Newsom died on December 27, 1812. The third oldest Newsom son, William Jr., born Dec 20, 1787, left home in the early 1800s and eventually settled in Morgan County, AL. County records show that he was a road overseer in 1819. When land became available from the U.S. government, William Newsom Jr. in 1831 was the first settler to get a grant of land in the bottom of a landlocked valley some four miles long and one mile wide. It is another classic Karst feature which became known as the Newsome Sinks. It has more than fifty caves, and Newsome signatures have been found in Wolf Cave. Later, Nathan Newsom, born July 25, 1891, a brother of William Jr., joined him in Alabama. The Newsom family
The History and Paleontology of Haynes Cave, Monroe County, West Virginia

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Haynes Cave in Monroe County, West Virginia, is less than a mile long, but it is rich in paleontological and human history. It was mined for saltpeter in the early 1800s and during the Civil War, and it contains several artifacts from the digging. The cave is also the likely location where the famous Pleistocene sloth bones, *Megalonyx jeffersonii* were found in the late 18th century. The bones were found in a cave and sent to Thomas Jefferson, who presented a paper on "Certain Bones" to the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. The source of the bones was attributed to nearby Organ Cave, but research by Fred Grady has documented the likelihood that the bones were actually from Haynes Cave. He has also found additional *Megalonyx* bones in the cave to support this theory.

Haynes Cave is currently owned by Fred Grady and he is in the process of transferring ownership to the West Virginia Cave Conservancy. Following the presentation about the cave there will be a brief symbolic transfer ceremony.

Reminiscences of Herb Conn (1920–2012), Jewel Caver

Dwight Deal, NSS 3592, 12377 East Bates Circle, Aurora, CO 80014
Mike Wiles, NSS 18469, 1607 Gray Blvd., Newcastle, WY 82701
Art Palmer, NSS 4059, 619 Winney Hill Rd., Oneonta, NY 13820

Herb Conn, with his wife and best friend Jan, became fond of rock climbing in the 1940s. They settled in the Black Hills, where they pioneered most of the local climbs. Theirs was a Spartan life. They lived in a modified rock shelter (the Conn Cave), traveled in a van heated by a wood stove, and took odd jobs such as cleaning the Rushmore faces.

In 1959, caver Dwight Deal began a thesis project at Jewel Cave. Meeting Herb and Jan through climbing, he invited them to help map the cave. After Dwight completed his studies, Herb and Jan continued exploring and mapping the cave – a passion that lasted the rest of their lives. Herb calculated all the station coordinates by hand, and later with a small calculator. By 1980 they had mapped more than 50 miles, as told in their book, The Jewel Cave Adventure. Stamina reached its limit, while the leads got more remote, so they passed the torch to NPS employee Mike Wiles, whose group pushed to well over 100 miles.

But life remained full. Herb’s hobbies included number theory, on which he sustained a worldwide correspondence. He was apparently the first to estimate cave volume from barometric winds. He was also (privately) a prolific writer of fiction. He and Jan were inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2011. Soon afterward his health failed and he spent his last weeks with Jan in the Conn Cave, passing away in his sleep as gently as he had lived.
Hipple Cave

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Hipple Cave, Bedford County, PA, has a long history dating back to John Hipple who fought in the Revolutionary War. The cave was noted on Beers' 1877 map of the county. In 1928 the cave was commercialized and due to economic reasons, was closed about 1940. The stream that flows through the cave emerges at the base of a ridge and gently flows into Hickory Bottom Creek. Today the cave remains closed but is still frequented by a few local bats.

Myth-Conceptions about the History of Howe Caverns

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Over the years a number of stories, with little or no basis in fact, have grown up about Howe Caverns. Some of the tales like that of Schmul, the peddler, and Resig, the forest parson, were simply made up, though tracking their origin is not as easy as debunking the entire tale. Other tales like the discovery and naming of the cave by Native Indians are based on a single fact that grew way out of proportion.

Besides these, the following will be discussed: the real first marriage in the cave, the tale of the Garden of Eden, and, finally, the ridiculous tale of Millicent the Cow.

Show Caves of South Central Kentucky 1816 to 2006

George Corrie

Since Mammoth Cave was first opened for tours in 1816 there have been numerous attempts to open and develop other caves in the surrounding area. Some of these early operations are still in business and some caves were only opened for a few months. Guntown Mountain River Cave, for instance, was only opened for 3 months in 1985. For 190 years (1816 to 2006) there have been at least 40 caves, at various times, opened for tours. This list includes caves that are either former or current cave operations. It is very possible that I have missed a cave or even listed a cave twice due to use of multiple names for some caves. My research indicates that White Cave and Diamond Caverns were the first caves to have tours offered to guests visiting the Mammoth Cave.

I have only listed caves whose location and information could be confirmed. Since several of the caves have only been open for a short period of several months or even a few years it is hard to estimate how many would have been in operation at the same time. It appears that the peak of cave operations was between 1925 and 1930, when there may have been between 20 to 25 caves open for public tours. I have found at least 97 different names for these 41 caves. This can be confusing, due to
caves like Andy Collins Crystal Onyx Cave that has had five names and Outlaw Cave, which is currently working on its eighth name.

Remember that all of these caves are either in Mammoth Cave National Park or on private land. You must receive permission before entering any of these caves. Nine of the area caves are still open for business.

**American White Onyx Cave** (Barren County) is located at 642 Old Bardstown Road just on the northern edge of Park City. The cave is in a large sinkhole within sight of the old ticket office. The area surrounding the cave entrance was often used for picnics in the 1920’s and 1930’s. Today the land and cave are privately owned by Ronnie Stinson.

**Andy Collins Crystal Onyx Cave** (Edmonson County). This cave is also known as *American White Onyx Cave, Fishback Cave, Little Kentucky Beauty Cave and Old Onyx Cave*. Johnny B. Higgenbottom was an early owner of the cave in the 1930’s. The cave is located on the Bald Knob Road just past the Club House for the Park Mammoth Resort Golf Course.

**Barnett’s Cave** (Barren County) *Burnett’s Cave, Rooks Cave* is located south of Park City on 31-W just before the interstate bridge. The cave was owned by Mr. Charles Neville. The old wooden door and wiring have been removed. Today the entrance is covered with a layer of limbs and branches.

**Bechner Cave** (Edmonson County) *Doyle Cave, Goose Grease Cave, Ron’s Thanksgiving Cave* is located on 31-W just past Park Mammoth Resort as you head south. It was opened for tours in the 1920’s and 1930’s. There was a roadhouse operated by Johnny Morrison just past the cave at the intersection of the Bald Knob Road.

**Cartmill Cave** (Hart County) is located on the Mammoth Cave / Flint Ridge Road about two miles from the interstate interchange at Horse Cave. The cave is on the right side of the road, on the property of the Hayes family. The cave was explored by Mr. Cartmill and Floyd Collins who found that the cave had some nice flowstone and extends for nearly 350 feet. Today there is some evidence of early wiring in this muddy cave.

**Cedar Spring Cave** (Edmonson County) *Beckner Cave* is located just off Highway 259 on Knob Road near the Edmonson County Water Tower at the community of Cedar Springs. This cave has tally marks from its 1812 saltpeter operation. The cave was located near the original road that connected Mammoth Cave to Dripping Springs. Today the entrance has almost completely collapsed.

**Colossal Cave** (MCNP) was discovered in 1895 by Robert Woodson. On January 26, 1896 the L&N Railroad purchased the cave from Dr. L.W. Hazen. Horace Hovey visited the cave in 1903. The current entrance is at the location of the Garvin Farm. The railroad operated the cave through the 1930’s. The cave was closed when the railroad transferred the land to the proposed national park. Colossal Cave was connected to Salts Cave in 1960. This made it part of the Mammoth Cave System.

**Collins Cave** (Hart County), *Marshall Collins Cave, Bunnell Cave* is located approximately 2 miles north on Highway 335 (the same road as Kentucky Down Under) from the Horse Cave interstate interchange. This cave has a large entrance just behind an old house. You can see the entrance from the road. The cave contains a large trunk passage that is about 400 feet long. Today the cave is owned by Nita and Bobby Melloan.
Crystal Onyx Cave – (Barren County), New Indian Cave is located off Highway 70 just east of Cave City. It was discovered by Cleon Turner in 1960. The first gift shop, campground and trails in the cave were built and opened for tours in 1963. In 1973 the cave was surveyed to have a total length of approximately 1500 feet. The family of Ed Hay operated the cave for years. After Ed’s death the cave was sold to Bluegrass Cellular in 2009. The cave has been leased from Bluegrass Cellular and the new managers plan to reopen the cave as soon as possible.

Crump’s Cave (Warren County), Cave Spring Cave is at 567 Rocky Hill Road just outside of Smiths Grove. At one time the cave was used to provide water for the town of Smiths Grove. It has several very unusual mud glyphs in the cave. In 1994 a large bat gate was constructed at the entrance to protect the bats and the mud glyphs. The cave was used for tours when the Cave Spring B&B first opened. Today the cave is owned by Western Kentucky University as a nature preserve. The surrounding farm is still owned by Bill Mahronic and operated as Oak Hill Farm and Cabins. The cave is no longer available for visitation.

Cub Run Cave (Hart County) is located between Cub Run and Wax. The cave was discovered by Garland Childress and Duvall Logsdon in 1950. They spent the winter developing trails and offered tours during the summer of 1951. They closed it after the first summer. In 2005 the Schnabel family purchased the cave and installed new wooden walkways and lights and reopened the cave in 2006. The cave is currently open for tours.

Diamond Caverns (Barren County), Richardson Cave is located on the road as you enter Mammoth Cave National Park from Park City. It was discovered on July 14, 1859 by a slave of Jessie Coats, and was opened for tours that August. The cave was purchased by John R. Proctor in 1867 and in 1917 a Delco Generator was installed to provide electric lights. Dr. Rowsey purchased the cave on February 8, 1924 and upgraded the walks and replaced the older electric lights. In the 1940’s he built the current lodge. In 1956 admission to Diamond Caverns was only $2 for the ninety minute tour. In 1982 the cave was purchased by Moyer Enterprises and in 1993 it was purchased by the BULEk Corporation. The current owners purchased the cave on July 7, 1999. This cave is currently open for tours. It is owned by a private partnership.

Dixie Onyx Cave (Barren County) is located north of Park City on the Quarry Road, just off Highway 31-W. Cleon Turner, discoverer of Crystal Onyx Cave, guided there. There was a road from there to Old Bardstown Road on the opposite side of Brushy Knob. This was the access point for the caves on Brushy Knob.

Dossey Domes Cave (MCNP) is located directly across from the old ferry landing at River Styx. The cave was developed by Edmund Turner in 1912. The book, Dossey Domes Cavern, was published about the cave in 1920. At one time there were pipe lines that provided carbide lights for the cave. This cave is not part of the Mammoth Cave system.

Floyd Collins Crystal Cave (MCNP), Great Crystal Cave, Collins, Crystal Cave was discovered by Floyd Collins on December 17, 1917. April 1927, Dr. Harry B. Thomas purchased the cave for $10,000. In 1956, tour admission was $2.34. The cave was operated for tours between 1918 and 1961. The Thomas family sold the cave to the National Park Service on October 21, 1961 for $285,000. Floyd Collins Crystal Cave was connected to Mammoth Cave in 1972.
Ganter Cave (MCNP) is located about 2 ½ miles below the current Green River Ferry. The cave was developed by Henry C. Ganter and shown to the public in the early 1900’s. Early steamboats may have stopped at the cave. Today the cave can be reached from the Maple Springs trailhead. This cave is gated because the park allowed recreational caving in the 1970’s and 1980’s.

Great Onyx Cave (MCNP) is located on Flint Ridge. Today it is believed that Edmund Turner already knew about the cave before he and L. P. Edwards “discovered” the cave on June 1, 1915. In 1956, admission to Great Onyx Cave was $1.85 for a two hour trip. The cave was operated by Lucy Cox until November, 1960 when the cave was sold to the National Park Service for $385,000. Mammoth Cave National Park has shown the cave seasonally by lantern light since 1975.

Guntown Mountain Onyx Cave (Barren County) is located at Guntown Mountain Amusement Park at Cave City. In 1971 a couple of small caves were discovered while putting in a new parking area for Guntown Mountain. The next year Cleon Turner connected these two caves together with an enclosed walkway. Today the cave and Guntown Mountain are owned by Dan Broady. This cave is open for tours as part of Guntown Mountain Amusement Park.

Guntown Mountain River Cave (Barren County) was operated as part of Guntown Mountain for three months during the summer of 1985. There was talk of having some crawling tours in this cave. I am not sure if the cave was ever opened to the public.

Hidden River Cave (Hart County), Horse Cave is located in downtown Horse Cave and was known for a long time by early pioneers. In 1892, Dr. G. A. Thomas installed an electric turbine that provided lights for the cave and downtown Horse Cave. Dr. Harry B. Thomas opened the cave for tours in 1916 and operated the cave until 1943. The American Cave Conservation Association (ACCA) moved to Horse Cave and reopened the cave in 1986. The American Cave Museum was dedicated in 1993. The cave and museum are currently open for tours.

Hundred Domes Cave (Edmonson County), Passenger Coach, Preston’s, Coats Cave is located on the property of Park Mammoth Resort. There are signatures in the cave from the 1850’s when the stage coach stopped at the cave for a rest break; tours were offered intermittently during this period. The first mention of the cave was by Rev. G.S. Bailey in his book, The Caverns of Kentucky, in 1863. Today we know that the cave has a surveyed length of approximately three miles. In the 1960’s the Marco Development Company purchased the land from descendants of Spence Preston who was related to of Jacob Coats who owned the land in the eighteen hundreds. Marco Development Company went on to develop Park Mammoth Resort and opened the cave for tours during the 1960’s. In the 1980’s the resort was sold to the Acerio Family and finally in 2010 the resort was sold to the Noble family. Currently all the commercial caves at Park Mammoth Resort are closed for tours. (Also see the listing for Jessie James and Slave Caves).

Indian Cave (Barren County), Old Indian, Osceola Cave, Shaw Cave, Mammoth Wonderland Cave, is located on Highway 70 near Highland Methodist Church. The cave was discovered in 1861 by B.R. Young, Jr., and visited by Dr. W. Stump Forwood in 1870. This pretty little cave was operated through the 1950’s. The entrance has since collapsed.

Jackrock Cave (Barren County) is located on Brushy Knob near Park City. Apparently, this cave is located near Show Case Cave, and is about a 1,000 feet long with a series of very small passages. It is uncertain if it was ever opened for tours. The caves on Brushy Knob could be accessed from the Quarry Road that connected 31-W to the Old Bardstown Road.
Jesse James Cave (Barren County), James Cave, 1,000 Room Cave is on the property of Park Mammoth Resort. Legend has it that this cave was used by the James Gang after robbing the Mammoth Cave Stage Coach on September 3, 1880. There is a Frank James signature inside, but it has not been authenticated. Today we know that this complex cave is more than nine miles long and is under only 35 surface acres. In the 1960’s the Marco Development Company purchased the land from the estate of Jacob Coats, a former slave who purchased his freedom and bought the land before the Civil War. In the 1980’s the resort was sold to the Acero Family and finally in 2010 the resort was sold to the Noble family. Currently all the commercial caves at Park Mammoth Resort are closed for tours. (See additional information in the listing for Hundred Domes and Slave Caves.)

Kentucky Caverns (Hart County), Mammoth Onyx Cave, is located at the interstate exit for Horse Cave. The cave was discovered in 1899 by Martha Woodson. In 1922 Dr. Harry B. Thomas opened it for tours. In 1956, admission to Mammoth Onyx Cave was $2.34 for its ninety minute tour. Kentucky Down Under was opened in 1990. Today the cave is available for tours and is operated as part of Kentucky Down Under.

Long Cave (MCNP), Grand Avenue Cave, Wright’s Cave, is on the Cedar Hill Church Road, inside the national park. The first land patent was in 1792 and the cave was used for saltpeter mining during the War of 1812. A branch line of the Mammoth Cave Railroad was built to Long Cave in 1877. The cave was opened for tours that year with the display of the mummy “Little Al.” In 1894 the rail service was discontinued and cave tours were stopped. During the winter of 1917- 1918, John D. Hackett of Texas spent the winter in the cave. Long Cave is not part of the Mammoth Cave system.

Lost River Cave (Warren County), Cave Mill, Old Mill Cave, is just south of Bowling Green on Highway 31-W at Cave Mill Road. Lost River Cave was known by prehistoric people before modern settlers rediscovered the cave in the late 1700’s. The first mill was built in the cave entrance in 1792. The cave and valley were used as a campground during the Civil War. In 1933, the first underground nightclub opened and offered walking tours. In 1956, Lost River Cave charged $.90 for its forty-minute walking tour. The nightclub operation and walking tours were stopped in 1960. The “Friends of Lost River” was established in 1990 to preserve the cave and valley. The group offered the first boat tours in 1998. Their boats were originally used on Echo River in Mammoth Cave. This cave is currently opened for tours year around.

Mammoth Cave (MCNP), Flatt’s Cave, Saltpeter Cave is located in Mammoth Cave National Park. This listing includes the Historic, New Entrance (1921), Frozen Niagara (1924), Cathedral Domes (1930 – 1934), Violet City (1931), Carmichael (1931), and the Elevator(1957) Entrance. Mammoth Cave was used by pre-historic explorers and then for saltpeter processing prior to and during the War of 1812. Tours started in 1816 and are still offered today under the stewardship of the National Park Service.

Old Original Cave (Edmonson County), Wondering Woods Cavern, Lamplighters Cave was operated as part of the Wondering Woods complex. McNeal Van Meter developed the cave for Wondering Woods by installing wooden walks, steps and lights. The cave was open for approximately five years and was found to be between 200 and 300 feet long. The tour was a self-guided part of Wondering Woods which opened in 1972. The video “The World Through the Eyes of Children” was filmed in 1974. The Wondering Woods complex was developed and owned by Herby Moore who had developed the Mammoth Cave Wax Museum in Cave City. The Wondering Woods facility was closed in the mid 1980’s and was sold to Mammoth Cave National Park in 1991.
Outlaw Cave (Barren County) This cave has been known as Mammoth Mushroom Cave, Mammoth Wonderland Cave, Mammoth Wonderland River Cave, Rainbow Caverns, Tin Door Cave, Wonderland Cave, and Buzzard Roost Cave. The cave is operated as part of the Kentucky Action Park near Cave City. Mary Lou Carey is the current owner and the cave is available for tours.

Payne Cave (Barren County), Payne's Saltpeter Cave, Skaggs Cave, Temple Hill Cave is located near the community of Temple Hill. The cave is on a bluff overlooking a beautiful little creek. During the Civil War the cave was used for storage of supplies and saltpeter mining. The cave is still in the Harvey family.

Procter Cave (MCNP) is located between Locust Grove and Sloan’s Crossing Pond. Legend says that the cave was discovered by Jonathan Doyle in 1863. The cave was purchased by Larkin J. Procter in 1887. He built a hotel and post office near the Mammoth Cave Railroad and opened the cave for tours in 1890. The cave and hotel were closed in 1929 when the railroad was discontinued. On August 11, 1979 Roger Brucker, John Wilcox, Tom Gracanin, Lynn Weller and Tom Brucker connected the Frozen Niagara section of Mammoth Cave through Cocklebur Avenue to Proctor Cave.

Pruett Saltpeter Cave (Warren County) this large saltpeter cave is located near the community of Anna on the right side Highway 185 as you head north, just past the turnoff for Richardsville. This impressive cave is about two miles long, but was only open for tours for a short time.

Salts Cave (MCNP) Great Salts Cave or Old Salts Cave is located on Flint Ridge. Prehistoric explorers actively mined the cave for salts – gypsum and mirabilite – from which the cave takes its name. The cave is noted for its profuse aboriginal remains and artifacts. The mummy “Little Al” was discovered in the cave in 1875. Salts Cave has about 12 miles of passages and tours were offered during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The last attempt to show the cave was in 1922 when the Bluegrass Country Club purchased the surrounding land and attempted to reopen it for tours. Woodson-Adair Cave was connected to Salts Cave in 1895. On August 22, 1960 the Cave Research Foundation connected Colossal Cave with Salts Cave and the next year they were linked to the Crystal / Unknown Cave system. Ultimately it was connected into the Mammoth Cave system in 1972.

Sand Cave (MCNP) is located just inside Mammoth Cave National Park. Parking is available at the east entrance sign. This is the cave where the attempted rescue of Floyd Collins, his tragic death, and recovery efforts took place in January and February, 1925. It is the only cave on the list that had tickets sold to see the entrance, but tours never entered the cave. The cave was owned by Bee Doyle who built a small ticket office (behind the Wayfarer) that contained items from the Floyd Collins rescue. Mr. Doyle sold tickets to the cave entrance until the national park was established.

Short Cave (Barren County), Jan Cave, Mummy Cave, is located across the road from Diamond Caverns. The cave is about 1,500 feet long and is famous for the discovery of prehistoric mummies, including Fawn Hoof. The cave is named for Peyton Short, an early owner. The cave was used intermittently for tours in 1924 and for musical performances as part of the Diamond Caverns Campground operation in the 1970’s and 1980’s.

Show Case Cave (Barren County), Collins Onyx Cave, Doyle Cave, Old Doyle Cave, is located on Brushy Knob near Park City. The cave was developed by Andy L. Collins and Cleon Turner in 1928 and opened for tours as Collins Onyx Cave. During the winter of 1949 / 1950 the cave changed management and reopened as the Show Case Cave. In 1949 the two hour tour cost $1.00. This cave was accessible from the same road as Jackrock Cave.
Slave Cave is on the property of Park Mammoth Resort. The cave is located next to the historic entrance to Jessie James Cave. Prior to and after the Civil War, the land was owned by Jacob Coats, a former slave who purchased his freedom. Slave Cave was reputedly used as a hideout for slaves escaping to the north. There was a triangle shaped rock that made a perfect cover for the entrance. The cave is approximately sixty feet long. You can still see part of the old fireplace said to have been built by a slave. In the 1960’s the Marco Development Company purchased the land from the estate of Jacob Coats and developed Park Mammoth Resort. In the 1980’s the resort was sold to the Acero Family and finally in 2010 the resort was sold to the Noble family. The resort developed James Caves, Hundred Domes and Slave Cave. Currently none of the caves at Park Mammoth are opened for tours. (See information in the listing for Hundred Domes and Jessie James Caves.)

Thompson Cave (Barren County) is located south of Park City on 31-W between the interstate bridge and the entrance to Park Mammoth Resort; it is near the abandoned location of the former Kentucky Reptile Garden. The cave has a large gradual entrance that was ideal for tours. The cave was open from the 1930’s and 1940’s. The cave is about 500 feet long. Today the cave is owned by Billy Wallace.

White Cave (MCNP) is located near the Headquarters Campground. This very small cave was used occasionally for tours as early as 1850 and again for Trog Tours offered by the National Park Service in the 1970’s and 1980’s.

Wonder Cave (Edmonson County), Cline System, Ford Farm Cave, Cline Windmill Cave is located south of Park City on 31-W. Look for the stone gates on the left side of the road, if headed south.

References:

“Mammoth Cave and the Cave Region of Kentucky,” book written by Helen F. Randolph, 1924.


Additional information has been provided by Steve Gentry, Peggy Nims, David Spence, Ronnie Doyle, Chris Groves, Ben Miller, Norman Warnell, McNeil Van Meter, Henry Holman and Bruce Hatcher.
According to legend, Hipple Cave was discovered by one of Pennsylvania’s pioneer settlers by the name of Hipple when he tracked a bear into the hole. John Hipple, born about 1769, was a veteran of the Revolutionary War serving under Captain Edward Parker in the 2nd Battalion of the Chester County Militia in 1776. John is believed to have left Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and settled near "Waterstreet," Bedford County sometime before 1784.

A survey warrant dated 2 September 1784 was made on 7 September 1785 to John Hipple for 419 ½ acres on the Meadow & Hickory Bottom branch of Yellow Creek. It was reported that this was extracted from an original warrant dated 25 October 1765 to Lambert Cadwalder. The property is also shown on E. L. Walker's map of Bedford County in 1861 but not the cave. The earliest known document of the cave is the County Atlas of Bedford Pennsylvania published by F. W. Beers in 1877. This shows the location of "Hipples Cave" just inside the southern border of Woodbury Township. His son John sold 186 acres of the property to Jacob Snyder on 11 June 1840.

John Hipple married Anna Dilts, daughter of John Dilts, and had the following issue: Henry, Jacob, John, Anna, Joseph, Margareta and William. John died 27 December 1841 and is buried in nearby Bybee Cemetery at Waterside along with Lawrence Hipple, who also fought in the Revolutionary War and is believed to be John's brother. Several of the sons moved to Ohio, thus the lineage has been difficult to trace. Bedford County tax records show a Henry Hipple in 1810 and a Jacob Hipple in 1868. John inherited the stone house and Mary got the original tract of land. Today there are no Hipples in Bedford County. Mary Hipple married Christopher Stonerook and her descendents still remain in the area.

The cave is located along Hipple Cave Road, on the northeast side of Waterside. It is currently on the property of Richard Sell. Vandals have smashed many of the finest formations and removed most of the commercial improvements. The resurgence or downstream entrance, is behind Hipple's large stone house, at the base of the ridge, The small stream flows into Hickory Bottom Run.

John Hipple was the great-grandfather of H.S. Stonerook, who owned the land and developed the cave in 1928. This was the time that several other caves in Central Pennsylvania were opened to the public. The cave's main advantage was its location, just 0.5 mile east of State Highway 36 (22 miles south of Altoona) at Waterside and 12 miles north of Everett and the Lincoln Highway (US Route 30), the nation's primary transcontinental trunk road. Mr. Stonerook constructed ample parking, a dance pavilion, a shelter, and fireplaces for picnickers. The picnic grounds were an attractive spot in the hills, surrounded by elevated cultivated fields. The grove includes two sinkholes. A row of peonies graced the path to the cave where a staircase lead down the hole to a bridge that spans the cave's interior stream. A gasoline powered generator made electricity for lighting the cave and grounds and to operate a pump in the cave to furnish water in the picnic grounds.

The cave was opened on 26 May 1928. It was advertised several times in the weekly Morrison Cove Herald but there was no accompanying article. Large crowds from the surrounding area would gather to dance in the pavilion and use the swings and play horseshoes. A concession stand sold ice
A view inside Hipple Cave as seen on a rare real photo postcard.

cream, soda pop, and sandwiches. High school students and college geology majors also enjoyed the facility. A small fee was charged for entrance to the park with an additional charge to tour the cave. Several years later, Wonderland (Coral) Caverns would open just a few miles away at Mann's Choice.

Guides were hired and trained in the special features of the cavern before they were eligible to lead tours. Several of the highlights of the tour included rock formations resembling scrambled eggs, a palm tree, President Lincoln's head, a turtle, dog, owl, alligator and a stalactite formation which formed the "fire" in the Devil's Oven. Since most of the tourists came on the weekend, two young boys were paid a nickel and an ice cream cone every Thursday to spread saw dust along the path through the cave to keep the walkway from being slippery.

The Great Depression slowed the tourist business and many of the smaller, less attractive show caves were closed. The cost of upkeep for the electrical wires and wooden walkways, along with floods and competition, would close many of these attractions in Pennsylvania. Sometime between 1940 and 1950 business declined enough that the cave was closed. After the death of Mr. Stonerook, his wife could no longer maintain the park. Vandals have destroyed many of the cave’s finer formations. Today, nothing remains of the attractions, which entertained so many just a few decades before. No brochures and only a few souvenirs have been reported to document the remains of this operation. Even pictures and postcards are scarce and difficult to locate.
The cave is in Trenton limestone beds dipping SE 28º and the course of the cave is along the bedding striking 50º East. The entrance, called the Bake Oven, is a large chamber through which visitors descend by a flight of 50 steps to a lower passage. Near the foot of the stairs a small stream dashes into view and follows along the tunnel for 200 feet. For a few rods the roof lacks headroom, but shortly the ceiling rises to 50 feet and from here on to the end of the cave, a distance of 300 yards, the passageway is of ample dimensions.

About 300 feet from the entrance a joint at right angles to the strike of the beds enlarges the cave. The ceiling is 50 feet high and on the right is a steep passage 30 feet above the path, called the "Staircase." On the left is a narrow fissure which small boys who have explored it say leads to another room. A small stream enters here and on the floor is a formation that looks like a footrest for a bootblack stand. A shelf about 9 feet wide projecting from the right wall is a less soluble layer in limestone. Here begins the Tunnel, a straight passage about 400 feet long, with plenty of height, width, and a smooth floor. On the floor near the far end of this stretch is a thin, sinuous ridge two or three inches high that once formed the rim of a pool. This formation is called "Allegheny Mountain," and encloses an interesting group of cave concretions.

The cave makes a sharp turn or offset and resumes its general southwest course. Just around the bend is a large stalagmite called "The Pillar of Salt," and a complete column, called "Palm Tree," which although tapering downward, has formations at the top suggestive of fronds.

Stairs lead to a shelf above the main passage, and here one sees a shadow profile of Lincoln's head and two ceiling depressions several feet long, one like the print of a pointed-toe shoe and the other like a human foot. Still higher is another passage with nice stalactites. Elsewhere formations are few and dark in color in this cave. A small hole leads to a room about 15 to 20 feet wide and six feet high with much breakdown and a parallel passage close under the surface. Here the underground stream appears again and is in sight until it emerges at the surface. The roof is so low at the end of the cave that visitors stoop to see daylight beyond, but most turn and retrace their steps to the entrance.

A small stream enters one end of Hipple Cave as a spring 30 feet or more below the entrance. This stream flows the length of the cave, at first in a tunnel barely 5 feet high, then for a long distance in rooms with 50-foot ceilings. At the far end of the cave the stream reaches the surface under solid rock barely 2 feet above it. The resurgence at the base of a vertical outcrop is very picturesque.

During the commercial tours, formations in the cave that resemble a turtle, alligator, owl, dog, child, leaf tobacco and waterfalls were pointed out by the guides. The cave is about 1,200 feet long.

Local authority C. G. Mellott reports that some people believe a connection may exist between the Hickory Bottom Creek which runs through the cave and the creek that feeds the Woodbury dam. The foundation for this hypothesis began when the borough dynamited the Keragy Dam which is located between Woodbury and Waterside. The water flowing from Hipple Cave became abnormally muddy following the blast. This led to the suggestion that the two separate systems of water may be connected by underground channels. This also suggests the possibility that Hipple Cave is a lot larger than people had originally thought.

The bats in this cave have been studied by Charles Mohr, noted speleobiologist, who was the first to band bats in the 1940's. Additional surveys were made throughout the years. In the late 2000's White Nose Syndrome became prevalent in the Northeastern U.S. and many of the bats died. The Pennsylvania Game Commission has become concerned. We can only hope that the disease will be
defeated and these friendly flying mammals will once again repopulate and make Hipple and other caves their roost once again.

REFERENCES


The Newsom Family, Early Karst Residents in Greenbrier County, West Virginia, and Morgan County, Alabama

Charles A. Lundquist
Research Institute, University of Alabama Huntsville

BACKGROUND

Some families seem to choose Karst terrains for their homes. The particular Newsom family considered here is an example of such a family. The family members were relatively literate for their time, although not highly schooled, and left extensive written accounts of their experiences. The family members also demonstrated an adventurous spirit.
An early ancestor of this Newsom family was a John Newsom, said to have been born in 1721 [1]. He married Margaret Reason. They established a home in Northumberland County, Virginia, and had two sons: Robert Newsom, born about 1758 and William Newsom, born about 1760. Tragically, Margaret died at the birth of William. John himself died two months later in 1761. Guardians were eventually appointed for the orphaned boys and they lived in Northumberland County until they became of age. Robert chose to stay in Virginia, where he had a large family. When William became 21, he went westward to what is now Campbell County, Virginia. There he married Margaret Speece on May 21, 1782.

MOVE TO GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

After a stay in Campbell County, William Newsom moved his family westward, first briefly to Monroe County, now West Virginia, and finally to Greenbrier County, West Virginia. An account of these years of the William Newsom family history is found in a text by Lewis Newsom [2], who was the second son of William and Margaret, Figure 1.

**Figure 1, Children of William and Margaret (Speece) Newsom**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>B/C/A</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>D/C/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Newsom</td>
<td>b VA</td>
<td>1783 Apr 23</td>
<td>d MO 1843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Newsom</td>
<td>b VA</td>
<td>1785 Oct 28</td>
<td>d OH 1872 Mar 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Newsom Jr</td>
<td>b VA</td>
<td>1787 Dec 20</td>
<td>d AL 1858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Newsom</td>
<td>b VA</td>
<td>1789 Oct 6</td>
<td>d MO 1855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Newsom</td>
<td>b VA</td>
<td>1791 Jul 25</td>
<td>d FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary (Polly) Newsom</td>
<td>b VA</td>
<td>1794 Jul 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m Andrew Gwinn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Newsom</td>
<td>b WV</td>
<td>1796 Sep 21</td>
<td>d MO 1846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m Lawrence Boggs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susannah Newsom</td>
<td>b WV</td>
<td>1798 Jul 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m Abraham Keller</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conrad Newsom</td>
<td>b WV</td>
<td>1801 Jul 24</td>
<td>d IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah P. (Sally) Newsom</td>
<td>b WV</td>
<td>1804 Jan 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m James Gwinn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Newsom</td>
<td>b WV</td>
<td>1805 Dec 28</td>
<td>d OR 1882 Jan 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By two deeds dated February 18, 1797 and February 27, 1798, William Newsom Sr. acquired a 606 acre plot of land from Thomas Tinsley and William Frogg, respectively. This land had been granted to Tinsley and Frogg in 1786 [3]. The land description is quoted in Figure 2.

**Figure 2, Tinsley et al Land Grant, 1786 [1, p16]**

Beginning at a red oak and hickory on a hillside to the west of Dyers new hunting camp, 120 rods southwest to a hickory and dogwood on the bank of Muddy Creek, crossed the creek, turned northeast 381 rods to a white oak and ash on a branch of Sinking Creek, skirted around the marshy ground of the Creek and resumed its stretch to the northeast for another 275 rods to a red oak on a small mountain, then back 470 rods to the starting point.

The area of the Sinking Creek insurgence and the water's resurgence as the headwaters of
Muddy Creek are principal features of the ‘Sinking Creek Basin’ as described in the NSS 2000 Convention Guidebook [4] and copied in Figure 3. This basin included the ‘home place’ where the Newsom children listed in Figure 1 lived until they each reached an age when they struck out independently. Thus they were reared on a typical Karst terrain. They became hardy individuals.

Figure 3:

In his classic book, *Caverns of West Virginia*, William E. Davies describes the Sinks of Sinking Creek and Piercys Mill Cave [5]. These major speleological features, near the Newsom’s home, must have been known to adventurous lads.

The untimely death of William Newsom Sr. on December 27, 1812 was recounted years later by his youngest son, David Newsom, in a newspaper article, “The History of a Whiskey Still” [6]. David says “Finally he [William Sr] concluded that it would be good policy to buy the still and its fixtures, [from the estate of a deceased owner] and put them to work on his farm, and use up his fruit and grain in that way.” “Years rolled by and he became a confirmed drunkard.” Eventually, William Sr. died in a drunken fit.

By 1812, when William Sr. died, his oldest son, John, was married and had a farm of his own nearby in Greenbrier County. After six or eight years there, John moved his family to Monroe County, Missouri, where he lived until his death.

Lewis, the second son, learned the tanning trade and become a prosperous citizen of Gallipolis, Ohio. During the War of 1812, Lewis rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the Ohio Military and was responsible for the Army supplies cached in Gallipolis.

Robert Newsom, the fourth son of William Sr., married and began farming in Greenbrier County. Subsequently he moved his family westward, ultimately to Callaway County, Missouri, where he was murdered in 1855.
Nathan Newsom learned tanning from his brother Lewis. Nathan also was in the Army in the War of 1812. As a noncommissioned officer he was with troops maneuvering for an attack against the British across the Canadian border. From August 9, 1812 to February 31, 1813 he kept a journal which has been transcribed by the Ohio Historical Society [7]. Richard Knopf, Historical Editor and Research Historian of the Society, states that the Journal “gives a clear account of the hardships, trials and tribulations through which the frontier soldier suffered as a part of the frontier army.”

Conrad Newsom married and reared a family in Iowa. He was the grandfather of Edward Earl Newsom, who produced a history of the Newsome family [1], and the father of John Edward Newsom, for whom the Newsom Archives at Iowa Wesleyan College are named.

In 1820, at age 14, David Newsom left his home and his mother and became an apprentice at a tannery owned by his brother, Lewis, in Gallipolis, Ohio. In 1831 David moved to Springfield, Illinois where he knew Abraham Lincoln. Later David and his family traveled the Oregon Trail and settled in Oregon. There, toward the end of the Civil War, David was asked by Lincoln’s Department of Agriculture to keep the department informed on the progress of agriculture in Marion County, Oregon. He wrote articles regularly and extensively for several newspapers; these writings were collected and published as a book by the Oregon Historical Society [6].

THE NEWSOM FAMILIES IN ALABAMA

William Newsom Jr. was the third oldest son of William Sr. and Margaret Newsom. At about age 18, in 1805 he married Sarah Woolfolk. The young William left home in Greenbrier County and after stops in Kentucky and Tennessee, became an early settler in Morgan County, Alabama. Alabama Territory was organized on Mar 3, 1817 and became the State of Alabama in December 1819. William was a road overseer in Morgan County in 1819 [8], thus he was present when Alabama became a state.

Brindley Mountain in Morgan County is actually a large, flat, sandstone-capped plateau a few miles south of the Tennessee River. It was a continuation of the Cumberland Plateau but was cut off by the river. A landlocked depression some four miles long and about one mile wide is cut into Brindley Mountain. The drainage in this Karst valley is entirely underground. The valley contains numerous individual dolines or sinks and more than fifty caves [9]. Their exploration and study was the first major project undertaken by the Huntsville Grotto after its formation in 1955.

When land in Morgan County became available from the U.S. Government after the 1816 treaties with the Cherokees and Chickasaws [10], the rich bottom land near the Tennessee River and its tributaries was the first choice of most settlers. However a first choice of William Newsom Jr. on May 28, 1831 was an 80 acre plot in the middle of the Karst valley described above, which later was named Newsome Sinks after William. At the same time, he also bought two other 80 acre plots on the flat top of Brindley Mountain near Newsome Sinks. William was the first land owner in Newsome Sinks and several years passed before anyone else chose a site in the Sinks.

Why William Newsom Jr. picked the isolated land in the bottom of Newsome Sinks is a mystery. One thing is clear. The terrain with its sinking creeks and resurgences closely resembles the Karst landscape of his boyhood in Greenbrier County, West Virginia.

By the 1840s, William’s brother, Nathan Newsom had joined William in north Alabama. In 1846, he was a candidate for the Alabama legislature from Marshall County [11]. In the 1850 U.S. Census, Nathan, age 58, b VA, is listed with his family in Marshall County, Warrenton District as a
tanner [12]. The Warrenton District is another Karst terrain on the east flank of Brindley Mountain. The county line between Morgan and Marshall Counties runs roughly N-S one and one-half miles east of the Newsome Sinks. Later, Nathan moved on to Florida.

NEWSOM THIRD GENERATION

William Newsom Jr. and Nathan Newsom had large families with them on the Karst terrain in Alabama. However, two of William’s sons need particular mention here because they left their names in Wolf Cave in the Newsome Sinks. They are Sowell Newsom and Richard W. Newsom. The brothers were in their 20s when they left inscriptions on the wall of the large entrance passage in Wolf Cave:

S. Newsom          Nov 10, 1839
R. W. Newsom        Nov 10, 1839

These were early inscriptions, but not the earliest in the cave. Wolf Cave was the site of extensive salt peter production during the Civil War and later inscriptions reflect this fact. William Newsom Jr. died in 1859, before war operations in Newsome Sinks.

EPILOGUE

At least four of the sons of William Newsom Sr. had experience in the leather industry: William Jr. with saddle making and Lewis, Nathan and David with tanning. In the 1850 census, while in Alabama, Nathan’s profession is recorded as tanning, as is the profession of his son, William V. Newsom.

It is also interesting that Britain (Brit) Bowling, another early settler, had a tanning yard in Newsome Sinks before the Civil War [13]. The account of this circumstance says that “He did not enlist in the Confederate Army because leather was so badly needed for saddles and bridles for the horses and shoes for the soldiers. His tannery was destroyed during the War Between the States by the Yankees”.

This account raises the question “Is there something about caves that makes them useful for leather tanning operations?” An elementary school approach to this question is to consult a standard encyclopedia to determine the requirements for tanning. Figure 4 has some quotations from an Encyclopedia Americana:
LEATHER MANUFACTURE AND CAVES

“Leather, Manufacture and Uses of”
Notes from Encyclopaedia Americana [14]

Soak Step
Vats with water temperature below 65° F

Wash Step
Clean cold water

Depilation Step
In vats with dissolved slacked lime

Dehairing Step
Scraped by hand

Delimeing Step
Vats with fermented hen manure, dog dung or pigeon manure

Tanning Step
Vats with dilute extract from the bark of oak, hemlock, sumac or other trees.

Cave Circumstances:

Cave Temperature in AL about 58° F

Cave water often clean

Slacked lime can be made from limestone.

Might use bat guano

The data of Figure 4 suggests a further question; “Are speleohistorians overlooking an interesting research topic—the role of caves in historic tanning operations?”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author acknowledges helpful assistance by the NSS Library, the Morgan County Historical Society Archives, the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, the Greenbrier County WV Historical Society Archives and the Greenbrier County Clerks Office.

REFERENCES

Confederate Soldier Graffiti in Allen's Cave, Warren County, Virginia: A Preliminary Report

Thomas E. Tucker and Marion O. Smith

Between 2002 and 2006 a number of Virginia cavers visited 700+ foot-long Allen's Cave near Front Royal, Virginia. Some of them mapped the cave while others noted that there was, among its layers of graffiti, a number of signatures by Confederate soldiers. A few of the names were quite legible while others are open to interpretation. Some of them were thought to be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HP Grant</th>
<th>JH Brown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W.W. Long</td>
<td>James Lechlator (?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co? H? 7th SC Regt</td>
<td>15th S C Regt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>186</td>
<td>1864 S. G. Godfrey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J W Boon (?)</td>
<td>8th S C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J A Lisk (Sisk?)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co C 8th SC Regt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of the regiments represented during late 1864 belonged to Brigadier James Conner's Brigade.
of Major General Joseph B. Kershaw's Division, with the other brigade units being the 2nd, 3rd, and 20th South Carolina Regiments and 3rd South Carolina Battalion. The movements of the division reveal the most likely opportunity men had time to tour Allen's Cave.¹

Kershaw's Division belonged to the First Corps of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. In early August 1864 the division, along with the First Corps commander, Lieutenant General Richard H. Anderson, were ordered to the Shenandoah Valley to reinforce Major General Jubal A. Early's army. They left August 6 or 7, and went via the Richmond and Manassas Railroad from Chester Station to Mitchell Station, about six miles south of Culpeper. On the 12th the division marched via Flint Hill, crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains, and camped near Front Royal. The next day, they moved a mile farther, to a large spring near the Shenandoah River. They remained there until the 17th, when they marched again, reaching Winchester the next day. Thus, the days between August 12 and 17 encompass the most likely period when soldiers had time enough to visit Allen's Cave. None of their subsequent wanderings-- to near Charlestown, Maryland, back to Winchester and detached from Early's forces, back toward Richmond as far as Gordonsville, and countermanded September 24 again to Early to fight at Cedar Creek-- put them close enough to the cave to consider an excursion to it.²

After moving toward Charlestown, Maryland, Early's army retrograded to near Winchester. Near there, on September 13, 1864, the 8th South Carolina Infantry of 150 men, and elements of several Virginia Cavalry units were on picket a half mile from from Kershaw's Division at/near Abraham's Creek, not far from the Opequon River. Union Brigadier General James B. McIntosh with a brigade of cavalry consisting of the 2nd Ohio, 3rd New Jersey, 2nd and 5th New York, and 1st Connecticut and a section of artillery, was ordered to make a reconnaissance on the Berryville and Winchester Pike and cross the river to determine the strength of the Confederates. In doing so they made a quick dash, past the 8th South Carolina, surrounded most of it, and succeeded in capturing its colonel, John W. Henagan, and thirteen other officers, including Lieutenant Godfrey, and 92 enlisted men, plus two officers and 35 enlisted men from six Virginia cavalry organizations, at a cost of two killed and three wounded. When all hope of rescue vanished, Godfrey, the regiment's acting adjutant, was supposedly in the process of tearing the regimental flag off its staff in order to hide it when Federal troops rode up and ordered him to hand it over. Corporal Isaac Gause of Company E. 2nd Ohio Cavalry secured the flag and took it in. He was eventually awarded the Medal of Honor. How many other Allen's cave visitors were captured that day is not known. Earlier, on August 26, seven officers including the lieutenant colonel and 69 enlisted men from the 15th South Carolina were captured on a similar reconnaissance attack on Kershaw's picket line near Halltown, West Virginia.³

Only one Allen's Cave Confederate has been definitely identified, while several others have been partially or potentially determined:

Samuel Gillespie Godfrey (December 28, 1839-September 10, 1897) was a son of William (1803-1885), a Cheraw bank president, and Margaret Bowen Godfrey (1808-1876). In 1860 Samuel was a South Carolina student at Columbia, and when the war began he was attending medical lectures in Charleston. On April 13, 1861, he joined as a corporal in what became Company C, 8th South Carolina Infantry, and on the following July 15 he was promoted to 2nd sergeant. Six days later he participated in the first battle of Bull Run and “behaved himself like a veteran.” During early 1862 he unsuccessfully solicited an appointment as 1st lieutenant in the Confederate regular army. However, on the succeeding Mary 13, he was elected 2nd lieutenant of his company, and on July 10, 1863, was promoted to 1st lieutenant. Earlier, starting February 10, 1863, he had a 27 day furlough. Captured September 13, 1864, he was reputedly interviewed by Union
General Philip H. Sheridan before being sent with other officers to prison at Johnson's Island, Lake Erie, Ohio. There he was housed in building or block 13, with his messmates being lieutenants McPherson of Marion, Rogers of Marlborough, and W.T. James. Godfrey took the US oath of allegiance June 16, 1865 and was then described as having dark hair, blue eyes, a light complexion, and a height of six feet. Four days later he was released. His post-war career has not been researched. He married Harriet Elizabeth Powe and had a number of children, including at least three daughters.4

Henry P. Grant (b.c1843) enlisted as a private in Company C, 8th South Carolina Infantry at Florence April 13, 1861. His first months in service were spent in hospitals, including being treated for measles August 20-September 17, 1861, at Charlottesville. Starting a few days later, October 1, he became the regiment's wagon driver and the following December 20 he was officially appointed a teamster, which job he still held April 1863. At some point he was promoted to corporal. He was reported present September 1862-February 1863, May-October 1863, and May-June 1864. He was absent part of November-December 1863 when “sent to Richmond with Yankee Prisoners” and in February 1864 while “at home on furlough.” He may be the same person who in 1870 was living in Marlborough County working as a farm laborer married to a woman named Mary.5

J.H. Brown enlisted at Columbia September 16, 1863, as a “Recruit” in Company A, 15th South Carolina Infantry. Other than being present November 1863 through June 1864, there is no record of his service.6

James A. Lisk/Sisk (b.c1843) became a private, Company C, 8th South Carolina Infantry May 26, 1861, at either Cheraw or Florence. He was often ill, including being at an unspecified hospital about June-October 1861, receiving treatment for bronchitis at the general hospital at Petersburg April 19-30, 1862, and cararrh at Chimborazo hospital No. 4, Arichmond, June 6-10, 1862. He was on sick furlough September 28-December 2, 1862, and May 1863-February 1864.7

H. W. Long is a difficult soldier to sort out because the name in Allen's Cave could be seen as belonging to either the 7th or 15th South Carolina regiment, and the fact that the compiled service records for possibly three W. W. Longs are intermingled. One William W. Long (b.c1842) enlisted at Monticello in Fairfield County in Company E, 15th South Carolina and apparently died of chronic diarrhea January 30m 1863, at a Charlottesville, Virginia, hospital. Two other W. W. Longs in 1860 lived at/near Hollow Creek in Lexington County. One was W. Wiley Long (July 12, 139-January 26, 1917), son of John (1794-1884) and Elizabeth Long (1800-1094), who may be the same as William W. Long who enlisted in Company C. 15th South Carolina infantry at Lexington February 22, 1863. He was wounded at Chickamauga, Georgina, September 20, 1863, and consequently absent much of the remainder of the year. He received another wound at Cold Harbor, Virginia, June 3, 1864, and was sent from there to Danville and subsequently furloughed to Lexington District, South Carolina. The other William W. Long (b.c1847) lived with his parents, John J. and Martha E. Long in Edgefield County in 1850 and Lexington County in 1860. Then in 1870 all of them again were back in Edgefield. It is possible that this individual was the soldier belonging to Company H, which was made up of Edgefield Countians, in the 7th South Carolina Infantry. The only notation in his military record is that he was on a muster roll of men paroled April 26,
1865, at Greensboro, North Carolina. It appears on the cave wall that Long scratched “7th” S C Regt.” If this is true it may be evidence that the Edgefield-Lexington-Edgefield resident is the correct man. But, to make research matters worse, there are other Edgefield-Lexington County candidates.8

Sources

6. CSR, RG109 (M267, Roll 278), NA, J. H. Brown File.
7. Ibid. (M267, Roll 231), James A. Lisk File.

Edmund Turner, Roots in the Park, Mammoth Cave National Park, KY, November 12-13, 2010

Preston Forsythe

The following is basically a transcript of the Friday evening discussion and the events on Saturday.

This year's annual event “Roots in the Park” featured the life of Edmund Turner, June 1876-May 1917. Greg Davis, the general manager of the Mammoth Cave Hotel and a native of Northtown, a small community not far outside the NE corner of the park, was the moderator and host. Attendance was close to 40 and many members of myfamily.com, Mammoth Cave, were in the audience. The event took place in the Rotunda Room of the Mammoth Cave Hotel.

Edmund Turner is credited with opening Dossey Domes Cave on the north side of the Green River opposite the Historic Entrance to Mammoth Cave. He also discovered Great Onyx Cave.
A panel discussion was chaired by Dr. Stan Sides, Roger Brucker (author of five caving books), Fred Douglas (who has researched Edmund Turner for 20 years), and Norman Warnell (author and historian of note on families of the Mammoth Cave area before the cave became a park in 1941). Both Stan and Roger have been instructors for Western Kentucky University teaching “Speleology” and “History of Exploration of Mammoth Cave” for 25 years.

Some of those in attendance in addition to Greg Davis and the panelists were: Mike Hill (Mammoth Cave guide for 11 years), Billie Bob Davis (relative of Greg), Karen Logsdon Philips (creator of Myfamily.com, Mammoth Cave and a great great granddaughter of the first manager of Mammoth Cave, Archibald Miller), caver and cave owner Gordon Smith and his wife Judy, Louis Cutliff (“old guide” of Mammoth Cave), caver and cave owner Larry McCarthy (participated in the survey of Dossey Domes Cave), Louisville cavers Bill Napper and Scott Cundiff, the Bush family (former owners of land along the Green River in the NE section of the park, including Bush Island and land outside the park), Richard Hobart (historian of Mammoth Cave and proud owner of many Mammoth Cave photos and postcards), Belma Jean Kinney (oldest area resident in attendance), Terry Wittmer, Gary and Ethan Collins (possible distant relatives of Floyd), Nancy Ann Rupp (genealogist of Mammoth Cave families), Jackie Wheat (MCNP ranger and native of Bowling Green), Kay Sides, Lyn Brucker, Shelia Strange Kraemer, Jay Bristol, Larry Norton, Ruth Rogers, Don Rupp, Wade Highbaugh, Rick Thomas (MCNP guide), Mike Hill, Lyn Swan (Floyd Collins genealogist), Shelia Kramer, and Preston and Shari Forsythe. I am probably leaving off a few people and I apologize.

The evening began with Judy Smith displaying two “star pattern” quilt tops she recently had contracted to be sewn. The tops were purchased by Red Watson at a local Mammoth Cave area auction over 50 years ago. The quilt blocks contain may names of Northtown area residents such as Nellie Rountree and her mother Vada, Grandma Lizzie Denison, and Uncle Tray Burnette.

Displayed on tables around the room were many photo albums. Bill Napper had original photos made from glass plates of the Floyd Collins Sand Cave rescue effort. Wade Highbaugh had many original photographs of Floyd Collins Crystal Cave and Great Onyx Cave. Richard Hobart displayed his collection of 1915 postcards by LP Edwards and Edmund Turner.

Dr. Stan Sides started the panel discussion. In 1962 Stan was a college student studying engineering. He met Barbara McCleod and together they explored caves in Missouri. Barbara read Roger Brucker's book, *The Caves Beyond*. She and Stan then asked Roger if they could attend a Flint Ridge expedition. Stan and his friends were hooked. Stan received permission from the park in 1975 to write the history of the Flint Ridge. Stan became interested in Edmund Turner as Edmund's signatures were located in many places in Great Onyx and Salts cave, frequently in the vicinity of a Floyd Collins signature.

Roger Brucker opened by saying he was the author of five books on Mammoth Cave and was obviously very interested in the history of the cave. He wrote his first book, *The Caves Beyond*, in two weeks in Brooklyn, New York. Roger was the ghost writer of the chapters by co-author Joe Lawrence. Joe really only did the captions. Roger said, “If you do not know the story, make it up up and sooner or later it will become true.” After the big connection of caves under Flint Ridge and Mammoth Cave Ridge in 1972, Red Watson said they had to write a book. Roger of course said yes but he wanted to be the first author as he had been listed as the second author of his first book. The late John Wilcox led and surveyed that connection, the most famous of all cave connections. Roger thought that book would only take a month, but it took much longer. Later, Roger wrote a book on Floyd Collins, titled *Trapped*. The co-author was Bill Murray. They worked on that book for several years until Roger and Bill “knew
more about Floyd than the rest of the world put together.” One story said Floyd had a romance with a lady on the other side of the ridge near Great Onyx. Later, the lady moved to Oklahoma. Roger's research uncovered the fact that the lady would have been 67 years old when Floyd knew her. Another story on Floyd said Colonel Charles Lindbergh had flown film back to Chicago during the attempted rescue of Floyd. Roger determined Lindbergh was a instructor in Texas during that time. Roger is proud to have been the fifth president of the Cave Research Foundation.

Roger said in his early caving years he did not know much about Edmund Turner but Bill Austin had told him that Turner's name was all over Salts Cave. Edmund Turner came from New York. As a result of a failed romance Edmund ended up at the Collins home on Flint Ridge. It was not long before Edmund found Great Onyx Cave. One story said that Edmund had connected Salts Cave with Great Onyx Cave, but Roger said that would not happen until “Hell freezes over.” LP Edwards appeared together on a 1915 postcard of Great Onyx Cave, but soon Edmund and LP had a serious falling out over proceeds from the cave. Thus, Edmund died penniless. Cave guides and friends contributed money to buy his coffin. LP said he wouldn't give a dime, which was amazing considering LP was a preacher.

LP Edwards and his wife Sally had two daughters. “The youngest was Lucy, who was a bright and delightful person,” said Roger. Roger went on to say putting together a story is like “picking up pieces of graffiti on a floor.” Fred later added, “the oldest Edwards daughter was Kovah.” When Kovah died, around seven years after Edmund Turner passed away she was first buried in the Mammoth cave Baptist Church Cemetery on Flint Ridge. Sometime after the funeral LP Edwards changed his mind and announced his daughter would not be buried in the same graveyard as Edmund Turner. LP had his daughter's casket dug up and moved to the Cave City Cemetery. Fred told Preston Forsythe that another local lady, Emily Woods, was buried in Kovah's original grave site near the large Shackleford tombstone and fence on Flint Ridge. Lucy married Perry Cox and they successfully ran Great Onyx Hotel and Cave. Lucy and Perry adopted a boy named Harry, whose father may have been Edmund Turner. Lucy and Perry sold out to the park for more money than the Crystal cave property had sold for. In retirement the Coxes lived in Cave City in a nice stone house, which still stands, across from a gas station.

Stan added that Ganter Cave, commercialized in 1907, on the Green River, was the first stop steamboats made on their way to Mammoth Cave. Edmund Turner opened Dossey Domes Cave, which is upstream of Ganter Cave, around 1912. Dossey Domes Cave is only 150 feet long. The cave hours were a little strange as it was open 3AM to 10AM and 6PM to 8PM. Yes, 3AM! Admission was $1. Gordon Smith has a brochure on Dossey Domes Cave.

The next panel speaker was Fred Douglas. Fred signed up for one of Roger Brucker's first “Speleology” courses. Though this course and hearing Roger talk about the history of Mammoth Cave, Fred became very interested in Edmund Turner. Fred realized that Edmund had been very important in the history of the area and he wanted to find out all that he could about him.

Edmund Turner was born in Buffalo, New York, in 1876. He had several brothers and one sister. His father worked on the railroad but Edmund did not want to work in that industry. While working on the railroads Edmund learned how to build bridges. Edmund arrived on Flint Ridge in the mid 1890s and soon met Floyd Collins. Edmund returned to New York, married, and had three daughters: Elise, Alice, and Mary. They were all born in New York City between 1900 and 1909. (Fred located this information in a lawsuit from LP Edwards against Edmund Turner filed in Brownsville.) There is no information on Edmund's wife. Around 1909-1910, Edmund returned to Flint Ridge because he had
decided to open a commercial cave. He talked with the owner of a store and log yard on the Green River near a well known cave, Dossey Domes Cave. At that time Edmund was staying with Lee Collins on Flint Ridge for $2.50 a week. Edmund hired Floyd Collins and Silvester Vesey Flair to work on commercializing Dossey Domes Caves. Later, LP Edwards invited Edmund, due to his engineering skills, to join him in finding a cave on his property. Edmund did discover Great Onyx Cave through a small entrance not far from today's main entrance. This was a grand discovery of a large well decorated cave. However, LP and ET did not get along and ET was booted out of the partnership, probably due to money problems. Frank Davis owned land on one side of LP Edwards. Edmund wanted to dig for a cave on Frank's place but this time Edmund went into town and had legal documents drawn up allowing him to dig.

After the disagreement with LP Edwards, Edmund moved back in with the Collins family. LP hired a lawyer and brought a lawsuit against Edmund which was to come to trial in June of 1917, but Edmund died in May of 1917, just weeks before the trial. This is a pretty tough story. The death certificates said Edmund died of inflammation of the veins. Many people died during this time of TB or from the great influenza epidemic of 1917-1919. Fred said that Turner had chronic diseases and his medical problems came together. He died at the age of 41. Fred would like to find Edmund's wife's name. Some of Fred's research was lost in a move from Oregon to Kentucky.

Roger Brucker said the legal definition of who owns a cave is whoever owns the land owns the cave under and the air over. LP Edwards said that if you own the entrance you own the cave. Stan said there was a sequence of events involved between LP Edwards and Edmund Turner and that “you cannot own a void.”

Norman Warnell began by saying that his father, Lester Warnell, was a cousin of Lucy Cox. Norman said he met Lucy once but he was “mesmerized with a six-legged pig,” so he doesn't remember Lucy. Norman and Mike Hill discussed literacy in the caveland area years ago, both in the rural areas as well in the small towns. Many deeds recorded at the courthouse are signed with an "X." In Edmonson County there are many Vincents and Meridiths, at least ten of each. In one law case between two Vincents the first one signed his name with one X and the second man signed his name with XXXX. When asked with the last three Xs stood for the reply was “attorney at law.”

Norman is not sure when Edmund returned from New York. Edmund received a small inheritance from his father's estate, which allowed Edmund to return to Flint Ridge. Dossey Domes Cave was in operation in 1912. The original entrance of Great Onyx Cave was small, not the main entrance we use today. A story goes about dye tracing with peach pits washed into Bransford Spring not far from the intersection of Flint Ridge Road and the present Great Onyx Road. Edmund noticed the peach pits coming out of small spring on the Green River and when he searched the hillside above Edmund discovered Great Onyx Cave. Dye tracing with peach pits and sawdust were common stories in the old days.

A lady with her genealogy album stood up and moved to the front of the audience. The property Great Onyx Cave is on was first owned by Ebenezer Smith Fleming. There was a discussion of who was related to whom. Shorty Coats, the well-known guide for Mammoth Cave, was mentioned. Shorty is buried in the Joppa Ridge Cemetery and I suggest you stop and read his tombstone some day. Bill Napper from the audience talked about collectibles that had Edmund Turner's name or signature on them. Edmund Turner was a good surveyor. Norman continues by saying when Edmund was kicked out of the cave business he went to live with Pate Leg Lee, but Edmund died living in the cave of One Eye Joe Lee, the father of Pate. Pate Leg Lee lived at the corner of Flint Ridge Road and Great Onyx
Road and One Eye Joe lived near LP Edwards. Today, Agnes Carver lives on Toohey Ridge Road. Her father, Groman, was a son of Pate Lee, so Agnes is interested if any money ever comes from a lawsuit.

Stan said Great Onyx Cave was opened in 1915.

Richard Hobart noted that Edmund Turner wrote an article titled “Cave Adventure,” and he believed Gordon Smith had the original article. There was lots of discussion between the audience and the panel as several had taken Stan's and Roger's classes over the years.

On Saturday morning the Roots gang was led by Ranger Dave Spence using a GPS to the home place of Charlotte and Stephen Bishop. We passed the Stephen Spring Cave and water source for the small community. Norman elaborated that the rock wall kept the cattle out of the spring. The spring, which is 30 feet inside the cave and down a steep slope, is now just a trickle. At one time the flow was enough that a pump was used to move water through pipes. One section of pipe is still outside the cave. Next, we went to the Bishop home site where we located a corner stone, chimney ruins, and the famous hitching post limestone rock. I wonder if Stephen carried that special stone to his home. Does the reader know the difference between a rock and a stone? A stone is a rock with a purpose! Next, we went over to the cemetery where there are over a dozen unnamed and unidentified graves marked only by small sandstone head and foot stones. Nearby are the cornerstones of a small building, perhaps a corn crib, said Norman. After Stephen died Charlotte remarried and moved to a cabin located in the vicinity of the superintendent's home.

In the afternoon, we assembled at the Mammoth Cave Baptist Church Cemetery. Fred Douglas' quest and scholarship for 20 years has been to research Edmund Turner's life and to place a new granite tombstone at the grave previously marked only with a small sandstone marker.

Stan mentioned that Turner Avenue in the cave went under this cemetery and Edmund Turner's grave. The famous passage was named in honor of Edmund. That passage will forever be known as Turner Avenue. It is one of the most famous passages in the cave and is beautifully decorated. Edmund would be proud of this. Fred Douglas spoke at length of his quest to accomplish what had been done this weekend.

It was a moving moment when Fred unveiled Edmund Turner's new granite tombstone. Edmund now has a proper grave. It is inscribed:

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Edmund Turner
June, 1876  May, 1917
Early Cave Explorer
And Friend of Floyd Collins

Opened Dossey Domes Cave
Opened Great Onyx Cave
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The tenor Terry Whitmer, the son of Vilma Jean Kinnery, led the group in singing Amazing Grace.

That evening Rangers Jackie Wheat and Autumn led us on a tour of Great Onyx Cave. In the cave everyone was impressed with the decorations and large passage. One of the most interesting things discussed was the “boundary line.” The tour was a wonderful way to end the weekend.
For additional information on Edmund Turner read Roger Brucker's book *The Longest Cave*.

We want to give a special thanks to Greg Davis, the Manager of the Mammoth Cave Hotel, and his staff for the grand weekend.

Edmund Turner is seen near the entrance to Salts Cave (from Helen Randolph's *Mammoth Cave and the Cave Region of Kentucky*, 1924. The Dossy Domes Cavern brochure names Turner as the operator.