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The Association

The American Spelean History Association (ASHA) is an Internal Organization of the National Speleological Society and exists for the study, dissemination and interpretation of spelean history and related purposes. All persons who are interested in these goals are cordially invited to become members. Dues are $2 per issue of The Journal of Spelean History. Dues can be paid for up to 20 issues ($40). Checks should be made payable to “ASHA” and mailed to the treasurer.

The Journal of Spelean History

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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Cover: The Cave on Bear Path, Thompson Lake, NY, in the Heiderbergs (from an early 20th Century postcard)
BOOK REVIEW: LIFT YOUR LIGHT A LITTLE HIGHER


With 405 miles of currently mapped-and-surveyed passages, Kentucky’s Mammoth Cave is the longest-known cave system in the world. It was declared a World Heritage site in 1981. Apart from its record-breaking length, Mammoth Cave also has a rich and storied history.

Among the more celebrated stories of Mammoth Cave are its early involvement in the Kentucky Cave Wars, its role in guano-mining for the production of gunpowder, Dr. John Croghan’s underground tuberculosis wards, the famous NSS C-3 expedition, formation of the Cave Research Foundation, and, of course, the 1972 Flint-Mammoth connection, which made Mammoth Cave the longest cave system in the world.

Among the early explorers of Mammoth Cave, the name Stephen Bishop stands head-and-shoulders above the rest. Bishop was one of the early Mammoth Cave tour guides. He was also an avid explorer, plumbing the depths of Mammoth Cave beyond that of anyone before him. And like all of the other early tour guides of Mammoth Cave, he was a slave. Although Stephen Bishop is a well-known figure among members of the caving community, his name and story are largely unknown outside of it.
In *Lift Your Light a Little Higher*, Heather Henson offers a brief synopsis of Stephen Bishop’s life at Mammoth Cave. In doing so, she presents a “firsthand” account, narrated by Bishop himself.

Despite living a life of servitude, being a slave did not deter Bishop from excelling as a tour guide. Indeed, he was the most famous, the most knowledgeable, and the most sought-after of the Mammoth Cave guides. Henson calls attention to the fact that Bishop explored farther and deeper than anyone ever had, making many exciting discoveries in the depths of Mammoth Cave.

Although Henson explores Bishop’s life as a cave guide, her primary focus is on his life as a slave. In this regard, Henson highlights how his thoughts, character, and own sense of self-worth were molded by the life he led and the people he came in contact with. Even as he taught tourists about the world beneath their feet, Bishop learned as much from them as they did from him. But even though he loved exploring caves, he was still a slave. And as his experience and knowledge of the cave grew, so did his desire to grow beyond his own allotted station in life.

*Down here, I am guide—a man able to walk before other men, not behind; a man able to school even the brightest scholars; a man able to bring a crowd of folks deep into the belly of the earth and back again, safe and sound. A man—down here, that’s what I am—a man, not just a slave.*

*Lift Your Light a Little Higher* is a well-written book, nicely illustrated by Bryan Collier’s full-color collage and watercolor paintings. The story affords young readers (grades K - 4) an opportunity to learn about the nature of human dignity. As Henson explores the life of Stephen Bishop, readers will be encouraged to explore the indomitable spirit of mankind. In outlining the various facets of Bishop’s life, Henson provides a host of material to stimulate varied discussion between parents/teachers and children, who may wrestle with the concept of slavery.
CIVIL WAR SOLDIER VISITS TO DIAMOND CAVE, KENTUCKY

Marion O. Smith and Joseph C. Douglas

Diamond Cave was one of nearly a dozen caves in the greater Mammoth Cave region to be frequented by soldiers of the Union Army of the Ohio during its buildup for and advance to Nashville in late 1861 and early 1862. Before the main Federal thrust south of the Green River at Munfordville began, at least one Southern combatant and possibly others also viewed the cave. Internal graffiti was recorded April 18 and May 6, 2016, by the authors, along with Dr. Stanley D. Sides, John M. Benton, Julia DeGiovanni, and Kristen Bobo, when the following names, with either military connotations or wartime dates, were noted:

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Reputedly, Diamond Cave, which is barely in Barren County, was found by a slave of the landowner, Jessie Coates, on July 14, 1859. Exploration of about one-third mile of passage was “commenced” the next day “at the instance” of Theo. H. Low, an engineer of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. He, Coates, Charles W. Wright, teacher of chemistry at the Kentucky school of medicine in Louisville (and author of a Mammoth Cave guidebook), John Bell, Dr. J. T. Andrew of Montgomery, Alabama, Tobias G. Richardson (1827-1892), professor of anatomy at the University of Louisiana at New Orleans, and George Bliss of New York, descended the entrance “crevice pit” assisted by “ropes and Indian ladders.” Below, they traversed well-decorated passages, which soon were assigned names such as the Rotunda, Low’s Avenue, Andrew Cascade, and Wright’s Avenue. The latter included a twenty foot diameter by ten foot high Diamond Grotto, the floor of which was “covered with crystalline plates of calcareous spar.”

At first called Richardson’s Cave, it was immediately prepared to be shown to the public. Only about 1½ miles from Bell’s Tavern (at modern day Park City) on the road to Mammoth Cave, arrangements were made for hacks to convey visitors, and at the cave a stairway was constructed at the entrance, along with a pavilion overhead “around which seats and other conveniences [were] arranged.” Inside, there were “spacious stairways and wooden promenades, enclosed with substantial railings,” creating a “foot-walk of plank through the whole extent of the cavern.” On August 19, 1859, Professor Wright led the first commercial tourists through the cave, all Kentuckians, four women and six men from Louisville, five women and four men from Covington, and one man from Owensboro.

Louisville newspaper articles about the cave were “extensively copied by the press in all sections of the country” and success for this new show cave seemed assured. Gradually, the appellation Richardson’s Cave was dropped and Diamond Cave was substituted. Each name was used in press coverage in late 1859, but by Spring 1860, the grotto was only alluded to by
the latter name. Although Joseph R. Underwood of Warren County reportedly bought the cave from Coates on December 12, 1859, ownership must have been more complicated. George M. Procter, the husband of Underwood’s niece, Maria Gorin Bell, was proclaimed by the print media as the supervisor and proprietor. In October 1859, to garner further publicity, Procter exhibited “specimens of stalactics from Diamond Cave” at the Mechanics’ Institute in Louisville.4

Sometime in 1860 a sixteen page Guide Book for the Diamond Cave, Barren County Ky. was printed in Glasgow by C. G. Smith. In July an advertisement touted Bell’s Tavern as the “nearest and best route” on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad to both Diamond and Mammoth Caves. “Passengers for Mammoth Cave can stop at Diamond Cave without paying an additional stagefare – only paying cave fees.” Stage fare was then only one dollar. The previous February, the Kentucky legislature incorporated “the Bell Station Diamond Cave and Mammoth Cave Branch Railroad.” Procter, his brother Larkin J. Procter, J. R. Underwood, and three others were authorized to raise $30,000 in fifty dollar shares. During October 1860, a “Third or Half of Diamond Cave” was offered for sale “to a suitable partner or partners.” The branch rail line would “certainly be built,” and a “commodious building [would] be built at Bell’s Tavern by the 1st of May next [1861].” Probably no new partners were added and the branch railroad and rebuilding of Bell’s Tavern did not occur. The uncertainty of the upcoming secession crisis probably contributed to these failures.5

WAR-TIME GRAFFITI AT DIAMOND CAVE

“H M Dolbey” was not a soldier visitor at Diamond Cave. From at least April 1860, through September 1863, he was a stage driver with a “new and elegant line of coaches . . . making close connection with the train going North and South, and the Mammoth Cave Hotel.” In May 1860, he led two dozen members of the National Typographical Union through Diamond Cave, which was perhaps when he scratched his name on the wall. Three years later, probably incorrectly, he was announced by one newspaper as “the discoverer and proprietor of Osceola [Indian] Cave.” He did enter at least one other cave. His autograph has been found in the entrance chamber of Long Cave. Dolbey’s further identity has been frustrating. He is possibly Henry M. Dolby, who in 1866 was a retailer of some kind in Russellville, Logan County, Kentucky.6

From September 1861 until February 1862, up to twenty thousand or more Confederate troops were stationed in the region about Bowling Green. Dubbed the Central Army of Kentucky, these men were organized primarily into two divisions under the command of General Albert Sydney Johnston, who was in charge of defense in the entire Western Department of the Confederacy. Most of December and January Brigadier General Thomas C. Hindman’s brigade was the forward unit at and near Cave City, where they could watch the Federals gaining strength at Munfordville on the north side of Green River. Hindman’s command consisted of three Arkansas infantry regiments, an artillery battery, and cavalry consisting of the Eighth Texas regiment, an Arkansas battalion, and John Hunt Morgan’s three company “squadron.” Part of the time, such as in mid-December, Hindman posted some of his men “in a wood on [the] Mammoth Cave road” and other “portions out in the direction of Mammoth Cave” and other places to protect beef collecting agents.7
“T Quirk” on the Diamond Cave wall not far inside, is without a doubt Thomas Quirk (January 1, 1841-January 13, 1873), an October 27, 1861, enlistee in Company A of Morgan’s original “squadron,” the nucleus of the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry, CSA. A native of Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland, he came to America in the middle 1850s and before the war operated a candy store in Lexington, Kentucky. By November 1862, he had risen to captain and commanded a detachment of scouts reporting directly to Brigadier General Morgan. Wounded at Bear Wallow, Christmas 1862, and Marrowbone July 2, 1863, he survived the war only to perish from tuberculosis less than eight years later. He is buried in Lexington Cemetery.

Only two of the other 1862 Diamond Cave scribblers have been successfully identified and both were representatives of the Union. It has not been determined if Church and Cook were Federal or Confederate or even if they were soldiers. But, probably they were. Smith’s uncertain initials make his biography unattainable. He could have been a rebel soldier or a civilian.

“P. Kremer” was undoubtedly Peter Kremer (February 22, 1828-February 27, 1908), a naturalized German since 1846, who married Elizabeth Welchbrillig (1838-1908) January 24, 1858, in Ripley County, Indiana. They made their home in Madison, Jefferson County throughout their marriage. From August 24, 1861, until April 28, 1864, Peter served as a corporal and sergeant in Company B, 32nd Indiana Infantry. He was wounded at Chickamauga September 19, 1863, by a round ball, fracturing his left humerus. His arm was amputated at the shoulder joint four days later by a Confederate surgeon. After the war he was variously employed as a janitor in city hall and as a marble cutter.

“John Todd” (May 15, 1843-February 27, 1920) of Diamond Cave was an Ohio native and a son of John and Mary A. Todd, residing before the war in Seneca County. A private in company G, 49th Ohio Infantry August 18, 1861, until July 31, 1863, he was discharged at Louisville due to disability. After his enlistment, on September 3, 1861, he married Sarah Hosmer (1843-1913), and between 1864 and 1872 they had five children. Before the war ended he moved his family to Michigan and lived primarily in Wayne County working as a railroad foreman and undertaker. His last eight months were spent with a daughter in Marion Township, Livingston County. He is buried at Bloomdale Cemetery, Wayne County.

The identity of “B Mc 29 Reg ind” is much more challenging. That is because the 29th Indiana Infantry supposedly had two “B Mcs” in its ranks, both from Company B and from the same county, Elkhart. Benjamin McCreasey (or McCreary, McCreary, McCrary) was a private from August 29, 1861, until his discharge September 29, 1862, because of wounds. Nothing more about him has been found. Benjamin F. McCumsey (February 7, 1842-August 22, 1915), a son of Thomas and Phebe McCumsey was prior to the war, a laborer living near Gosden. His military service spanned from September 21, 1861, until December 2, 1865, when he was mustered out as sergeant. By 1870 he was a railroad worker near Manhattan, Kansas, married to a woman named Catherine, with two boys born in that state. He is likely the same person who about 1890 married again (Mary M.), residing then in Burleson and ten years later in Grimes (Navasota) Counties, Texas, in each place employed as a railroad foreman. Starting in 1903, he drew a pension (certificate 1062940) for his military service. He died at Temple and is buried there at Hillcrest Cemetery. Which “B M’’ visited Diamond Cave will probably never be known.
Two Union soldiers who did not leave their names in Diamond Cave recorded instead their impressions in their diaries from presumably separate excursions to the cave on the same day, February 21, 1862.

Francis Anthony Kiene (1839-1915), a Frenchman who had settled in Putnam County, Ohio, was a private in Company I, 49th Ohio Infantry. He wrote that his captain (George E. Lovejoy) “with nearly all the officers went to see Mammoth Cave.” Then after eating his mid-day dinner Kiene wrote:

Starded with 5 or 6 others to see the dimond cave. . . . The entrance . . . is on a level. . . . a house had been built over it but the rebels have distroyed it. . . . we had to clime down a pole to the first stairs. . . . it was mudy and very slippery . . . the walk in the cave is laid with boards and barnisters . . . all along after dissending 7 or 8 pares of stairs we came to a large room with a floor in it . . . from here we had to assent 6 more pare of stairs with intervails of different lengths between them at the head of the Cave there is a small pool of watter. . . . The beauty of this Cave is onley surpast by that of the Mammoth Cave . . . the roof . . . resembles Bee Comb all along the sides are round Pillows of stones and from the sides hand stones resembling izesicles. The beauty of this Cave pays a visit . . .

Lyman Summerfield Widney (1842-1927), an enlisted man in Company H, 34th Illinois Infantry, with five others, made a hurried inspection of the cave on their way to Mammoth Cave:

Its mouth is located in an open cultivated field, in a depression of the ground that cannot be noticed until you stand upon its edge. We let ourselves down on a sort of ladder about twelve feet, like going into a well. A few steps down a steep incline landed us in a long, irregular chamber, about 600 feet in extent. . . . The light of our torches was reflected from top and sides, apparently from innumerable diamonds. Stalactites hung pendant from the ceiling in various stages of formation, congealing slowly from the water trickling over them. A few reached the floor, forming stone columns. At the farthest end was a clear, running stream, issuing from one side and disappearing in the other. It contained many small fish without eyes. . . . We made but a short stay in this beautiful cave. . . .

The United States soldiers who inscribed their names and units on the walls of Diamond Cave or wrote about their visits were all members of Brigadier General Alexander McD. McCook’s Second Division of the Army of the Ohio. The 29th Indiana and 34th Illinois belonged to the Fifth Brigade and the 32nd Indiana and 49th Ohio were assigned to the Sixth Brigade. Starting around February 16, 1862, much of McCook’s Division, at somewhat staggered intervals in its movement South, camped for several days in the general vicinity of the ruins (caused by a fire in August 1860) of Bell’s Tavern, allowing many officers and men the opportunity to visit caves in the area.

Evidence has yet to be found which chronicles soldiers later in the war viewing the charms of Diamond Cave. Additional military sightseers were certainly possible, since much of
the Army of the Ohio tramped north and south near the area during the Fall 1862 General Braxton Bragg Confederate invasion. Then afterwards for various periods, nearby towns, such as Bowling Green, Russellville, Munfordville, and Glasgow, were garrisoned by Federal troops. The cave seems to have no graffiti reflecting further soldier visits, but that does not mean that there were not any.\textsuperscript{14}

In May 1866, Diamond Cave was “re-opened to visitors.” It was reported that “Many of the beauties” of the cave which “had been marred during the war” were fixed. “A new building” was “erected over the entrance, and the interior refloored and thoroughly repaired.”\textsuperscript{15}

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Landon D. Medley of Van Buren County, Tennessee, contributed much of the research involving Dolby, Quirk, Kremer, Todd, and McCumsey. Dr. Stan D. Sides, one of the owners, J. Eric Helton, general manager, and Julia Degiovanni, assistant manager, were gracious in allowing us access to the cave on April 18 and May 6, 2016.

SOURCES

1. Diary of Marion O. Smith and notes by Joseph C. Douglas, April 18 and May 6, 2016. Other caves visited by soldiers include Lone Star Saltpeter, Railroad Crevice, and Horse in Hart County, Dripping in Barren County, Mammoth, 100 Dome, Long, Indian, and Short in Edmonson County, and Lost River in Warren County.


3. Louisville Daily Courier, August 19, 26, 1859; Louisville Daily Journal, October 5, December 1, 1859; New York Spirit of the Times, September 8, 1860.


10. Findagrave #10825292; Official Roster of the Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of the Rebellion 1861-1866 (12 vols., Akron, Ohio, 1886-95), 4: 527; Michigan Death Records, 1897-1920, Roll 292: certificate 8; 1850 Census, Ohio, Seneca, Venice Twp., 76; (1860), 23; (1880), Mich., Wayne, Enum. Dist. 257, p. 35; (1900), Trenton, Enum. Dist. 152, p. 5B.


15. Louisville Daily Courier, May 18, 1866.

2017 PETER M. HAUER AWARD

The Peter M. Hauer Award is given annually to an individual who has made a significant contribution to spelean history. This year’s recipient is Chris Nicola.

Chris was born in England before immigrating with his family to New York City. He’s been a union organizer, police officer, bar manager and bouncer, adjunct lecturer, bodyguard, undercover investigator, and a civilian operative of the FBI. Chris is a graduate of three state police academies and has specialized training from the FBI and NYPD. He has undergraduate degrees in criminal justice, physics, and forensic psychology, and a Masters and post graduate work in criminology, and, if that’s not enough, he’s currently pursuing a forensic science masters and a film BA.

But above all, he is a cave explorer.

Twenty years ago, exploring some of the longest caves in the world in the southwestern Ukraine, he found artifacts indicating human habitation in Priest’s Grotto. Learning about how a group of 38 Jews survived the Holocaust by living in that cave for 511 days, he used his detective and investigative skills to bring the full story to light. He has located many of the
original cave dwellers and co-authored a book- The Secret of Priest’s Grotto- that led to the making of an award-winning History Channel documentary about their experiences.

He runs the Priest’s Grotto Heritage Project; a genocide awareness project in which the grandchildren of those who like in Priest’s Grotto during the Holocaust will be working hand-in-hand with the grandchildren of those who lived above the cave in building an exhibit to honor what those courageous 38 did so long ago.

Chris also founded The Ukranian-American Youth Caver Exchange Foundation a non-profit group, and also an official NSS project, to promote education and goodwill for young cavers, helping bring a number of teens and young people to the United States.

His honors and awards, including being a Fellow of the Explorer’s Club, are too numerous to list here, but now one more recognition can be added, the Peter M. Hauer Award.

2017 SPELEAN HISTORY ABSTRACTS
Rio Rancho, New Mexico

Sandia Cave, New Mexico
Sam Bono, Jack Speece

Sandia Cave is a Placitas archaeological site and historic landmark near Albuquerque, New Mexico, within the Cibola National Forest. It is located high on the east side of Las Huertas Canyon in the northern Sandia Mountains. The cave was visited during the 1930s when an archaeology project based at the University of New Mexico began excavations in the dry, very dusty cave. Excavations here have yielded information on three distinct prehistoric groups. The site represents one of the earliest known occupations of the Americas.

Gilbert S. Bailey and The Great Caverns of Kentucky (1863)
Joseph C. Douglas, Marion O. Smith

In early 1860, Reverend Gilbert Stephen Bailey (1822-1891), a prominent Baptist clergyman living in Illinois, visited Mammoth Cave, Kentucky and two recently opened show caves in the vicinity, Diamond Cave and Hundred Dome Cave. In 1863 he published a book, The Great Caverns of Kentucky, with three chapters of text, one for each cave, with accompanying maps. Bailey was a prolific writer but this was his only book on caves; most of his writings are religious in nature. We located one additional article he wrote on Hundred Dome Cave in the Louisville Daily Journal on March 24, 1860. This article is similar to the subsequent book chapter, although it uses more place names and the order of passages described is slightly different. Bailey’s name from early 1860 is in Hundred Dome Cave. He also registered at the Mammoth
Cave Hotel. He appears to have written about the three Kentucky caves because his daughter Alice Eulalia Bailey (1849-1940) requested it. Bailey’s maps have been recognized as innovative in their use of symbols, if not especially accurate. His map of Hundred Dome Cave is the first of that cave to appear, while his Diamond Cave map is one of the two earliest. Bailey’s use of numerous place names provides a window into naming patterns and American culture in the mid-19th century. The most novel are the names in Hundred Dome Cave derived from Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth’s 1859 story “The Hidden Hand,” featuring the character Capitola Black.

On the Trail of Lawson’s Lost Cave

Cato Holler

The year was 1700. A young English naturalist and writer by the name of John Lawson, having being told of the many attributes of Carolina from a friend, decided to make the long journey to America and see for himself. After enduring rough seas for nearly 3 months, Lawson’s ship finally arrived in New York. He re-supplied the ship, and reached Charleston two weeks later. While in Charleston, he was appointed by the Lord’s Proprietor to make a reconnaissance survey of the little-known interior of Carolina. Thus began Lawson’s 57 day, 600-mile exploration of the wilds of what is now North and South Carolina, led by Indian guides and living with numerous different tribes along the way. His detailed daily journals describing the flora, fauna, and the various Indian tribes and their customs eventually resulted in his 1909 classic treatise A New Voyage to Carolina.

Of particular interest to speleologists was his stay at Keyauwee Town, a few miles northwest of the current town of Asheboro, North Carolina. After visiting and talking with the Indians there, he wrote the following “At the top of one of these mountains is a cave that 100 men may fit very conveniently to dine in; whether natural or artificial, I could not learn.” For many years, Ridge’s Mountain was assumed to be, without doubt, the location of Lawson’s Cave, the entrance of which has long been lost. Recent exploration, however, has turned up a cave on Flat Shoals Mountain which matches Lawson’s description.

Schroeder’s Pants Cave

Jack Speece

Herkimer and Schoharie Counties, New York are rich in caves and spelean history. One of the most tragic stories occurred in 1965 at Schroeder’s Pants Cave. James G. Mitchell died of hyperthermia while exploring this small cave. The remains were retrieved 42 years later resulting in many controversies. A film is being proposed to document the story. The results of this tragedy started the formation of trained cave rescue teams throughout the country.
Large Waterfall-Shelter Caves in East-Central New York
and an 1872 Woodcut by Winslow Homer

Ernst H. Kastning

There are countless shelter caves that have formed behind waterfalls, where cliffs and ledges have been undercut by back spray, dampness, and erosion produced by the cataracts. Majestic examples have been popular destinations for tourists and outdoor enthusiasts. A few large waterfall shelters in the northeastern U.S. are found in the Catskill and Helderberg mountain regions of east-central New York. Two remarkable localities are within Catskill Forest Preserve in Catskill Park (Greene County) and John Boyd Thacher State Park (Albany County). Here recesses behind waterfalls can be up to 60 feet deep and over 150 feet high. Foot paths behind the falling water offer an awe-inspiring experience.

Winslow Homer (1836 – 1910), one of the most celebrated and important artists of America visited the Catskill Mountains in the early 1870s. As a painter, Homer is best known for his seascapes and coastal scenes, produced in his later life. However, he was an accomplished illustrator in his earlier career, producing woodcuts during the Civil War and in later years that were widely published in several illustrated magazines of the period. His woodcut engraving of the large amphitheater-like shelter behind and beneath Kaaterskill Falls in the Catskill region, was published as a full-page illustration in Harper’s Weekly in 1872. It is remarkably detailed, showing the layered strata of the bedrock, the waterfall plunging over the overhanging cliff from above, and visitors in Victorian Era attire enjoying the scene inside the cave.

Antebellum Women Tourists at Mammoth Cave

Del Marie Vaccaro

There were historically significant women who visited Mammoth Cave during the antebellum years with opinions and impressions reflective of their convictions and backgrounds. Using extant personal narratives during that period as evidence, we tend to assume that the typical tourists were curious middle to upper crust males. While the volume of travel narratives appears to substantiate this assumption, there were notable female visitors deserving attention. Their observations and insights about the cave and surrounds are woven throughout rich travel accounts. The nine women travelers chosen for this presentation arrived with expectations and personal perspectives that run the gamut of those from an aristocratic English lady in Queen Victoria’s court traveling alone to a young Tennessean who visited in the company of her large southern family. Among those selected are also an abolitionist, botanist, astronomy professor, suffragette, famous songstress, sociologist and a poet. In an era when women and African Americans were both struggling for equal rights, these women traveled to slaveholding Kentucky, enduring countless obstacles to comfortable travel conditions, in order to see a cave. During this time period slaves were introduced into the cave’s guide force and Stephen Bishop gained fame as a mixed-race cave guide and explorer. Reactions to Stephen as a guide and to women’s rights, including travel customs in the antebellum south, are examined
as well as the travelers’ observations and reactions to the “great hole in the ground” all were excited to experience.

Early Maps of Weyer’s Cave (Grand Caverns), Virginia, and the Mystery of the Map Copied by Henry D. Gilpin in 1827

Bert Ashbrook, Jim McConkey, William R. Halliday, in cooperation with the Virginia Region of the NSS

Henry D. Gilpin, a future Attorney General of the United States, visited Weyer’s Cave (now Grand Caverns), Virginia, on September 10, 1827. Five days later, he sent a letter home that included a map of the cave copied from memory from one that Gilpin later saw hanging at an inn in the nearby town of Staunton. This paper examines early maps of the cave, along with their authors and owners, and tries to determine if any might be the one copied by Gilpin. The maps include an undated map by F. Peck later acquired by one of the authors (the “Peck-Halliday” map) and now on display at Grand Caverns, an undated map commissioned from F. Peck by local doctor William Boys and presented to President Thomas Jefferson in 1807, a widely-distributed map first published in 1815 by prominent North Carolina physician and soldier Calvin Jones, another Peck map in the possession of Massachusetts evangelist Rev. Elias Cornelius in 1818, a map that Cornelius said he would draft from an 1816 survey (but which has never been found), and a map published by local educator Robert L. Cooke in 1834. The authors conclude that, among the known early maps of the cave, the Peck-Halliday map is most likely to have been the one Gilpin copied.

AN EARLY ACCOUNT OF DIAMOND CAVE, KENTUCKY

submitted by Joseph C. Douglas

LITTLE ROCK OLD-LINE DEMOCRAT, May 10, 1860, p.2,c.4 We have been favored by Dr. Sanders, of Boston, Massachusetts, who, a few days since, passed through our city on his way to the Hot Springs, with the following elaborate and well written account of his visit to the recently discovered Diamond Cave in Kentucky, which, of late, has excited no little speculation in the scientific world.

Wonderful Discovery.

Eureka! Eureka! I have found it! I have found it! said Mr. I. H. Lowe of Louisville, about one year ago. What have you found? Why, the most beautiful cave in the world:--THE DIAMOND
CAVE, Well friends and strangers, a recent visit to the Mammoth Cave—which every body knows, for ought to J, is situated in the State of Kentucky, about half way between Louisville and Nashville. Taking the cars at either point, you will stop at Bell's Farm, which is scarcely three rods from the Depot, where you will partake of the hospitalities of Mr. G. M. Proctor, a gentleman and a genius of quality, who has been the partner in life of the former Mrs. Bell for six or seven years. Mrs. Proctor is a fine lady, kind and amiable towards strangers, and well adapted to fill her station with credit. Here, at Glasgow's Station, you will find servants, horses and chariots in abundance, whose mission it is to convey people to and from the Mammoth and Diamond caves. This whole district abounds in caves of greater or lesser magnitude, all of which claim some considerable degree of interest. Many have been the speculations upon their producing causes, and the conclusions are about as varied as multiplied; but to my mind some of them had their origin almost from "the beginning," or have been the result of some mighty convulsion of the earth in ages gone, or the gradual effect of water upon the calcareous limey strata, producing a great heat, dissolving the deposits in their primitive formation, and leaving beneath the surface of these "knobs" or little hills, these mysterious caverns of the earth' I think no one can enter the Mammoth Cave, understanding the general outlines of the district, and the course, direction and bed of Green River, in connection with the geological structure of the contents of this knob, without coming at once to the conclusion, that water, fire or air, or some other permanent and permeating element acted focally upon the ingredients of this quarry. It is evident this cave is of great antiquity, and that so many chambers, avenues, deep cuts and pits, winding pathways, explored and unexplored, into unknown extensions, are all the result of influences in ages past, and go to show it could not be the work of Art; nought but the hand of God, in his mysterious manner, could have produced it. Such a walled and over-roofed immensity! We are informed by the guides that over 90 miles have already been traced in this cave.-The long route taken by visitors embraces about 18 miles; while the short route that leads to Echo River, together with some side avenues and chambers, is only about 13 miles. But I question very much, while it is very long indeed, whether or not there is half that distance in either route—for such a gigantic solitude is no place to count accurately on time or distance.

No one can enter and explore this cave, without being continually reminded every moment, that in order to make his footsteps secure, he is in want of more light. The guide said to me, if we had day light to aid in our undertaking, but few would be induced to pursue their journey thither, but with greater care and caution retrace their steps, still, accidents seldom occur, except an occasional slip of the foot, or a hit upon the head either of which is usually unattended by any serious inconvenience, but will certainly remind us of our constant liability to make a slip or a mis-step in life, and of the great importance to "stoop that we may conquer" for no man can gain access to the "chamber of relief in this cave, without first passing through the low and narrow cut, known as the "Fat Man's Misery." I got one slip and one hit, which was quite a sufficient hint for me to look sharp before advancing, and to stoop low on entering,—a principle, thought I, that should not be lost sight of in the journey of life, and never will be, where success in the result of action.

The general outline and complexion of this extended cave appears, long since, to have lost its vitality and invigorating force if it ever had any;—a solitary place of darkness and silence—an abode and habitation of bats and solitude—but not so with the DIAMOND CAVE—for while in history the Mammoth cave is, at least, something like one hundred years—the Diamond is only about one year. About one year ago, Mr. I. H. Low, a young pioneer, entered this previously unknown apartment of the earth.
While out hunting for game, he accidentally discovered a curious opening beneath a rock, and out of curiosity he entered, and found it extended beyond any degree of certainty; he returned and procured a candle and ropes, by means of which he lowered himself some 25 feet into what proves to be a large [illegible] chamber or vestibule, where he found a quantity of human bones, evidently the resting place of many a murdered victim, and beyond, a wider and a deeper cut yawning to a greater and more fearful depth. Not deeming it prudent to proceed in his solitary research, he withdrew himself from this dismal and gloomy place; his guiding line proving faithful to his trust and with strength of muscle, returned safely to the surface, and as we all might suppose, pleased to leave the tomb of the absentees, whose mortal remains must long since have been deposited by the hands of some ruffians, and that without pomp or public ceremony; for once was the time when robbers and noted characters for deeds of mischief, prowled the country and watched with vigilant eye the pathway and coming of the pilgrim and stranger. Here at the brow of a hill, in a solitary place, no sprig of Acadia or column ever rose to designate the spot, or silence repose of those returning from the lower to the upper country, as was the custom in ancient days, with the effects of an honest gain, and as a plausible conjecture from tradition, of the sudden disappearance of many persons; we feel justified to believe, with others, that those waylaid in an unexpected moment, and none left to speak of the woeful tidings.

This cave having been carefully explored in the year 1859, by Mr. Low, and other distinguished and scientific gentlemen. Not many months elapsed before Mr. H. M. Dolbey constructed a stair-way to all its apartments in descending and ascending as well as a flooring and railing throughout all the avenues—a work of many weeks and of a great expense. This cave is not of large dimensions when compared with the Mammoth, but for its relative position it would be regarded as a large subterranean apartment, still what it lacks in size is developed in beauty and grandeur.

The original outline of it is of solid rock, partaking more or less of a lime stone nature, and from appearance, the cleft was produced some time in primeval existence, when nature was greatly convulsed, and so dividing the rock that large and commodious apartments were formed preparatory to the stalactite and stalagmite formations and growth which are here formed in great quantity and size. A stalactite occurs by the accumulation of a deposit from above downward, in the form of an icicle, and without a chemical analysis upon a cursory inspection, one would infer that the deposit was the result of the action of water upon lime-stone, [illegible] and iron, which, evidently, is the case.

From the point of each stalactite, there is a continual dripping, which gives the rise and growth to a stalagmite, so that in some instances, they are so fully developed that the two have become firmly united, forming a strong matrimonial alliance. It has been observed that the growth of a stalactite is very slow, consequently, the growth of a stalagmite is much inferior, the growth of the latter depending only upon the waste of the former.

During the last year the stalactite growth in this cave has not exceeded the hundredth part of an inch, and still there are some stalactites in it, at least twenty-five to thirty feet long—the growth of ages—yes, ages upon ages, unless the earlier stage of formation and growth was much more rapidly than since discovered. The construction or growth of these stalactites is by no means uniform; some are long, while others are short, some thick angular or round, while others are flat and quite transparent; from the latter class of stalactites musical sounds are readily produced, and are so numerous in the rotunda or music hall which is of large dimensions, that it would not be difficult to make organ-like attachments, that the entire scale of harmony could
be produced and every note touched. Brother Dolbey says, he can do it, and as he is a man of "genius and stuff," and seldom fails in any undertaking, doubtless, he will do it. In fact! no one can fail to some to this conclusion, when they see what a beautiful home like place he has fitted up for the convenience of visitors, with seats, the soft side of the board up), with chandeliers from two to four burners, which may be elevated from ten to forty feet, showing the drapery-like effect of the stalactites, crystal jets and diamond clusters. There is but one explored or main avenue yet discovered, which leads on, (I am told), some three fourths of a mile, and bearing constantly to the right, ascending and descending, passing on through the "strait of humiliation," which was opened by cutting away a large stalactite, resting upon the "mount of exaltation," not above, but some L50 feet beneath the surface of the earth; while thus hemmed in from all external objects in nature, an occupant of this gem-like palace and crystal beauty, one cannot be inspired with emotions of the noblest nature. The very model and pattern of this crystal or Diamond Cave is sufficient to excite thoughts of grandeur, one can say nothing less than that it is an embodiment of the sublimest beauty. On entering, one will stand statue-like at the awful stillness of solitude, then as his eyes come better adapted to a place of darkness, (visible), he stands in awe, to observe the beauties of the Gothic and Corinthian orders of architecture, as well as the combination of all the five orders which are blended in a magnificent and extraordinary manner. Then he becomes ready for the individual objects of interest, which are so many, as well as the more minute points of worth and attraction, which also, are not few, nor far between. The complexion of this cave, in its production, is nearly flesh color, with points of crystal like, a starry-decked heaven in a clear November evening, giving a sparkling appearance to nearly the whole canopy, niche, crevice and wall, as soon as the artificial light dispels the gloom of darkness, the effect of which is gloriously enchanting. Mercury in the thermometer stands at about 50 the year round. The only thing that is known to possess life and to be an occupant of this cave is a noiseless cricket; the cave cricket has a striking resemblance to the land cricket, still very much unlike it. It is supposed that many side avenues run out from the main avenues and chambers, but have been guarded, and securely tyled by the formation of massive columns of the stalactites and stalagmites. This cave is in the possession of Mr. George M. Procter and is not quite ten miles from his accommodating hotel. It is directly on the way to Mammoth cave, which is about six miles further in the interior and makes a very pleasant ride, though "a hard road to travel." For further particulars, I must refer the inquirer to the kindness of Mr. Procter, and gentlemanly attention of Mr. H. M. Dolbey, the guide and conductor, who will take great pleasure in showing Cleopatra's Needle-The Serpent's Head-The Closed Lily-The Elfin Grotto-The Mammoth Stalactite-The Armadilla Stalactite-Low's Avenue-The Vermiculated Ceiling-The Stillo Grotto-C[illigeble] Column-Wright's Avenues-P[illegible] Trumpet-Andrews Cascade-Magnolia Flower-The Camelopard-Spar Pavement-Clay's Monument-which is, at least, thirty feet high and six feet in diameter at its base, a beautiful shaft-The Formation of Orphans-The Virgin Mary-Lot's Wife-Sir John Franklin, and Potra's [?] Palace, which is, at least, fifty feet long and forty feet wide, all of which, Mr. Dolbey, with the numerous other objects of interest will be pleased to show you. Boston.
GILBERT S. BAILEY AND THE GREAT CAVERNS OF KENTUCKY (1863)

Joseph C. Douglas and Marion O. Smith

In early 1860, Reverend Gilbert Stephen Bailey (1822-1891), a prominent Baptist clergyman living in Illinois, visited Mammoth Cave, Kentucky and two recently opened show caves in the vicinity, Diamond Cave and Hundred Dome Cave (now Coach Cave). In 1863, he published descriptions and maps of the three caves in a short book entitled The Great Caverns of Kentucky. This paper looks closely at Gilbert Bailey and the nature and importance of his book. We will also use his text as a window into the intersection of American culture and caves in the mid-nineteenth century.

Gilbert Stephen Bailey was born in Dalton, Pennsylvania on October 17, 1822 to George Anson Bailey (1780-1853) and Elizabeth Barnes Bailey (1783-1858). He studied theology at Oberlin College, and on May 17, 1845, at age 22, he married Sarah Bunnell in Pennsylvania, who was two years his senior. They eventually had seven children, including Eulalia Alice Bailey (1849-1940). Gilbert Bailey became a Baptist clergyman who moved frequently for different preaching positions; his life was shaped by the twin factors of geographic mobility and religiosity. After serving in New York, he came to Illinois in 1846 and was pastor in Springfield for three years, where he was a neighbor to Abraham Lincoln. Afterward he was pastor at Baptist churches in Tremont, Pekin, Metamora, and Morris, all in Illinois. He served as State Superintendent for Missions for the Baptist State Convention from 1863 to 1867, during which time he created annual Minister’s Institutes, the first of which was held in Chicago in July 1864. Considered an important initiative by Midwestern Baptists, the Minister’s Institutes continued at Chicago and elsewhere for more than a decade. From 1867 until 1875 Gilbert Bailey was also financial secretary for the Baptist Theological Union in Chicago, after which he served as pastor for churches in Michigan and Iowa. He went to California on mission work in 1885 and six years later died in Pomona, California on September 28, 1891.1

As far as we know, prior to 1860, Gilbert S. Bailey had no particular interest in or experience with caves. So what prompted his visit to Mammoth Cave and two of its neighboring caves? And why did he write about them? We know that Bailey was a prolific author, ultimately writing at least eight books and numerous essays and sermons, but his writings are generally religious in nature. His books include History of the Illinois River Baptist Association (1857), Manual of Baptism (1863), The Trials and Victories of Religious Liberty in America (1876), The Word and Works of God (1883), Prize Discourse on Slander (1884), and Ingersollism Exposed (1884). Several of these titles are currently available in reprint editions.

The explanation for both his visits and his book lies with his daughter, Eulalia Alice (called Alice Eulalia in the text), as Bailey relates in the dedication of the book to her. While he was preparing to leave on a trip to the South “in pursuit of health,” Alice, who was 10 years old at the time, “requested me to write for her a description of Mammoth Cave.”2 Whatever his unspecified health issue, Bailey was well enough on the trip to visit all three of the major...
Kentucky show caves open at the time. These visits became the basis for The Great Caverns of Kentucky which appeared in print three years later, in 1863.

In January 1860, Gilbert Bailey made four visits to three Kentucky caves in the space of a week. On January 17th, 1860 he visited Diamond Cave with George M. Proctor, whom Bailey identified as the owner, and several other men. Diamond Cave, also known as Richardson Cave, had been discovered in July 1859, was found to contain beautiful formations scattered along one major passage, and had a favorable location close to the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and the main highway. It was quickly developed and opened to the public. On January 18th, 1860 Bailey travelled to Mammoth Cave. He arrived around 10 AM and checked in to the Mammoth Cave Hotel, which was kept by Larkin J. Proctor at the time. His signature in the cave register has survived. As soon as a guide could be procured, Bailey and perhaps others toured Mammoth Cave, seeing portions of the old Long Route down to the Rivers, which he did not cross due to high water, as well as the Star Chamber, the Labyrinth, Gorin’s Dome, and Gothic Avenue. On January 19th, and again on January 23rd, 1860, Bailey toured Hundred Dome Cave with Kelion F. Peddicord and probably others. Hundred Dome Cave was purportedly not well known until October 1859 when Peddicord began to thoroughly explore the site. Peddicord and the cave’s owner John C. Courts made several improvements and opened the cave to the public about the same time that Bailey visited it, in early 1860.

On his first visit to Hundred Dome Cave, Bailey scratched “G. S. Bailey Metamora Illinois” and the date, “January 19, 1860” on the wall of Canada Hall using a nail as a pen. “J F South Bowling Green Ky Jan 23 1860” and “W H H Mills Jan 1860” are inscribed on the same wall. It is likely that South, at least, accompanied Bailey on his second trip to the cave, as he was there the same day. John Fletcher South (1817-1873) was a Baptist preacher, from Warren County, Kentucky, which strengthens his possible connection with Bailey.

We do not know Bailey’s location or activities for the three days between his two visits to Hundred Dome Cave.

Based on the level of detail in the cave descriptions in The Great Caverns of Kentucky, Bailey almost certainly took notes on the passages he toured in the three caves. While he could have relied on earlier guidebooks for Mammoth Cave, like Rambles in the Mammoth Cave (1845) by Alexander Clark Bullitt or The Mammoth Cave, Kentucky (1858) by Charles W. Wright, he does not appear to have done so. Bailey’s account of Mammoth Cave is limited to the features he personally saw, with the exception of the blind cave fish. It does not describe any passages beyond the Rivers, for example, which he could have easily included if he was working from a previously published description. His is among the earliest accounts for Diamond Cave and is the first known, lengthy description for Hundred Dome Cave.

Interspersed with descriptions of cave passages are Bailey’s comments on the cave’s history, the nature of the tour, and other pertinent information for each site. At Diamond Cave, for example, he noted that there was “perhaps a wagonload” of human bones below the steep entrance, and he suggested that the entrance crevice was “probably used by Indians for burying their dead.” He also noted that a walkway of planks had been placed throughout the cave by Mr. Proctor “in order to preserve its beauty,” and he described the common nineteenth century practice of striking stalactites with a stick to explore their sonic characteristics.

At Mammoth Cave, Bailey described the surrounding karstic country-side, the ruins of an old ice house in the cave entrance, which did not really work, and a more successful structure for preserving meat for the hotel a short distance inside. Bailey had high praise for his unnamed African American guide, whom he called “very gentlemanly and courteous...full of
wit, keen in his observations, and quite a [natural] philosopher…” whose “elegant command of language would do honor to a member of Congress.” Bailey was also impressed by the guide’s use of Bengal lights to illuminate passages and domes, and he observed that there were large numbers of colonial bats in Mammoth Cave in January 1860.

Bailey’s account of Hundred Dome Cave perhaps is our most significant source for reconstructing the history of the cave; he notes that the site was mined for saltpeter in the War of 1812 and that a large wooden trough used to collect water for leaching saltpeter remained in place in 1860. It is still extant today. His account of how Kelion Peddicord explored and then developed the cave with owner John C. Courts is also important.

Gilbert Bailey made sketch maps of the three caves. Angelo George has suggested that Bailey “mapped” the caves at the time of his site visits but that, “[i]ncorrect placement of major passages in Mammoth Cave suggest[s] at least that this map was drawn after his return from the cave.” Bailey’s map of Mammoth Cave misplaces Audubon Avenue and confuses the relationship between the Star Chamber and the route to the Rivers, but it should be noted that none of the nineteenth century maps of Mammoth Cave, even the best, are totally correct. In reality we don’t know exactly how and when Bailey made his maps. We recognize though, that while not especially accurate, his maps are innovative in several regards. First, Bailey used symbols to portray features previously ignored on earlier maps such as formations, pools, and pits. Additionally he keyed the passages and features by numbers to names, which he listed elsewhere on the map. This became a convention for Kentucky cave maps thereafter. The use of keyed numbers allowed for the presentation of many more cave names, which Bailey carried to a new height, with 20 names on his Diamond Cave map, 33 names on his partial Mammoth Cave map, and 61 names on his Hundred Dome Cave map. Bailey’s map of Diamond Cave is one of the two earliest known, the other being the undated (but 1860s era) Plan of Diamond Cave by engineer E. Lewis. Bailey’s map of Hundred Dome Cave is the first map of that cave site to appear and in fact may be the only one to ever be published.

The structure of The Great Caverns of Kentucky is straightforward. There are four short chapters, with the first covering Diamond Cave, the second discussing Mammoth Cave, and the following two examining Hundred Dome Cave. Being the newest and least known of the show caves, and perhaps reflecting that Bailey took two trips to the site, Hundred Dome Cave gets the lion’s share of coverage in terms of pages, with Mammoth Cave second. The respective maps are placed before the appropriate section for all three caves. There is no separate conclusion, just a one paragraph summary at the end stating that the three great caverns are quite different from each other and that one should visit Diamond Cave for the “exquisite beauty of its formations”, Mammoth Cave for “its vast extent”, and Hundred Dome Cave for “the variety, grandeur, and sublimity of its scenery.”

Until the current research, The Great Caverns of Kentucky was Gilbert Bailey’s only known text on caves. It seemed odd to us that he wrote one significant work on caves but did not touch the subject again, so we undertook an extensive search for any additional writings by Bailey concerning caves. We eventually located one additional article by Bailey on Hundred Dome Cave which appeared in the Louisville Daily Journal on March 24, 1860. This long newspaper text is similar to the 1863 book chapter on Hundred Dome, even in its ending, although it uses more place names, over 80, and the order in which the passages are described is slightly different. In essence it served as the first draft of the last two chapters of the subsequent book. It also only mentions the initial January 19th 1860 trip, perhaps indicating that Bailey began the...
draft before the follow-up visit occurred on January 23rd. It does not include a map. The *Louisville Journal* article is the first lengthy description of Hundred Dome Cave, and it helped to introduce the newly opened show cave to the public.

Gilbert Bailey’s use of numerous place names for cave passages and features in his text and maps provides a window into naming patterns and American culture in the mid-nineteenth century. Place names in Mammoth Cave show significant changes over the course of the 1800s and deserve a separate study; they will not be considered here except to note that at Mammoth Cave all the names Bailey attaches are established names used by cave guides and previous guidebooks alike. In contrast, Diamond Cave and Hundred Dome Cave were both explored in 1859 and almost immediately developed for tourism, so cave nomenclature at the two sites is narrowly located in time and encapsulates aspects of American culture in 1859/1860.

Gilbert Bailey generally did not invent the names he employed in his book and article; rather he used the names given by the original explorers and developers, especially George M. Proctor at Diamond Cave and Kelion F. Peddicord at Hundred Dome Cave. Although both caves contain idiosyncratic names given by the individual developers, and Bailey only used about half of the established names at Diamond Cave, there are strong similarities in naming patterns at the two sites.

At Diamond Cave classical and biblical names are employed such as Cleopatra’s Needle and Lot’s Wife, “a beautiful clear stalagmite about four feet high, and resembling a veiled female draped in white.” Even more numerous are names which compared underground features to other natural objects: the Serpent’s Head, the Armadillo Stalagmite, the Cascade, the Magnolia Flower, and of course the Diamond Spring and the Diamond Grotto. There are also names based on comparisons to man-made objects like the Ship’s Keel, the Columns, and the Rotunda. A few names are merely descriptive such as the Mammoth Stalagmite, named for its large size not the extinct animal, and the Vermiculated Ceiling. Only about five of these names are used in the *Plan of Diamond Cave*, although it too relies on the names first assigned by the initial explorers.

The Great Caverns of Kentucky gives far more names, with more variety, for Hundred Dome Cave. Classical and biblical names are well represented. Examples include M. Antony Pit, Cupid’s Fountain, Vulcan’s Anvil, Ruins of Palmyra, and Solomon’s Throne. There are comparative names, both natural such as Spring Avenue, Coral Reef, the Elephant, Pine Apple Way, and the Grape Vine, and anthropogenic like the Cathedral, the Vestry, Wall Street, the Cabinet, and Prison Hall. There are also descriptive names, Broad Way, Fluted Dome, Twin Domes, Crystal Rocks, and others.

In addition to these categories, Bailey’s book contains several other types of nomenclature for Hundred Dome Cave. There are names of contemporary individuals applied to cave features, like Court’s Avenue, named for the cave’s owner, Mollie’s Boudoir, Kelion’s Pit, and Bailey’s Dome, perhaps named for Gilbert Bailey himself. There are names that reflect American nationalism. These include Franklin Monument, Washington Monument, Boone’s Monument, Jackson’s Niche, Everett’s Dome, and Clay’s Dome.

The most novel names in Hundred Dome Cave, Black Donald’s Pit, Wool’s Avenue, Capitola’s Trap, and Hurricane Hall, derive from Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth’s 1859 story “The Hidden Hand,” featuring the remarkable character Capitola Black. E. D. E. N. Southworth, was a popular and prolific author, one of the first generation of professional
women writers in the United States. Although partially marred for today’s readers by its casual racism, the story’s protagonist, Capitola, is a strong young woman prone to breaking normative gender roles. She is also an explorer at heart. Southworth’s narrative is set in the 1840s in karst terrain near Staunton, Virginia, and caves played a significant role in the plot. Kelion Peddicord, who was exploring and developing Hundred Dome Cave at the time of its publication, greatly admired the story and gave names from it to four features in Hundred Dome Cave, as Bailey plainly states in his text.  

The nomenclature of Diamond Cave and Hundred Dome Cave, as captured by Bailey, reveals several important themes in mid-nineteenth century America: the belief in its classical and biblical underpinnings, the vital natural environment, the growing man-made world, individualism, and cultural nationalism in an era of sectional strife. As part of nature, caves were viewed as appropriate places to locate these cultural values.  

_The Great Caverns of Kentucky_ is important in several regards. It offers insights into the history of three important Kentucky caves and into American culture at the time. Its positive descriptions added to the allure and notoriety of Kentucky caves in general, and it helped introduce Diamond and Hundred Dome caves to the public. It ignores the growing sectional tensions that led to the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, yet soon George M. Proctor and Kelion Peddicord would become Confederate soldiers, and Mammoth Cave and the other caves would be contested by both sides. As for Reverend Gilbert Stephen Bailey, his interest in caves appears to have been short-lived, but it was significant nevertheless, as he produced a classic work on nineteenth century American caves with _The Great Caverns of Kentucky_.

Footnotes


2 Gilbert S. Bailey, _The Great Caverns of Kentucky: Diamond Cave, Mammoth Cave, and Hundred Dome Cave_ (Chicago: Church and Goodman, 1863)

3 White Cave had been shown to the public since the 1830s but it was part of the Mammoth Cave operation rather than a stand-alone tourist cave. Osceola or Indian Cave was not opened to the public until 1861.


5 Bailey, p. 16.

6 Bailey, p. 11. For the striking of stalactites see p. 13.
Bailey, pp. 19, 21, 22.

Bailey, pp. 20, 21.


“Plan of Diamond Cave,” (Louisville: German and Bro[.] Lith[ographers], n.d. [1860s?])

Bailey, p. 63.


Bailey, Great Caverns of Kentucky, pp. 17, 22-35.

For the earliest, most complete list of original names at Diamond Cave, see C. W. Wright, “Richardson’s Cave,” Louisville Daily Courier August 19, 1859, p. 1; For George M. Proctor, see “After a Long Life,” The Louisville Courier-Journal, August 18, 1894, p. 2.

Bailey, Great Caverns of Kentucky, p. 15. For Cleopatra’s Needle see p. 10.


Bailey, Great Caverns of Kentucky, pp. 37, 41.


Bailey, Great Caverns of Kentucky, pp. 37, 42-62; Southworth’s story first appeared in serial form in 1859 in the New York Ledger and was later compiled in book form; Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, The Hidden Hand, or, Capitola the Mad-cap (New York: G. W. Dillingham, 1888). An analysis of the role of caves in Southworth’s works remains to be performed.
NEWLY DISCOVERED: CAVE CITY KY. PARCEL BOX CANCEL

Thomas Lera

A precancel is just what it sounds like - a stamp canceled before it is used. Precancels save time for the postal service because they do not have to be put through a canceling machine before delivery. A Parcel Post Box cancel (PPB) is any rectangular or square device used on registered letters or parcels with the city and state abbreviation.

Left: CAVE CITY KY. - precancel

Right: Newly Discovered - CAVE CITY KY. - parcel post box cancel

Table One lists the known Cave and Natural Bridge precancels and the month and year introduced for use.

Table One: Cave and Natural Bridge Precancels

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<td>Horse Cave, KY</td>
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*PSS Type - Precancel Stamp Society numbering system. Source: PSS Catalog of the United States Bureau Precancels, 1977, Precancel Stamp Society: Framingham, MA

The parcel box cancellation is another entry in the history of the Cave City Post Office.

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A new monograph has been added to the ASHA website under "Special Interest Files." Cave Post Offices of Virginia and West Virginia by Thomas Lera (ASHA Special Publication Number One, January 2018) is a 76-page monograph that documents the history of the existing and discontinued Virginia and West Virginia Post Offices with cave-related names. It can be downloaded as a PDF file (10 Mbytes).

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Dr. William R. Halliday is interested in receiving bids for his NSS Bulletins #1 and #2. He has originals and official reprints of each, so bidders should specify whether they are bidding on an original or for a reprint. Contact Bill at wrhbna@bellsouth.net.
SOME NEW MAMMOTH CAVE ENVELOPES

Thomas Lera

In *The Mammoth Cave Estate in Historical Photographs*, Bob Thompson and Richard Hobart discussed the lessees of the Mammoth Cave estate, and several of my hotel envelopes were used as illustrations. I recently discovered a new hotel envelope with a different advertising corner, shown below.

John Quincy and Edward K. Owsley [brothers] were proprietors 1861-1865

Larkin J. Procter was proprietor of the Mammoth Cave Hotel three five-year terms: 1852-1857, 1857-1861, and 1865-1871. On November 28, 1865, Procter and his brother-in-law Joseph J. Roberts operated the hotel as seen on the upper left corner of the envelope below.
The Cincinnati town postmark and 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott No. 65) show this letter was mailed sometime between 1865 and 1870. It was handcarried to Cincinnati either by train or coach, where it was posted to Mrs. Cyrus Garnsey, Canoga, Seneca County, New York.

Only Larkin J. Procter and proprietor mailed Jan 17th, 1860 or 1866?

This letter is a little more puzzling as it has a manuscript postmark and cancellation. Although one of the three squiggly lines over the stamp overwrites the year date. It was most likely mailed in either 1860 or perhaps 1866. It was mailed to John B. Bruner (1825-1878) a lawyer, member of the Kentucky State House of Representatives 1849-50, 1857-61, member of the Kentucky State Senate, 1865-69, and delegate from Kentucky to the Republican National Convention, 1872.

Joseph J. Roberts was the Mammoth Cave postmaster from January 20, 1858 to September 9, 1862. Since Roberts was also the proprietor of the cave hotel, I believe he could have used his “free” postmaster privileges to post the letter. Instead, Procter crossed out Roberts’ name and used a 3-cent stamp to mail the letter, with Roberts as postmaster the cancellation. If the letter was mailed in 1866, it would have been addressed Sen[ator] John B. Bruner, which supports the 1860 date.

In 1859, the Louisville & Nashville (L&N) Railroad was completed, bringing visitors to Cave City or Glasgow Junction (now Park City), and from there visitors travelled by stagecoach to the cave. Andrew McCoy operated two six-horse coaches, the Florida and the John E. Bell, on the stage line from Cave City to Mammoth Cave, using, in part, a road Dr. Croghan had built for the express purpose of bringing visitors to the cave. Below is a recently discovered envelope from the Mammoth Cave Stage Lines sent between 1870 – 1871, using a 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott No. 147).
Andrew McCoy was a Station and Express Agent, Proprietor of the Cave City Hotel, and owner/operator of the Cave City and Mammoth Cave Stage Line from 1870-1883.

An interesting titbit about the Mammoth Cave Stage Line was recorded in Being an Account of Stagecoach Travel and Tavern Days in Lexington and Central Kentucky 1800 – 1900 by J. Winston Coleman Jr.

"Finally, the newspapers announced that America's most famous outlaw and highwayman "Jesse James" was at work in Kentucky, and it was not long before tourists to Mammoth Cave were able to verify this rumor."

"On the afternoon of Friday, September 3, 1880, the stage-coach left the Cave for Cave City, loaded with sightseers who, at this season of the year, came from all parts of the country to view the great national wonder. The road ran through a lonely rocky region with dense woods skirting much of the way, and just as the coach reached the most desolate point about dusk two men, mounted but unmasked, emerged from the forest and covered the driver and passengers, seven men and one woman, with their pistols. When the coach came to a halt, the highwaymen curtly ordered the passengers to "Come out of the stage." And, looking through the open windows into the muzzles of the long, black revolvers, they lost no time in obeying the command, as a harsh, impatient voice urged them to "hurry up." Miss Lizzie Rountree, daughter of Judge R. H. Rountree of Lebanon, however, was permitted to remain in the stage, but the seven men were quickly lined up along the side of the road. Then, talking pleasantly as he worked, one of the bandits proceeded to empty their pockets, reaping a rich harvest of valuables. Judge Rountree gave up a handsome gold watch worth $200.00 and $55.00 in cash; J. E. Craig, Jr. of Lawrenceville, Ga., $670.00; S. W. Shelton of Calhoun, Tenn., $50.00; S. H. Frohlechstein of Mobile, Ala., $23.00; George M. Paisley of Pittsburgh, $33.00; W. G. Welsh of Pittsburgh, $5.00 in cash and a fine gold watch; and Miss Rountree lost several valuable diamond rings. The only passenger who escaped the general loot was Phil Rountree, a relative of the judge, who slipped his wallet and watch under the seat as he left the stage."

"When every pocket had been emptied, the bandit ordered his victims to re-enter the coach and move on. Then in parting, he astonished them by apologizing for his rudeness, saying "his business demanded it," wished them better luck next time, and in an effort at
consolation informed them that he and his accomplice had robbed the out-going stage to the Cave, taking upwards of $700.00 from Mr. Croghan, one of its owners.”

“Judge Rountree immediately published descriptions of the highwaymen and, with Governor Luke Blackburn, offered rewards for their capture and conviction. Several weeks later, a man named T. J. Hunt was arrested in Ohio County and brought back to Cave City. He was held in the Glasgow jail eighteen months under indictment of the Barren Circuit Court for “robbing the stage which runs and conveys passengers from Cave City in the County of Barren to the Mammoth Cave in the County of Edmonson, and that he and another man whose name is unknown to this jury, with force of arms, did unlawfully, willfully, and feloniously with drawn pistols rob the passengers of the stage against their will of about one thousand dollars in money, several gold watches, and two diamond rings . . .”

“On this trial, Hunt vehemently denied any knowledge of the robbery, but the stage driver and several passengers testified that he resembled one of the highwaymen, and the jury returned a verdict of guilty and fixed his punishment at three years’ confinement in the State Penitentiary. Then, while Hunt awaited sentence in the Barren County jail, Bob Ford, in St. Joseph, Missouri, sent a bullet crashing through the brain of his old companion in crime, the notorious Jesse James, and news came that on his lifeless body was found the gold watch of Judge Rountree, with the presentation inscription from Hon. J. Procter Knott, member of Congress from the “Commonwealth of Kentucky w. T. J. Hunt, Barren Circuit Court, March Term, 1882.”

This watch and key were recovered by the Rountree family, and are still worn daily by R. Harry Ray, of Owensboro, a grandson of Judge Rountree.”

Jesse James holding up stage coaches around Mammoth Cave, I would have never guessed!

To get visitors to the cave faster and more comfortably, the L&N Railroad built an 8.7-mile branch line from Glasgow Junction to Mammoth Cave that opened on November 17, 1886. A couple of decades later, the automobile was introduced as a fast, individual, convenient means of transportation resulting in paved roads and more visitors to Mammoth Cave.

Postal Meter from the L&N Railroad

If anyone has Mammoth Cave Hotel Covers in their collections, please send a scan to frontier2@erols.com. Thank you.
NEWLY RECORDED HISTORY OF THE BIG FOUR ICE CAVES, WASHINGTON

William R. Halliday

Introduction

The "Big Four Ice Caves" are a group of large and small interconnected glacier and snow pack caves southwest of Glacier Peak in Snohomish County, Washington (Figure 1). Although close to the crest line of the Cascade Mountains, they are at an elevation of only about 2000 feet. Further, they are located close to the popular Mountain Loop Highway between Granite Falls and Barlow Pass. Thus they are accessible by ordinary vehicles during most of the year. This part of Snohomish County is thinly populated, but magnificent scenery and their identification as the lowest glacier caves in the conterminous United States have resulted in their being a popular destination for one-day travelers.

In the late 1950s, a knowledgable member of The Mountaineers (name now lost) reported that the Big Four and nearby Monte Cristo areas were of national park quality. This is reflected on a planning map (ca. 1959) commonly used within the Conservation Division of The Mountaineers for several years (Figure 2). Momentum for the North Cascades National Park, however, focused on spectacular mountains north of Glacier Peak at the expense of areas farther south.

Speleogenesis

The caves owe their existence to unusually effective collection and avalanching of snow high on the mountain by a prominent gully. Due to a high rate of ablation, they are in a constant state of change. One undocumented local report asserts that late in the 20th Century, the snow pack's glacier containing them disappeared briefly after an especially hot summer.
Access to the Cave

From the developed parking area, a half-mile trail leads visitors along what appears to be the edge of a mountain meadow, to a footbridge crossing the south fork of the Stilaguamish River. In reality this seeming meadow actually is the grassy surface of a flood plain, and the US Forest Service occasionally must replace the pedestrian bridge after a flood. The caves are only a five minute walk beyond the bridge.

Although not easily visible from the trail, a large stone fireplace and sidewalks on the flood plain reveal the former existence of Big Four Inn, a once-popular resort constructed in 1921. Cavers were unaware of their existence for decades. A US Forest Service picnic area now occupies the site of the Inn. It deteriorated during and after World War II and burned in 1949 (Oldham, 2008). The resort faded rapidly from memory, and a decade later I was able to find only one inhabitant of Snohomish County who remembered the resort and fire. My inquiries were neither systematic nor extensive, however and a considerable body of history resources remained for latter day researchers.

History Revealed by Postcards

These inquiries were the result of an unexpected encounter and purchase of a cache of postcards showing a large mountain lodge, numerous "tent cottages" and a bit of a golf course on this flood plain. The caches contained seven different postcards specifically showing features of the Big Four area, and another showing scenic "Goat Lake, near Big four Inn." The latter set the stage for the other cards in that it appeared to be contemporary with them, had the date of 1925, and also had the name of the photographer, J.A. Juleen (Figure 3). Throughout the remainder of the 20th Century, this was the only date I had for the resort and the post cards were the only information I had for the resort. The postcards are uncommon. In more than 50 years of searching for postcards depicting glacier caves, I encountered no other examples and Oldham had none of them as illustrations of a definitive report on the area (Oldham, 2008).

Details of the Postcards

Two of the cards show portions of the glacier cave complex. One is entitled "275. Glacier at Big Four Inn. Juleen Photo." It is a wide-angle view looking up the snow pack/glacier at the foot of the avalanche chute. The accumulation extends at least 100 yards farther down slope than at present, on a gentle piedmont below the steep mountainside (Figure 4). A figure near the center of the photograph is shrunken by the use of a wide-angle lens. Next to the figure are two small crevasses which commonly appear at this location in summer. Oblique views of two adjacent entrances of the main cave are shown, but no details of the cave can be distinguished.

An interior view of the main cave is labeled "4689. Interior of Ice Cave at Big Four Inn. Juleen Photo." Unfortunately, this photographic postcard was insufficiently fixed ("hypoed")
during processing; it has faded to the point that details have been lost. It now shows only a typical large ablation cave (Figure 5).

Two vertical cards show a different scene: the steep 4000-foot face of Big Four Mountain with the lodge and a few out-buildings in the foreground. Two large cave cave entrances near the left border are almost hidden by the tops of trees. One of these cards (Figure 6) is a photographic representation of the scene. It is labeled "Big Four Inn, Big Four Mountain, Big Four, Wash[ington]" and shows the avalanche chute near the left border especially clearly. The other vertical card (Figure 7) is an attractive commercially colored reprint of Figure 6 with the left border cropped. It is labeled, "Big Four Mountain and Inn - Cascade Mts. //2 hours from Seattle, Washington 14."

Both Figures 7 and 8 were published by Adams News Company of Seattle. Both carry "booster" messages of no lasting importance. Figure 8 is a sweeping view of the Inn's golf course, numerous cottages and of "Big Four Mountain from Verandah of Big 4 Inn, 2 hours from Seattle, Washington 27." Figures 9 and 10 are photographic postcard depictions of the sturdy-looking Inn and about a dozen "tent cottages at Big Four Inn."

In the 1960s and 1970s I asked quite a few mountain-oriented people of Snohomish County about the fate of Big Four Inn. Hardly anone even remembered that such a structure had ever existed, but an extensive body of information was preserved for latter-day historians.

In 2008, Kit Oldham posted a detailed history of the resort as HistoryLink.org Essay 2543 (Oldham, 2008.) It is notable for interesting details which otherwise would be impossible to access. In its early years, for example, the resort was not accessible by automobile. Visitors had to be transported from Puget Sound lowlands by rail car on a logging railroad. Ultimately the roadbed of the railroad was converted into a section of the Mountain Loop Highway. The Inn had to be shut down repeatedly during road construction in what recently had been wilderness. Oldham also clarified the puzzling fate of the cottages which survived the fire. The resort had been built on public land administered by the US Forest Service. With the central focus of the resort gone, the Forest Service insisted that the cottages also be torn down and the land restored.

Looking Forward

With the able assistance of historian Kit Oldham, we of today now can view the Big Four development as an understandable effort by optimist enthusiasts typical of the Roaring 20s. It is easy to criticize the Big Four project from beginning to end. But that was a different culture in a different time. How will our counterparts in the 22nd Century judge our activities of the 21st?

Without much exaggeration, the developers of Big Four Inn can be said to have been full of the sound and fury of the 1920s. But in retrospect, they did very little irreparable damage. We of today bellow even louder and more furiously. Let us be careful to insure that in our bellowing we do as little permanent harm to our land as did the boosters of Big Four.

Reference:

Figure 1. Kodachrome Slide of lower end of main passage, main Big Four Ice Cave, Washington, Autumn, 1979. The system characteristically has one large passage extending down-slope from a high waterfall chimney along the rock face of the mountain to a terminal area of smaller passages resembling the delta of a river.
Figure 2. Planning map drawn by the author (ca. 1959) showing portions of the North Cascade Mountains considered to be of national park quality by one or more experienced members of The Mountaineers Seattle. Big Four Mountain is in the lower left corner of the designated area, southwest of Glacier Peak.
Figure 3. Postcard dated 1925 depicting a spectacular lake in the general area of Big Four Caves, specifying the full name of the photographer and tied to the other postcards in the cache by the mention of Big Four Resort in the caption.

Figure 4. Wide angle photographic postcard looking up the Big Four snow pack/glacier from the nearly level piedmont below the caves. Entrances into two cave passages are shown. Use of a wide angle lens made the person near the middle of the snow pack/glacier appear disproportionately small.
Figure 5. Faded photographic postcards showing approximately the same cave scene as Figure 1. This postcard, however, was mailed at the short-lived Big Four US post office and carries a scarce Big Four, Washington cancellation. Its date was July 16, 1931.
Figure 6. Photographic postcard depicting the 4000-foot face of Big Four Mountain, with Big Four Inn in the foreground. Produced from the same negative as Figure 7 but cropped more widely on the right. Two large entrances of the Big Four Caves are seen at treetop level in the lower left but are partially obscured by trees.

Figure 7. Colored printed postcard showing same scene as Figure 6 but cropped more widely on the left. The cave entrances are not seen as clearly as in Figure 6.
Figure 8. Colored printed postcard with a dramatic view of the spectacular face of Big Four Mountain, with the resort’s cottages and the golf course in the foreground. The cave entrances are not visible from this angle.

Figure 9. Photographic postcard showing full width of Big Four Inn with railroad tracks in front. Person on left apparently is working with a railroad switch.

Figure 10. Photographic postcard showing the resort’s "tent cottages."