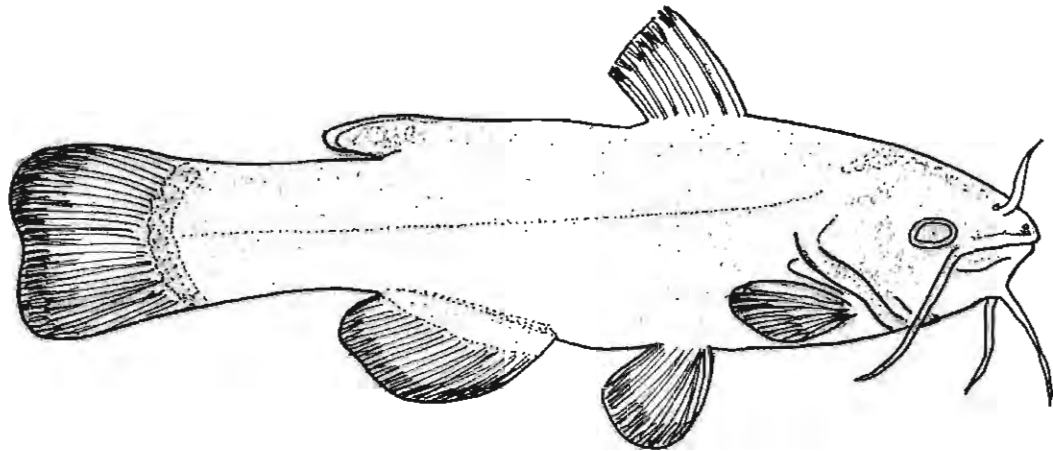
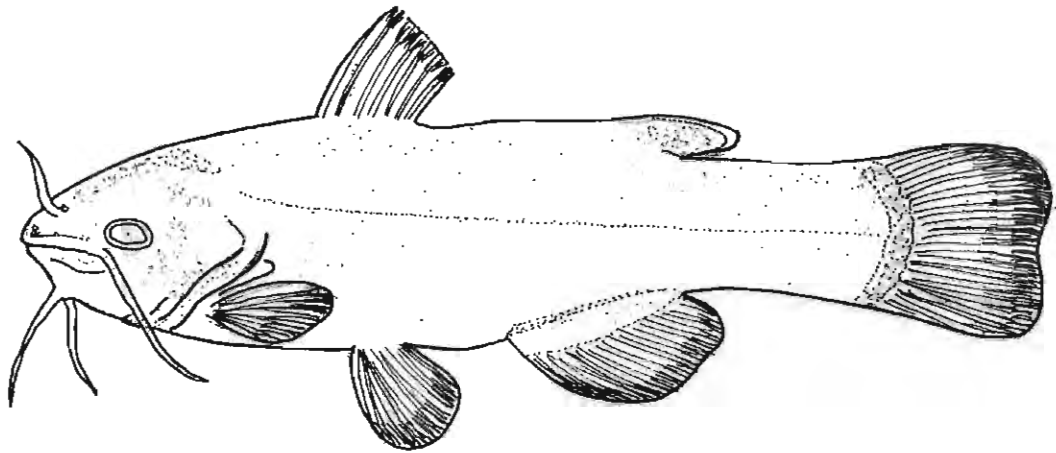


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Front Cover

Specimens of "*Gronias nigrilabris*" (Cope 1864). Drawn by Olga Mayayo.

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MYTH AND REALITY OF THE ALLEGED BLIND CAVE FISH FROM PENNSYLVANIA

By Aldemaro Romero

INTRODUCTION

It is not uncommon to find unsubstantiated reports of blind cave fishes in the speleological literature. Examples include accounts of hypogean fishes in France (Montalembert 1752), Italy (Scott 1866), and North Africa (Anonymous 1879) (for analysis of some of those reports, see Romero 1999, 2000). Although several species of cave fishes have been described for the United States (Romero 1998 a,b,c; Romero and Bennis 1998), we have found persistent, but yet unconfirmed, reports of a blind cave fish for Pennsylvania.

Cope (1864) published a paper in which he claimed the discovery of a new species of troglobitic (blind, depigmented, and obligatory cavernicole) fish from Pennsylvania. Despite the fact that the validity of such species is not recognized today, numerous other reports of cave fishes for that state have continued to be published until the present time (e.g., Kranzel 1986).

This paper is aimed to analyze those reports and to establish the facts that may have given credence to the belief of (as yet) the unconfirmed presence of a blind cave fish species for Pennsylvania. This article is part of the Cope Papers Project, an initiative aimed to analyze Cope's contributions to different fields of knowledge.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

I reviewed as much published literature on vertebrate cave fauna for the state of Pennsylvania as I could find. I conducted extensive searches not only in the speleological and ichthyological literature but also all the bibliographic material pertaining to these topics at the library of the Pennsylvania State University, College Park, PA. I also reviewed all the pertinent literature on the people mentioned in this article.

RESULTS

The First Claim

Edward Drinker Cope (b. Philadelphia, PA, July 28, 1840; d. Philadelphia, April 12, 1897) was one of the most prolific American naturalists. He published about 1400 articles and books in many different areas of knowledge. Most of them were on vertebrates, both extinct and living, but his list of publications also includes works on invertebrates, geology, anthropology, evolution, behavior, sociology, education, philosophy, religion, and history, as well as on issues of public interest of his times (Osborn 1931). Cope published 27 papers pertaining to speleology which makes him one of the pioneers of this science in the U.S. (Grady 1987, 1992; Romero & Romero 1999).

In his 1864 paper, Cope described three new species of fish. One of them, according to him, was a blind subterranean fish. In that paper he stated (correctly) that many aquatic

organisms found in subterranean environments are blind and that they belong to diverse taxonomic groups. He briefly reviewed examples of blind, subterranean fishes from around the world. He also explained that among silurid fish, there are many examples with reduced or sunken eyes. Then, he went on to describe a new genus and species of "blind silurid" which he called *Gronias nigrilabris* based on two specimens collected by Jacob Stauffer, Secretary of the Linnean Society of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which he had received a year earlier.

It is occasionally caught by fishermen, and is supposed to issue from a subterranean stream, said to traverse the Silurian limestone in that part of the Lancaster county, and discharge into the Conestoga.

Two specimens of this fish present an interesting condition of the rudimental eyes. On the left side of both a small perforation exists in the corium, which is closed by the epidermis, representing a rudimental cornea; on the other the corium is complete. Here the eyeball exists as a very small cartilagenous sphere with thick walls, concealed by the muscles and fibers tissue attached, and filled by a minute nucleus of pigment. On the other the sphere is large and thinner walled, the thinnest portion adherent to the corneal spot above mentioned; there is a lining of pigment. It is scarcely collapsed in one, in the other so closely as to give a tripod section. Here we have lapsed an interesting transitional condition in one and the same animal, with regard to a peculiarity which has at the same time physiological and systematic significance, and is one of the comparatively few cases where the physiological appropriateness of a generic modification can be demonstrated. It is therefore not subject to the difficulty under which the advocates of natural selection labor, when necessitated to explain a structure as being a step in the advance towards, or in the recession from, any *unknown* [italics in the original] modification needful to the existence of the species. In the present case observation of the species in a state of nature may furnish interesting results. In no specimen has a trace of representing the lens been found.

The two syntypes described by Cope are deposited today in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and catalogued as ANSP 22082 and ANSP 22083. The label in the jar says: "Pennsylvania: Conestoga Creek, tributary of the Susquehanna; Coll. Jacob Stauffer." Fig. 1 is a drawing of the first of those syntypes.

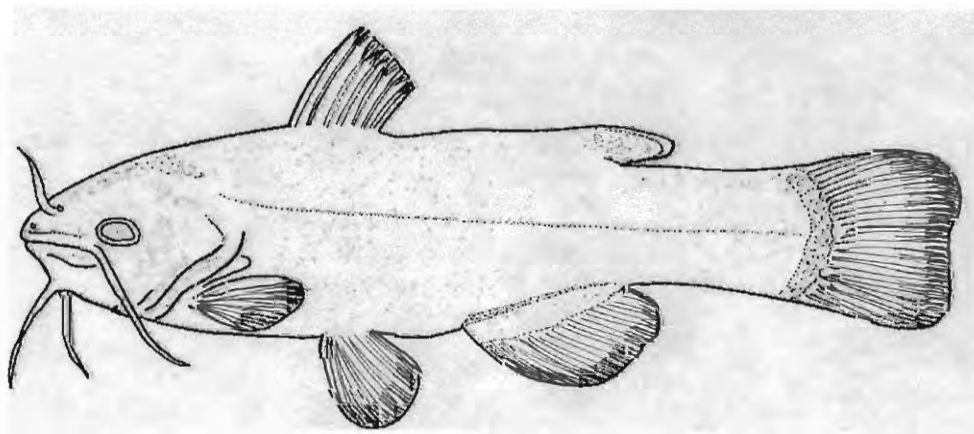


Fig. 1. Specimen of "*Gronias Nigrilabris*" (Cope 1864).

There are two issues here. The first one is the true location where these fish were found. The second is if the fish he examined were true blind cave fish or the result of a biological phenomenon.

For the first one, Cope provides no evidence whatsoever that the fish was of underground origin. Furthermore, his appreciation that the specimens that he had examined really represented individuals not only of a new species but even a new genus of true blind cave fish, has been countered by those who have examined them.

THE COUNTER CLAIMS

Henry Weed Fowler (b. Holmesburg, PA, March 23, 1878; d. Philadelphia, June 21, 1965), was the first curator of "cold-blooded" vertebrates at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, where the above-mentioned specimens were deposited (Conant 1966, Phillips 1964). Cope had donated most of his ichthyological collection (specimens of 341 out of the 424 nominal species) to the Academy (Smith-Vaniz & Peck 1991). Fowler, who had met Cope in 1894 (Fowler 1963), oversaw the transfer of Cope's entire alcoholic collection to the museum in 1898 and spent the next several years deciphering Cope's notes and organizing the collection (Smith-Vaniz & Peck 1991).

As early as 1915, Fowler challenged the validity of Cope's original interpretation of classifying these specimens as a new genus. In his paper on the nematognathous fishes contained in the collections of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, he named Cope's specimens as *Ameiurus nigrilabris* and placed this species next to *A. nebulosus* as indicating the close relationship between the two nominal species (Fowler 1915).

By 1945, Fowler was fully convinced that Cope's specimens are nothing more than unusual individuals of *Ameiurus nebulosus nebulosus*, the Brown Bullhead, as noted in his study of the fishes of the southern Piedmont and coastal plain of the United States (Fowler 1945:55). Unfortunately, Fowler never left any published rationale for dismissing Cope's original description as just a synonym of a fish that had been originally described by French ichthyologist Charles Alexandre LeSeur (b. Le Havre, France, January 1, 1778; d. Le Havre, December 12, 1846) (Hamy 1968) in 1819, based on a specimen collected also in Pennsylvania.

Fowler's initial reinterpretation has been confirmed by other ichthyologists who have examined Cope's specimens. Thus, Hubbs and Bailey (1947), in their analysis of the blind catfishes from the artesian waters of Texas, wrote:

Gronias nigrilabris Cope (1864:231-232) has also been regarded as a blind cave catfish related to *Ameiurus*. The specimens, however, were caught in Conestoga Creek, Pennsylvania, and were assumed to have issued from limestone caves merely because the specimens had defective eyes. They were well pigmented and had an air bladder. We see no reason for thinking that the types of *Gronias nigrilabris* were other than specimens of *Ameiurus nebulosus nebulosus* (LeSeur) with eyes defective due to injury or some other cause. Such fish are not infrequently encountered. The serrated pectoral spine as well as the locality precludes the relationship with *Ameiurus melas* postulated by Jordan and Evermann (1896:142). A figure of the type of *Gronias nigrilabris*, recently published by Fowler (1945:55, Fig. 160), confirms our reference of *Gronias nigrilabris* to the synonymy of *Ameiurus nebulosus nebulosus*.

Later, Taylor (1969), in his monograph of the catfish genus *Noturus* wrote:

The two syntypes (ANSP 22082-3) of *Gronias nigrilabris* Cope (1864) were examined in the course of this study. They do not represent a distinct genus, but are specimens of *Ictalurus nebulosus* (LeSeur) as maintained by Hubbs and Bailey (1947, p. 12). Fowler (1915a, p. 208) regarded them as a distinct species of *Ameiurus* [= *Ictalurus*]. Both have eight rays in each pelvic fin; the anal fins have 19 and 20 rays; the pectoral spines are long and serrated posteriorly. Contrary to report the eyes are present, but are asymmetrically developed - undoubtedly a teratological condition.

These analyses seem to have settled the issue. As a matter of fact, in modern ichthyological literature, Cope's specimens are no longer considered a distinct species (e.g. Eschmeyer 1998). That, together with the fact that Cope never provided any hard evidence that these specimens originated from hypogean (subterranean) environment, should have been sufficient as to dismiss any evidence of blind, subterranean fishes for Pennsylvania.

Yet, numerous authors have continued to publish accounts of an alleged blind cave fish for Pennsylvania.

THE PERSISTENCE OF THE MYTH

Walter Scott wrote on March 20, 1866 (two years after Cope's original description) an article published on April 7, 1866, in *Scientific American*, which reads as follows:

MESSRS. EDITORS. - It is well settled belief among many of our most intelligent residents, that underneath the city of Lancaster and vicinity there exists a vast cavern. Many facts are recited giving extreme plausibility of this theory, the most important of which may be briefly stated, as follows: -

The city is located within the great limestone belt extending across the south-eastern part of the State, and of all the geological formations limestone the most abounds in caverns, many of which are known to be of vast extent. In sinking wells in certain parts of the city, the bottom crust breaks through before reaching water, and the pump is suspended from above by chains.

There have been several well authenticated cases in the vicinity of the city, of the crust of the earth breaking and engulfing farm animals. In two instances men engaged in plowing, saw their teams disappear beneath the surface and only a funnel-shaped cavity remained to mark the spot.

The earthquake of Sept. 29, as well as several lighter shocks, may be very reasonably accounted for this theory. Huge masses of rock breaking from the roof of the cavern and falling into the depths beneath may cause such a quaking of the upper crust and dull rumbling noise as that which astonished the inhabitants on that day.

One of the most convincing proofs of the existence of this subterranean cavity is the discovery of an eyeless catfish in the waters of the Conestoga, a stream flowing past the city and supposed to connect with the hidden

waters beneath. This fish is entirely destitute of organs of sight, having only small spots in place thereof.

In a celebrated grotto of Italy eyeless fish have been found, and it is inferred that the eyeless catfish of the Conestoga must originate in a similar underground locality and escape through the fissures of the rocks. I have endeavored to present as concisely as possible the principal facts bearing on the theory, and leave it for others to elaborate.

Walter Scott. Columbia, Pa. March 20, 1866

Note that the penultimate paragraph very likely makes reference to Cope's specimens since it refers to the same locality. The last paragraph is, however, even more surprising because there are no records whatsoever of blind cave fishes in Italy. Scott (on whom I have not been able to find any information) may have been referring to a citation by Athanasius Kircher (b. Geisa, Germany, May 2, 1602; d. Rome, Italy, November 28, 1680), a polymath, notorious for his unsubstantiated assertions about underground creatures that included dragons and other mythical animals (Romero 2000). Kircher (1665) writes about cave fishes and cites a couple of localities in Italy, as well as others in Greece and Switzerland. However, there is no evidence whatsoever of blind cave fishes for Europe.

Thus, Scott seems to be referring to Cope's specimens and offers no evidence that those fishes are actually hypogean but that they "must originate in a similar underground locality and escape through the fissures of the rocks."

Five years later we find another article, also in *Scientific American* that, again, refers to blind cave fishes in Pennsylvania (Anonymous 1871).

It is well known that great trouble and expence [sic] have been caused by the sinking of a portion of the track of the new Jefferson Railroad, where it crosses a swamp in Ararat township, Pa. It has been found, say the Montrose Republican, that under the swamp is a subterranean pond of several acres in extent and of considerable depth. This pond, of several acres in extent and of considerable depth. This pond is covered by about six feet in depth of black earth, which supports a heavy growth of woods. The trees are mostly soft maple, pine, hemlock and birch, many of them ranging from six inches to three feet in diameter. Last fall it was discovered that the subterranean pond contained many fish, of the kind usually found in ponds in this part of the country - pickerel and "shiners" among others - but all without eyes! In the darkness of their subterranean abode, they have no use for the organ of vision. The Ball Pond, about a mile and a half distant, is now "growing over." A considerable part of it has become subterranean within the last twenty years, and, probably, before many years it will be entirely covered like the other. This pond is about twenty acres in extent. For some distance from the shore, it is filled with a dense growth of water-lilies, and these, no doubt, furnish the foundation on which the superstructure of earth is commenced.

This article is unsigned, but given the nature of the topic, the locality (Pennsylvania), and the publication (*Scientific American*), we can not rule out that Walter Scott was its author.

Since then reports of blind cave fishes for Pennsylvania have been dismissed. Mohr (1953), for example, writes that:

There are no blind salamanders or eyeless fish in Pennsylvania caves, no white crayfish or blind beetles (p. 15).

Blind, white fishes have been reported at intervals but always have proved to be half-starved, pale, eyed fishes, often washed into caves during floods and trapped there as the waters subsided.

A single blind fish is known from Pennsylvania. It was a blind Catfish sent to Edward Drinker Cope in 1864, from the Conestoga Creek, Lancaster County. While some thought that the fish came from a subterranean stream feeding into the Conestoga, ichthyologists say that blindness is by no means extraordinary in this group of fishes (p.18).

Holsinger (1976), in his extensive monograph on the cave fauna of Pennsylvania, wrote:

There are apparently no established records for fishes from Pennsylvania caves. True cave fishes (trogllobites) are unknown from the Appalachian Valley and most of the Appalachian Plateau, although accidentals are sometimes observed in cave systems of Virginia, West Virginia, and eastern Tennessee. The northern muddler, *Cottus b. bairdii* Girard (sculpin family Cottidae) is reported from a few caves in the central and southern Appalachians but has not been found in caves as far north as Pennsylvania (p. 87).

Despite this lack of evidence supporting the true blind cave fishes for Pennsylvania, Kranzel (1986) thinks blind cave fish for that state are real. After summarizing the Scott (1866) paper, he wrote:

Troglobitic species are scarce; in fact, troglobitic vertebrates are unknown in PA. There are apparently no established record for fishes from PA caves, yet this single 1864 specimen exists. Believing that the blind catfish came from a subterranean stream feeding the Conestoga, the discoverer sent it to the cave exploring naturalist, Edward Drinker Cope in 1864. Cope was engaged in the world-wide examination and reclassification of fishes. Ultimately, he published 125 papers on fishes, describing over 220 new species.

The fact that no other eyeless catfish specimens have been observed either in the creek or in local caves would not totally confirm the fishes nonexistence. Perhaps it inhabits inaccessible crevices and fissures in the limestone or caves that have no entrances. The author was not trying to defend the blind species existence, but merely using the specimen to substantiate his theory of a vast underground cavern in the vicinity of Lancaster.

Note that Kranzel, 1) does not provide any hard or new evidence for the existence of blind cave fish species for PA; 2) his speculations are the same in kind as Cope's conjecture for the existence of this type of creature; and, 3) he ignores all other sources that, based on the examination of specimens, are not consistent with his explanation (Fowler 1945, Hubbs and Bailey 1947, Taylor 1969). However, part of his reasoning is that "The fact that no other eyeless catfish specimens have been observed either in the creek or in local caves would not totally confirm the fishes nonexistence." In other words, based on the fact that

nobody can prove a negative (e.g., to prove that "Santa Claus does not exist"), Kranzel perpetuates this myth.

CONCLUSIONS

There is no evidence supporting the reports of blind cave fishes for Pennsylvania. The original description of alleged troglobitic fishes for that state was based on an erroneous identification. It has been well documented that because of his constant rush to publish, many of Cope's writings were either superficial or contained numerous errors, a fault that was even recognized by his most ardent supporters which gave him a reputation for sloppiness (Davidson 1997, Romero & Romero 1999). Later accounts of troglobitic fishes for Pennsylvania are little more than repetitions of Cope's early assertions not substantiated by either the examination of the fish he described nor by extensive cave explorations.

Unless an actual troglobitic fish is captured in Pennsylvania, we must assume that such fish do not exist and attempts to challenge this assertion by asking to prove a negative should be dismissed as incongruent thinking.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

William G. Saul of the Academy of Natural Sciences provided useful information on the specimens originally classified as "Gronias nigrilabris" and deposited at the Academy's collection. Olga Mayayo drew Fig. 1. Andy Miller read the manuscript and made valuable suggestions. This is contribution no. 1 of the Cope's Papers Project.

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Cave History Recorded By Andrew J. Waychoff

Covering the Pennsylvania Counties of Greene, Fayette and Washington
And the West Virginia Counties of Marshall and Ohio

By Tom Metzgar

Andrew J. Waychoff was born April 12, 1849 in Jefferson Township, Greene County. During his long career in education, he taught at a number of schools and colleges, ending up as the head of Waynesburg College's science department. His principal interests were geology and local history. Such a combination naturally led Waychoff to investigate some local caves and cave histories.

Towards the end of his life, Waychoff wrote a weekly series which appeared in the *Waynesburg Democrat Messenger*. Following his death on January 16, 1927, his heirs compiled these articles into a book entitled *Local History of Greene County and Southwestern Pennsylvania*, published in a very limited edition of exceptional scarcity today.

Waychoff's book was reprinted in 1975, and again in 1994. The most recent edition contains an index and is available from the Cornerstone Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 547, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

The following geology, rockshelter, cave and cave-related items appear in Waychoff's book. We reprint them here for speleohistorians to add to bibliographies and for the general enjoyment of our readers.

PAGE 14, COLUMN 2. HONEY-COMBED ROCKS.

If you are sightseeing at Carmichaels, go to the Honey-combed Rocks and to the region of the Old Curl Mill.

Beautiful yellow-brown honeycombed sandstones are found at many southwestern Pennsylvania locations. Most overlie coal veins. The finest examples known to the author exist in Fayette County along the north bank of the Youghiogheny River between Connellsville and Broadford, and in Derry Township of Westmoreland County high above the west bank of the Conemaugh River in the cliffs west of and overlooking Blairsville. These

examples are found in the sandstone immediately overlying the Pittsburgh Coal. We have not yet inspected the Carmichaels honeycombs. Other smaller and less extensive honeycombed sandstones exist at numerous locations throughout the region. People who appreciate attractive and unusual geologic features can spend a pleasant afternoon's hike examining and photographing honeycombed rocks and the many little critters that live in them.

PAGES 18 - 20, POLLY WILLIAMS, THE WHITE ROCKS, AND PHIL ROGERS.

Waychoff recounts the oft-told tale of the murder at the White Rocks in Fayette County. Near the top of column 3 on page 19, he briefly mentions the cave there. Waychoff states that the White Rocks "...are more frequently visited than any other place in these mountains and even more than any other place in Southwestern Pennsylvania or nearby West Virginia. ... Thousands of picnickers annually frequent this historic secluded mountain spot...exploring the cave beneath...." But some 70 odd years after Waychoff's death, hardly anyone visits the White Rocks, or has even heard of them. Whoever owned or owns them seems to have missed a great opportunity to develop yet another tourist attraction in Fayette County! [Locals report the owner has posted and closed the property to visitation.]

PAGE 33, COLUMNS 2 AND 3: AT OR NEAR WHEELING, W. VA., WETZELS CAVE, AND FIRST SEIGE OF FORT HENRY.

Other points of historic interest near Moundsville should be mentioned, but as our time was limited we hied on to Wheeling. As you go toward Elm Grove on the creek road and now within Wheeling, as you approach the first railroad bridge, look to the right of this bridge you will there notice two holes in the bluff. The one nearest the bridge is known as Wetzel's Cave. It was there that he killed the Gobbler Indian. This was Lewis Wetzel, the famous Indian hunter.

The story is told as follows:

"The most fatal decoy on the frontier was the turkey call. On several different occasions men from the fort at Wheeling had gone across the hill in quest of a turkey whose plaintive cries had elicited their attention, and on more than one occasion the men never returned. Wetzel suspected the ruse and determined to satisfy it himself. One the east side of the creek hill, and at a point elevated at least sixty feet above the water, there is a capacious cavern, the entrance to which at the time was almost obscured by a heavy growth of vines and foilage. Into this the alluring Indian would crawl, and could there have an extensive view of the hill front on the opposite side. From that cavern issued the decoy of death to more than one incautious soldier and settler.

Wetzel knew of the existence and exact locality of the cave, and started out before day, and by a circuitous route reached the spot from the rear. Posting himself so as to command a view of the opening, he waited patiently for the expected cry. Directly the twisted tuft of an Indian warrior rose in the mouth of the cave, and looking cautiously about sent forth the long, shrill, peculiar 'cry,' and immediately sank back out of view. Lewis

screened himself in his position, cocked his gun, and anxiously awaited the reappearance of the head. In a few minutes up rose the tuft. Lewis drew a fine aim at the polished head, and the next instant the brains of the Indian were scattered about the cave. The turkey troubled the inhabitants no longer, and tradition does not say whether or not the place was ever after similarly occupied."

PAGE 38, COLUMN 2.

Waychoff describes Hunter's Cave. The complete story appears in an issue of the *Troglodyte* in an article devoted solely to that feature.

Page 42, Column 1. Noted Bandit Leader Killed.

Robert McLain was a Scotchman who settled on the bank of the Monongahela river. He was an elder of the Mount Moriah Presbyterian church. Among the early settlers he was highly esteemed and respected. He was so unfortunate as to be compelled to kill a fellow being to save himself and family from being burned to death. The region along the Monongahela was infested by a band of robbers, called "Bainbridge's Gang," with headquarters at a high bluff of the river, now owned by Jessee E. Williams and known as the Robbers' Den. McLain was the owner of a very fine stallion which they resolved to take. McLain having been notified of their intention, stabled his horse in the kitchen of his house. When they arrived they soon discovered the whereabouts of the horse, and commanded McLain to bring him out. Receiving no reply, they warned him that unless he did as they bade him his house would be fired. Still receiving no answer, Bainbridge commanded some of his men to get straw, and he would show the d—d Scotchman whether his commands were to be disregarded. Seizing the straw and advancing to execute his threat, McLain fired, killing him instantly. He was then carried off by some of the gang who wrapped the body in a bed coverlet, with stones, and sunk it in the Monongahela. Mr. McLain, in the later years of his life, was greatly troubled in mind by the recollection of this justifiable homicide. Mr. John Bowman (deceased) told the writer that Robert McLain frequently visited his father's house, and that he had often heard him express his deep regret for having killed the desperado Bainbridge.

Robert McLain's cabin was on the farm just east of McCann's Ferry. The headquarters of the gang was in "The Robbers' Den" well known in that region, and mentioned in the book entitled "The White Rocks" written by A.F. Hill. The rocks about the mouth of the cave were blasted away or at least taken away to make the proper upper slope of the Monongahela railroad.

PAGE 43, COLUMNS 1 AND 2, ROBBERS.

Greene County is largely free from robbers and thieves as compared with most other counties. This has not always been true. When Virginia and Pennsylvania both claimed jurisdiction here, and when the seat of local

purpose. The solitary and secluded fastness of our neighboring mountains were often used as bases in which they planned depredations, and from which their descents were made into settlements. Such names as Delaney's Cave, the White Rocks, the Robbers Cave, and many others convey to all of us even yet ideas connected with the subject of this article. On the Fayette river bluff across from the mouth of Little Whiteley and near McCann's Ferry was Robber's Den. This den is mentioned in the book entitled "The White Rocks," by A.F. Hill. Mr. Hill's name was nicely cut on a tree at the mouth of Robber's Den. He studied closely the tales and traditions of some of these robber bands in Fayette and Greene, visiting their places of concealment, as well as the places of their deeds.

PAGE 99, COLUMN 3, AND PAGE 100, COLUMN 1. MOUNT BRADDOCK, FAYETTE COUNTY, AND NEARBY.

Waychoff enumerates many of Fayette County's historic sites and natural features, including Delaney's Cave: "Among the natural curiosities of the neighborhood is Delany's Cave, nine miles from [Uniontown]." Waychoff then expresses a sentiment often noted by numerous authors: Doubtless no place of equal area in the United States can so many historic and interesting scenes be reviewed, at little cost by auto and a few miles on foot as the places mentioned in this article.

PAGE 116, COLUMN 1. NAMING OF TEN MILE CREEK. [Waychoff describes the origins of many stream names in Greene County.]

Dry Run is perhaps the most interesting valley in this section of the country for geological students. This valley is said to resemble very much the Meander river in Asia Minor. Deposits of the highest recognized grade of limestone crop out along this stream. The study of the rock shows many large crevices through the strata, which are supposed to carry the water of the valley away by an underground passage, as the valley is always dry under it immediately after a large rainfall, although surface water is sometimes seen.

Dry Run is depicted on the Monongahela USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle map, and flows through Carroll Township, Washington County, where it empties into the Monongahela River. Cavers may wish to investigate this area to substantiate or disprove Waychoff's statement about an "underground passage."

PAGE 119, COLUMN 2. A PLEASANT AUTO TRIP. [Waychoff suggests an automobile tour passing by Wetzels Cave in Wheeling Hill.]

***FLOYD COLLINS SYMPOSIUM
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Anyone interested in presenting a paper on Floyd Collins please contact Dean Snyder at the address on page 2 of this issue.