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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

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. All members are strongly encouraged to contribute material and to comment on published material. ASHA assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors.

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Erratum: In the last issue (No. 124) the volume number was incorrectly given as 33 in the footer at the bottom of the pages.

Front Cover: Mammoth Cave Advertising Car, 1916, with driver Albert Covington Janin. Pinson Photo. See the article on Harry M. Pinson in this issue.

Harry M. Pinson: Photographer and Cave Agent

By Bob Thompson

In my years of researching and collecting information on Mammoth Cave I have come across a number of photographs featuring the cave guides. What has impressed me most from the photographs were the individual real photo postcards of the cave guides standing in front of the entrance to the cave that were made from 1905 to 1914. Ed Bishop, Matt Bransford, Will Bransford, John Nelson, Josh Wilson, and Bob Lively were a few of the cave guides who gave photo postcards to tourists as a souvenir of their tour through the cave. Many of the guides were photographed more than once resulting in different photo postcards of each. Some of the cave guide postcards can be found with signatures and other notes of interest. These guide postcards are rare and hard to find today but occasionally show up on Internet auction sites such as eBay.



The mystery photographer of these early cave guides postcards has recently been found. A guide postcard of Josh Wilson from the cave collection of David Jones is marked with the photographer's identity. On the left of the postcard, in small print, is written, "Pinson Photographer." Harry M. Pinson had a photography studio at the far end of the large hallway going into the old Mammoth Cave Hotel. Until recently, the only photographs that I have seen attributed to Pinson have been the ones featuring the "cave donkey." Outside the hotel, Pinson had a painted cave motif background, in front of which he took photographs of tourists on the donkey. "In the great (hotel) hallway curio venders have on display stalactites, baskets, pipes, shells, pictures, and ornaments of many kinds. At the farther end of the hall is the photographer's office where numbers of photographs of cave parties are displayed. A bower of cedars is near the office and before this the cave donkey stands daily for dozens to have their pictures made while reposing on his comfortable back."

There is no known photo of Harry M. Pinson but there are photos of his wife, Lena.

All of Pinson's photography was done outside the cave. There is no known evidence that he ever took photos in the cave. Horace Hovey mentions his name with photographer Ben Hains in his 1909 and 1912 Mammoth Cave guide books. There is a place in Mammoth Cave named after Pinson known as "Pinson Pass," located under Miriam Avenue.



Josh Wilson Guide Card “Pinson Photographer”

Harry M. Pinson accepted a position as photographer at Mammoth Cave in June 1905 under Mammoth Cave Hotel lessee, Dr. Willis Renshaw and cave owner, Albert Covington Janin, which lasted until 1916. He was employed as a photographer and cave agent between 1909 and 1913. As cave agent, Pinson’s responsibilities included “reconstructing all walks and roads in the cave, and making public road improvements on the road from Mammoth Cave to Park City.” Pinson was a photographer and advertising agent for the cave between 1914 and 1916. His duties included making and posting signboards as well as traveling with the “Mammoth Cave Advertising Car” (see cover of this issue). The car was built as part of Albert Janin’s extensive efforts to promote the cave in 1916. In Louisville, “the car was elaborately decorated on the outside with beautiful paintings of scenes in and out of the cave.” On one side was painted the entrance to the cave and the other Echo River. The car delivered promotional signs to every garage between Bowling Green and Louisville. The car also made a trip to the 1916 Motion Picture Convention in Chicago, Illinois. “There were thousands of people who gazed upon this spectacle of the Mammoth Cave Car so far from home in front of the entrance to the auditorium.”

Pinson’s most published photograph, used today in books about the cave, is the one featuring Ed Bishop, Josh Wilson, Will Bransford, Dr. Willis Ranshaw, Henry Gossom, Louis Charlet, John Nelson, and Bob Lively, taken in front of the old Mammoth Cave Hotel in 1905.

Sources

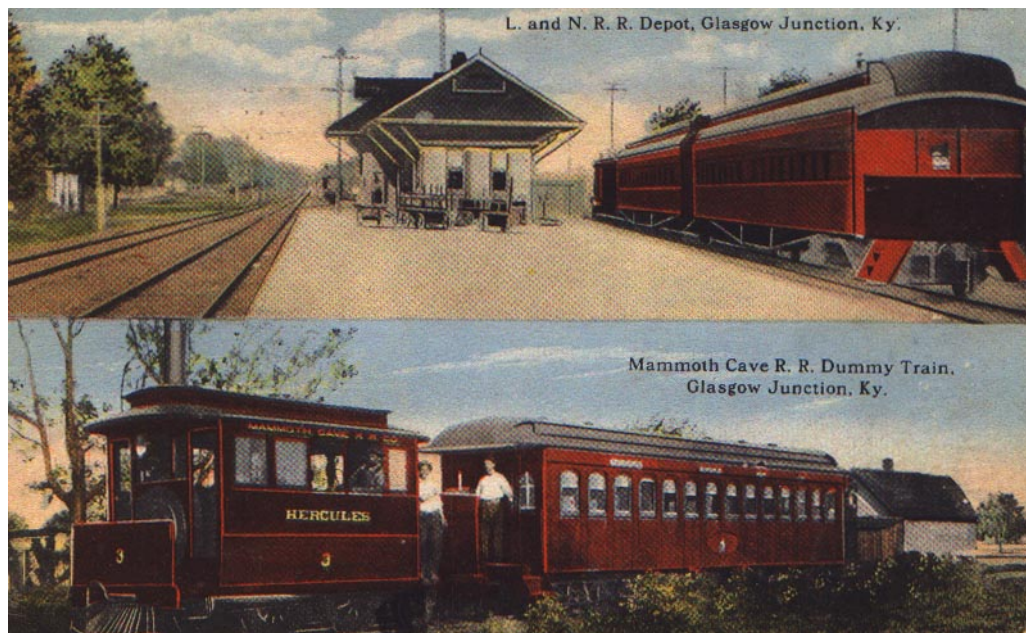
Excerpt from unpublished manuscript, courtesy of Norman Warnell
Photograph of Mammoth Cave Advertising Car, courtesy of Norman Warnell
Guide Card of Josh Wilson, courtesy of David Jones
“An Account of My First Visit to Mammoth Cave in 1909” by Gordon Wilson May 27, 1962

Kentucky Cave Postcards

By Bob Thompson

Picture postcards of caves have been around since the beginning of the 20th century. Since May 19, 1898, when Congress authorized the Private Mailing Card, postcards have been bought, sent, and collected. The introduction of picture postcards helped document the photo history of caves all over the world.

The Mammoth Cave area was a key site to take pictures in the early part of the century. Tourism began to pick up because of more favorable transportation and the discovery of new caves. Numerous local and out-of-state photographers visited the area and took pictures of the caves as well as other important sites. These images were printed as postcards and sold to local business establishments.



Postcards were printed in the millions between 1905 and 1915, which was considered the “Golden Age of Postcards.” Early printed photo postcards of Mammoth Cave were published in large quantities, making it easy for collectors today to find cards from a number of different publishers. On the other hand, real photo postcards of Mammoth Cave can be hard to find.

The beginning of the commercial manufacturing of real photo (developed on photographic paper) postcards started around 1901 with Velox, a subsidiary of the Eastman Kodak Company. Other brands followed: Solio in 1903, Cyko, EKKP and AZO in 1904, Argo and Sailboat in 1905, Aurtura, Defender, Kruxo, and Noko in 1906, DOPS in 1925, and EKC in 1930. A good way to date real photo postcards of caves is by looking for the brand name, found in the stamp boxes on the backs.

One of the earliest publishers of real photo postcards of Mammoth Cave was Bamforth & Co. of New York. Bamforth printed many of the Ben Hains stereoviews of Mammoth Cave (1889-1896) and Ganter Cave (1900) as postcards. Real photo postcards

of Mammoth Cave guides Bishop, Bransford, Nelson, Lively, and Wilson can be dated from 1904 (AZO) and 1905 (Sailboat) as well as photo postcards of the Mammoth Cave Railroad from 1906 (AZO) on. Early Kentucky real photo cave postcards can be found of Great Onyx (1915-1920), Great Crystal (1920), American White Onyx (1920), Dixie Onyx (1920), New Entrance (1924), Sand (1925), Diamond (1930), and Cascade (1930).

On March 1, 1907, postal regulations were changed to make all postcards more attractive. Prior to that date the back of all picture postcards were reserved exclusively for the address with no messages. The new law allowed for a printed line to split the back with the right half reserved for the address, and the rest for the message. Before that, the message was confined to the picture side, usually to a small white area on the bottom or side.

Beginning around 1909 many of the cave postcards were hand-colored and printed in Germany. Prior to color photography, postcards were often retouched with colors added to black and white images for printing, making them more appealing to tourists. Postcard publishers (most notable was the Curt Teich Co. of Chicago, IL) printed thousands of postcards like this between 1935 and 1950, the linen era. Although today they have less appeal than the real photo cave postcards, linen cave postcards were very popular at the time and proved to be extremely popular with cave establishments seeking cheap advertising. Later, faster reproducing equipment and lowering costs allowed publishers to print many real photo cave postcards of Mammoth (1931 and 1940), Great Onyx (1932), Floyd Collins Crystal (1940), Mammoth Onyx (1940), Lost River (1940), Daniel Boone (1940), Great Saltpeter (1940), and Carter Caves (1950).

The following list shows the many different publishers of Kentucky cave postcards using a standard reference timetable that is used today by deltiologists in studying postcards. There is also a list of Kentucky postcards published by the Curt Teich Postcard Co. This list was prepared from records found at the Curt Teich Postcard Archives in Wauconda, IL. The Curt Teich Postcard Archives have cave postcard records from other states as well.

Sources

Postcard Collector, The Marketplace for Postcard and Paper Collectibles, Iola, WI
Curt Teich Postcard Archives, Lake County Museum, Wauconda, IL

POSTCARD PUBLISHERS

PRIVATE MAILING CARDS (1898-1901)

Shepard Mfg. Co., Melrose Highlands, MA (Ganter, Mammoth) (printed photos)

UNDIVIDED BACK ERA (1901-1907)

Bamforth & Co., England and NY (Ganter, Mammoth) (real photos)

Mammoth Cave Estate, KY (Mammoth Guides) (real photos)

The Rotograph Co., NY (Mammoth) (printed photos)

H. C. Ganter, Mammoth Cave, KY (Mammoth) (printed photos)

John Thompson, Glasgow Junction, KY (Colossal, Mammoth) (printed photos)

DIVIDED BACK ERA (1907-1915)

Mammoth Cave Estate, KY (Mammoth Guides) (real photos)

? (Mammoth Cave Railroad) (real photos)

A. M. Simon, NY (Mammoth) (printed photos)

Art Mfg. Co., Amelia, OH (Dixon, Ganter, Mammoth) (printed photos)

H. C. Ganter, Mammoth Cave, KY (Ganter, Mammoth, White) (printed photos)

John Thompson, Glasgow Junction, KY (Colossal, Mammoth) (printed photos)

Kraemer Art Co., Cincinnati, OH (Colossal, Lost River, Mammoth) (printed photos)

Philadelphia PC Co., Philadelphia, PA, for E. H. Mentz, Glasgow Junction, KY (Mammoth) (printed photos)

Curt Teich Co., Chicago, IL for The Kyle Co., Louisville, KY (Mammoth) (printed photos)

Curt Teich Co., Chicago, IL for Wrenn & King, Lexington, KY (Mammoth) (printed photos)

Royal Photo Co., Louisville, KY (Mammoth) (printed photos)

McAdams & Morford, Lexington, KY (Mammoth) (printed photos)

T. J. Smith, Bowling Green, KY (Mammoth) (printed photos)

F. M. Kirby & Co. (Mammoth) (printed photos)

WHITE BORDER ERA (1915-1930)

Curt Teich Co., Chicago, IL for Bloom Bros., Minneapolis, MN (Mammoth and New Entrance) (printed photos)

Curt Teich Co., Chicago, IL for Mammoth Cave Hotel, Mammoth Cave, KY (Mammoth) (printed photos)

Geo. Fetter Co., Louisville, KY (New Entrance to Mammoth Cave) (printed photos)

Mammoth Cave Development Co., Mammoth Cave, KY (New Entrance) (printed photos)

H. H. Tammeh Co., NY (Mammoth) (printed photos)

Curt Teich Co., Chicago, IL for O. E. Turner, Cave City, KY (Dixie Onyx) (printed photos)

Curt Teich Co., Chicago, IL for Diamond Caverns, Glasgow Junction, KY (Diamond) (printed photos)

Tichnor Bros., Boston, MA for Mammoth Onyx Cave, Horse Cave, KY (Great Crystal, Mammoth Onyx) (printed photos)

Auburn Post Card Mfg. Co., Auburn, IN (Great Crystal, Hidden River, Mammoth Onyx, Sand) (printed photos)
Bagby-Howe, Louisville, KY (Great Onyx, Mammoth) (printed photos)
New York-Dayton Photo Art, Brooklyn, NY and Dayton, OH 1930 (Diamond) (real photos)
Edmund Turner & L. P. Edwards, Mammoth Cave, KY 1915 (Great Onyx) (real photos)
Great Onyx Hotel & L. P. Edwards, Mammoth Cave, KY 1916-1920 (Great Onyx) (real photos)
Wade Highbaugh, Cave City, KY 1920-1925 (American White Onyx, Dixie Onyx, Great Crystal, Sand) (real photos)

LINEN ERA (1930-1950s)

Curt Teich, Chicago, IL for MC Hotel and MC Operating Committee, Mammoth Cave, KY (Mammoth) (printed photos)
Curt Teich, Chicago, IL for National Park Concessions, Mammoth Cave, KY (Mammoth) (printed photos)
Curt Teich Co., Chicago, IL for L. A. Ferguson, Cave City, KY (New Entrance) (printed photos)
Curt Teich Co., Chicago, IL for Great Onyx Hotel, Mammoth Cave, KY (Great Onyx) (printed photos)
Curt Teich Co., Chicago, IL for Mammoth Onyx Cave, Horse Cave, KY (Mammoth Onyx) (printed photos)
Eagle Post Card View Co., NY for L. P. Edwards, Mammoth Cave, KY (Great Onyx) (printed photos)
The Albertype Co., Brooklyn, NY (Floyd Collins Crystal, Hidden River, Mammoth Onyx) (printed photos)
E. C. Kropp, Milwaukee, WI (Daniel Boone, Diamond, Indian, Mammoth, Wonderland) (printed photos)
Curt Teich Co., Chicago, IL for Cascade and Carter Caves, Carter County, KY (Carter, Cascade) (printed photos)
Orcajo Photo Art, Dayton, OH 1940 (Lost River) (real photos)
Caufield & Shook, Louisville, KY (Mammoth 1931, Great Onyx 1932) (real photos)
W. M. Cline Co., Chattanooga, TN (Chinn's 1940, Daniel Boone 1940, Floyd Collins Crystal 1940, Lost River 1940, Mammoth Onyx 1940, Carter 1950, Great Saltpeter 1950) (real photos)
Dexter Press, Buford, GA (Mammoth) Cascade Caves Co. (Cascade 1930) (real photos)
Mammoth Cave Operating Committee (Mammoth) (real photos)

CHROME ERA (1950s to 1970s)

National Park Concessions, Dexter Press, H. S. Crocker, W. M. Cline

CURT TEICH KENTUCKY CAVE POSTCARDS

order date	card #	subject	ordered by	circa
3-13-31	1A-667	Onyx Pillars, New Entrance	L. A. Ferguson	1924
3-13-31	1A-668	Frozen Niagara, New Entrance	L. A. Ferguson	1924
3-13-31	1A-669	Entrance to Old Tut's Tomb, New Entrance	L. A. Ferguson	1924
3-13-31	1A-670	Onyx Colonnade, New Entrance	L. A. Ferguson	1924
3-13-31	1A-671	Giant Stairway, New Entrance	L. A. Ferguson	1922
3-13-31	1A-672	Hindu Temple, New Entrance	L. A. Ferguson	1924
10-21-31	1A-2725	Crystal River and September Morn, NE	L. A. Ferguson	1924
3-9-32	D-2128	Souvenir Folder of the Mammoth Cave	Mammoth Cave Hotel	1932
3-14-32	2A-484	Dead Sea	Mammoth Cave Hotel	1931
3-14-32	2A-485	Ruins of Karnak	Mammoth Cave Hotel	1931
3-14-32	2A-486	Gypsum Formations	Mammoth Cave Hotel	1931
3-14-32	2A-487	Corkscrew Entrance, Bandit Hall	Mammoth Cave Hotel	1931
2-25-35	5A-72	Tiger Lily, New Entrance	L. A. Ferguson	1922
3-28-35	D3739	Souvenir Folder of Mammoth Cave	MC Operating Committee	1935
1936	6A-37	Hercules, Famous Engine of MC RR	unknown	1936
10-19-36	6AH2229	The Park Ferry on Green River	MC Operating Committee	1936
10-19-36	6AH2230	A Trail Near Cave Entrance	MC Operating Committee	1936
10-19-36	AH2231	Scene were Echo River leaves Cave	MC Operating Committee	1936
1-5-37	7AH51	Entrance to the Corkscrew	MC Operating Committee	1936
1-6-37	7AH52	Mammoth Cave Hotel	MC Operating Committee	1936
1-6-37	7AH53	Crystal Lake in Mammoth Cave	MC Operating Committee	1936
1-6-37	7AH54	Mummified Body of Man Discovered 1935	MC Operating Committee	1936
1-6-37	7AH55	Onyx Chamber	MC Operating Committee	1936
1-6-37	7AH56	Onyx Colonnade	MC Operating Committee	1936
10-27-37	7AH3280	Echo River	C.P.& Co.	1937
10-27-37	7AH3281	Bridal Altar	C.P.& Co.	1937
11-24-39	9AH2249	Frozen Niagara Entrance	Garnet Carter	1939
12-7-39	9AH2391	Star Chamber	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2392	Blind Fish in Echo River	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2393	The Arm Chair	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2394	Golden Fleece	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2395	Ruins of Karnak	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2396	Historic Entrance	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2397	Frozen Niagara	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2398	Crystal Lake	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2399	Outdoor Amphitheatre	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2400	Snowball Dining Room	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2401	Chinese Wall near Onyx Chamber	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2402	Gypsum Flowers	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2403	Hindu Temple & Onyx Temple	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2404	Dead Sea	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2405	Trail Side Cabins	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2406	Salt Petre Vats	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2407	Drapery Room	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-7-39	9AH2408	Historic Entrance	MC Operating Committee	1939
12-8-39	D6179	Souvenir Folder of Mammoth Cave	MC Operating Committee	1939
8-21-41	1B-H1540	Entrance, Mammoth Cave	Kyle Co., Wigwam Village	1939
12-19-41	1B-H2653	The Colonnade	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
12-19-41	1B-H2654	Gypsum Feathers	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
12-19-41	1B-H2655	Hanging Gardens	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
12-19-41	1B-H2657	Macaroni Factory	Great Onyx Hotel	1932

CURT TEICH KENTUCKY CAVE POSTCARDS

order date	card #	subject	ordered by	circa
12-19-41	1B-H2658	The Virgin Mary	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
12-19-41	1B-H2659	The Bridal Altar	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
12-19-41	1B-H2660	The Original Frozen Niagara	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
12-19-41	1B-H2661	Great Onyx Cave Hotel	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
12-19-41	1B-H2662	The Perfect Question	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
3-21-46	6BH411	Elephant Ear	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
3-21-46	6BH412	Onyx Draperies	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
3-21-46	6BH413	Helictites in Hanging Garden	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
3-21-46	6BH414	The Scarf	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
3-21-46	6BH415	Inverted Ice Cream Cone	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
3-21-46	6BH416	Leaning Tower of Pisa	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
3-21-46	6BH417	Cathedral Spires	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
3-21-46	6BH418	Onyx Columns	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
3-21-46	6BH419	Explorers Path	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
3-21-46	6BH420	Stalagmites & Stalagmites	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
3-21-46	6BH421	Helictites in Hanging Garden	Great Onyx Hotel	1932
10-21-46	D-8390	Souvenir Folder of Mammoth Cave	National Park Concessions	1946
10-22-46	6BH2068	Greetings from Mammoth Cave	National Park Concessions	1946
10-22-46	6BH2069	Snowball Dining Room	National Park Concessions	1946
10-22-46	6BH2070	Mammoth Cave Hotel	National Park Concessions	1946
6-11-47	7BH816	Echo River, 360 ft Underground	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH817	Trail Near Mammoth Cave Entrance	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH818	Echo River Flowing Out of Mammoth Cave	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH819	Snowball Dining Room	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH820	Mammoth Cave Hotel	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH821	Mummified Body of a Man	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH822	Star Chamber	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH823	Blind Fish Found in Echo River	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH824	The Arm Chair	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH825	Golden Fleece	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH826	Ruins of Karnak	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH827	Frozen Niagara	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH828	Crystal Lake	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH829	Outdoor Amphitheatre	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH830	Chinese Wall Near Onyx Chambers	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH831	Gypsum Flowers	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH832	Hindu Temple and Onyx Temple	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH833	Salt Petre Vats	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH834	Drapery Room	National Park Concessions	1947
6-11-47	7BH835	Historic Entrance, Looking Out	National Park Concessions	1947
4-22-48	8BH489	Trail Side Vista	National Park Concessions	1948
4-22-48	8BH490	The Giant's Coffin & Dante's Gateway	National Park Concessions	1948
4-22-48	8BH491	Hotel Cottages	National Park Concessions	1948
4-22-48	8BH492	Green River	National Park Concessions	1948
4-22-48	8BH493	The Hindu Temple	National Park Concessions	1948
4-22-48	8BH494	Frozen Niagara in Mammoth Cave	National Park Concessions	1948
12-18-50	OCK407	Crystal Lake in Mammoth Cave	National Park Concessions	1950
8-14-56	6CK1592	Echo River, 360 Ft Underground	Curteich & Co.	1956
12-17-56	6CK3013	The Golden Fleece in Mammoth Cave	National Park Concessions	1956
12-23-56	8CK3219	Echo River, 360 Ft Underground	Readmore Distr. ?	1956
12-23-56	8CK3254	Frozen Niagara in Mammoth Cave	Readmore Distr. ?	1956

CURT TEICH KENTUCKY CAVE POSTCARDS

order date	card #	subject	ordered by	circa
11-9-67	7D-13.65	Frozen Niagara in Mammoth Cave	L. D. Thompson	1967
7-9-68	8D-K643	Mammoth Cave Hotel	National Park Concessions	1968
7-9-68	8D-K644	Mammoth Dome From Side	National Park Concessions	1968
5-13-71	D17293	Historic Entrance to Mammoth Cave	National Park Concessions	1971
5-13-71	D17294	Frozen Niagara in Mammoth Cave	National Park Concessions	1971
5-13-71	D17295	Looking Into Spectacular Mammoth Cave	National Park Concessions	1971
5-13-71	D17296	Mammoth Cave Hotel	National Park Concessions	1971
5-13-71	D17297	Crystal Lake in Mammoth Cave	National Park Concessions	1971
3-29-72	D18003	Ruins of Karnak in Mammoth Cave	National Park Concessions	1972
3-29-72	D18004	Saltpetre Leaching Vats in Mammoth Cave	National Park Concessions	1972
4-7-72	D18008	Mammoth Cave Visitor Center	National Park Concessions	1972
3-11-38	8A-H614	Hidden River in Hidden River Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1938
3-11-38	8A-H615	The Spanish Balcony, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1938
3-11-38	8A-H616	Helictite Gallery in Floyd Collins CC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1938
3-11-38	8A-H617	Sunset Dome in Hidden River Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1938
3-11-38	8A-H618	Grand Canyon Ave. & FC Memorial	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1938
3-11-38	8A-H619	Entrance to Hidden River Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1938
3-11-38	8A-H620	Gypsum Flower, Floyd Collins CC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1938
3-11-38	8A-H621	Stalactite Gallery, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1938
3-11-38	8A-H622	Paradise Garden & Giant's Fur Coat, MOC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1938
12-30-39	9A-H2593	Floyd Collins Monument	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1939
12-30-39	9A-H2594	Blind Fish, Hidden River Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1939
6-5-41	1B-H1029	Fountain of Youth, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1941
6-5-41	1B-H1030	Entrance to Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1941
10-17-41	1B-N2072	On a Helictite Route in Floyd Collins CC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1941
10-17-41	1B-N2073	Alabaster Rosette in Floyd Collins CC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1941
4-24-45	E-1141	Entrance, Mammoth Onyx Cave (miniature)	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1945
4-24-45	E-1142	Stalactite Galley, MO Cave (miniature)	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1945
4-24-45	E-1143	Paradise Garden & Giants Fur Coat, MOC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1945
4-24-45	E-1144	Fountain of Youth, MOC (miniature)	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1945
4-24-45	E-1145	Entrance to HRC (miniature)	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1945
4-24-45	E-1146	Hidden River in HRC (miniature)	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1945
4-24-45	E-1147	Blind Fish, HRC (miniature)	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1945
4-24-45	E-1148	Floyd Collins Monument (miniature)	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1945
4-24-45	E-1149	Grand Canyon Ave., FCCC (miniature)	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1945
4-24-45	E-1150	Gypsum Flower, FCCC (miniature)	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1945
2-19-46	6B-H196	Onyx Draperies, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1946
2-19-46	6B-H197	Mammoth Onyx Column, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1946
2-19-46	6B-H198	Central Cave Office & Cavern Gift Shop	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1946
2-19-46	6B-H199	Cluster of Alabaster Flowers, FCCC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1946
2-19-46	6B-H200	Spider Helictite, Floyd Collins CC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1946
2-19-46	D8033	Souvenir Folder of MOC, FCCC, HRC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1946
10-15-47	7B-H1661	Entrance, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1947
10-15-47	7B-H1662	Stalactite Gallery, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1947
10-15-47	7B-H1663	Paradise Garden & Giant's Fur Coat, MOC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1947
10-15-47	7B-H1664	The Spanish Balcony, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1947
10-15-47	7B-H1665	Onyx Draperies, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1947
10-15-47	7B-H1666	Floyd Collins Monument	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1947
10-15-47	7B-H1667	Entrance to Hidden River Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1947
10-15-47	7B-H1668	Hidden River in Hidden River Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1947
10-15-47	7B-H1669	Blind Fish, Hidden River Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1947

CURT TEICH KENTUCKY CAVE POSTCARDS

order date	card #	subject	ordered by	circa
10-15-47	7B-H1670	Grand Canyon Avenue, Floyd Collins CC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1947
10-15-47	7B-H1671	Cluster of Alabaster Flowers, FCCC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1947
10-15-47	7B-H1672	Spider Helictite, Floyd Collins CC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1947
3-4-53	3C-K100	Blind Fish, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1953
3-4-53	3C-K101	Hanging Bridge, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1953
3-4-53	3C-K102	Onyx Tapestry, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1953
3-4-53	3C-K103	Mammoth Onyx Column, MOC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1953
3-4-53	3C-K104	Stalactite Gallery, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1953
3-4-53	3C-K105	Martha's Pool, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1953
3-15-56	6C-K448	Blind Fish, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1956
3-15-56	6C-K449	Hanging Bridge, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1956
3-15-56	6C-K450	Helictite Cluster, Floyd Collins CC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1956
3-15-56	6C-K451	Gypsum Flower, Floyd Collins CC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1956
3-15-56	6C-K452	Grand Canyon Ave., Floyd Collins CC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1956
3-15-56	6C-K453	Martha's Pool, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1956
3-15-56	6C-K454	Mammoth Onyx Column, MOC	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1956
3-15-56	6C-K455	Onyx Tapestry, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1956
3-15-56	6C-K456	Mount Shasta, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1956
3-15-56	6C-K457	Stalactite Gallery, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1956
9-4-57	7C-K1619	Alabaster Lily, Floyd Collins CC	Ky. Craft & Camera	1957
9-4-57	7C-K1620	Crystal Ledge, Floyd Collins CC	Ky. Craft & Camera	1957
9-4-57	7C-K1621	Alabaster Wall, Floyd Collins CC	Ky. Craft & Camera	1957
9-4-57	7C-K1622	Gypsum Feathers, Floyd Collins CC	Ky. Craft & Camera	1957
9-4-57	7C-K1623	Entrance, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1957
1-28-65	5D-K129	Grecian Pentant, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1965
1-28-65	5D-K130	Niagara Falls, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1965
1-28-65	5D-K131	Paradise Gardens, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1965
1-28-65	5D-K132	Santa Claus, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1965
1-28-65	5D-K133	Onyx Portal, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1965
1-28-65	D14145	Souvenir Folder, Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1965
6-26-68	8D-K614	Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1968
6-26-68	8D-K615	Mammoth Onyx Cave	Mammoth Onyx Cave	1968
3-10-25	A103564	Entrance to Sand Cave	William O'Neill	1925
3-10-25	A103565	Floyd Collins in CC Examining Bones	William O'Neill	1925
3-2-26	A108608	Fairies Retreat, Dixie Onyx Cave	O. E. Turner	1926
3-2-26	A108609	Fresco Ceiling, Dixie Onyx Cave	O. E. Turner	1926
3-2-26	A108610	Fairies Pass, Dixie Onyx Cave	O. E. Turner	1926
3-2-26	A108611	Hermes Pass, Dixie Onyx Cave	O. E. Turner	1926
3-2-26	A108612	Onyx Falls, Dixie Onyx Cave	O. E. Turner	1926
3-2-26	A108613	Hercules Pillars, Dixie Onyx Cave	O. E. Turner	1926
3-2-26	A108614	Onyx Column, Dixie Onyx Cave	O. E. Turner	1926
3-2-26	A108615	Giant Column, Dixie Onyx Cave	O. E. Turner	1926
3-2-26	A108616	French Curtain, Dixie Onyx Cave	O. E. Turner	1926
3-2-26	A108617	Fairies Curtain, Dixie Onyx Cave	O. E. Turner	1926
3-2-26	A108618	Onyx Wall & Column, Dixie Onyx Cave	O. E. Turner	1926
3-2-26	A108619	Dixie Onyx Cave...	O. E. Turner	1926
1925	A103877	Office and Entrance	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103878	The Reception Hall	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103879	The Onyx Haystack	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103880	The Onyx Ball and Pit	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103881	The Beauty Parlor	Diamond Caverns	1925

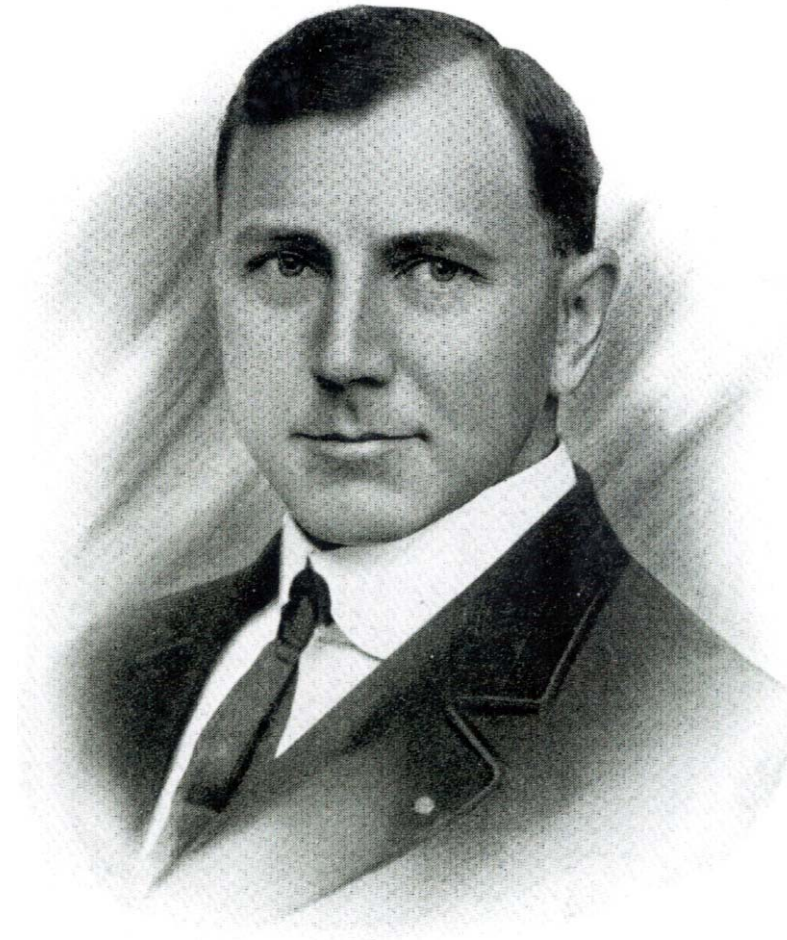
CURT TEICH KENTUCKY CAVE POSTCARDS

order date	card #	subject	ordered by	circa
1925	A103882	The Mammoth Stalactite	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103883	Nabob's Vineyard	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103884	The Cliff Dwellers	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103885	Cleopatra's Hall	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103886	The Hanging Paradise	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103887	Sampson's Pillar	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103888	Aladdin's Walk	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103889	The Capital Dome	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103890	The Frozen Water-Falls	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103891	The Queen's Den	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103892	Diamond Caverns R.R. Depot	Diamond Caverns	1925
1925	A103893	Castle of Chillon (Chateau De Caucy)	Diamond Caverns	1925
7-18-38	8A527	Beauty Parlor	Diamond Caverns	1938
7-18-38	8A528	The Victoria Falls	Diamond Caverns	1938
7-18-38	8A529	Hanging Paradise	Diamond Caverns	1938
7-18-38	8A530	Onyx Mountain Bridge	Diamond Caverns	1938
7-18-38	8A531	Mammoth Stalactite	Diamond Caverns	1938
7-18-38	8A532	Onyx Haystack	Diamond Caverns	1938
6-6-41	1B359	Cathedral Walls	Balduf's Bakery	1941
6-6-41	1B360	Onyx Cathedral	Balduf's Bakery	1941
1-28-52	E1720	Colonial Lodge (miniature)	Diamond Caverns	1952
1-28-52	E1721	Onyx Mountain Bridge (miniature)	Diamond Caverns	1952
1-28-52	E1722	Reception Hall (miniature)	Diamond Caverns	1952
1-28-52	E1723	Colonial Lodge Lobby (miniature)	Diamond Caverns	1952
1-28-52	E1724	The Three Graces (miniature)	Diamond Caverns	1952
1-28-52	E1725	Hanging Paradise (miniature)	Diamond Caverns	1952
1-28-52	E1726	Onyx Cathedral (miniature)	Diamond Caverns	1952
1-28-52	E1727	Hanging Garden of Babylon (miniature)	Diamond Caverns	1952
1-28-52	E1728	Victoria Falls (miniature)	Diamond Caverns	1952
1-28-52	E1729	Dining Room, Colonial Lodge (miniature)	Diamond Caverns	1952
2-8-52	2C-H215	The Three Graces	Diamond Caverns	1952
2-17-54	4C-H123	The Three Graces	Diamond Caverns	1954
3-31-27	113824	Have a Boat Ride on Crystal River, NE to MC	Bloom Bros.	1924
3-31-27	113825	See September Morn New Entrance to MC	Bloom Bros.	1924
3-31-27	113826	Frozen Niagara, New Entrance to MC	Bloom Bros.	1924
3-19-28	119694	Frozen Niagara, New Entrance to MC	Bloom Bros.	1924
3-19-28	119957	Fawn Hoof, New Entrance to MC	Bloom Bros.	1924
1928	A120875	Chinese Temple	Cascade Caves Co.	1928
1928	A120876	Garden of the Gods	Cascade Caves Co.	1928
1928	A120877	Lake Room	Cascade Caves Co.	1928
1928	A120878	Dome Room	Cascade Caves Co.	1928
1928	A120879	Cascade Caverns (surface view)	Cascade Caves Co.	1928
1928	A120880	Cathedral Room	Cascade Caves Co.	1928
1948	8B122	Cascade Cave	Cascade Caves Co.	1948
1948	8B123	Cascade Cave	Cascade Caves Co.	1948
1948	8B124	Cascade Cave	Cascade Caves Co.	1948
1952	2C558	Cascade Cave Hotel and Restaurant	Cascade Caves Co.	1952
1932	2A710	King of Stalactites, Famous Carter Caves	Carter Caves Co.	1932
1932	2A711	Notorious Pipe Organ, Famous Carter Caves	Carter Caves Co.	1932
1939	9A327	Lodge at Carter Caves, Famous Carter Caves	Carter Caves Co.	1939
1941	1B402	Entrance to X Cave, Famous Carter Caves	Carter Caves Co.	1941

William J. Dietrich: Pennsylvania's Pioneering Cave Historian

By Dean H. Snyder

On December 11, 1906, William J. Dietrich read "The Caves of Richmond and Perry Townships, Berks County" before the members of the Historical Society of Berks County, in Reading, Pennsylvania. This paper was later published in the Society's *Transactions*, in 1910.¹ Although there had been other descriptions of the caves in Berks County, often of commercialized Crystal Cave, this was the first attempt to describe several caves in some detail in a part of Berks County.



William J. Dietrich was born on May 12, 1875, in Hamburg, Berks County, Pennsylvania, to William J. and Susanna F. (Seaman) Dietrich. The second youngest of seven children, William was just a year old when his father died at the age of 33 of "typhoid pneumonia."² Life was difficult for the family; David Jonathan Dietrich, the couple's second oldest boy, spent ten years at the Lutheran Orphans' Home at Germantown. Eventually, the family was forced to move into their grandfather's house.

At the age of ten, William set out to labor for farmers in Maxatawny and Greenwich townships. In 1894, he worked at a lumber mill in northern Pennsylvania.

William attended public school and graduated from Keystone State Normal School (today, Kutztown University) in 1898. He went on to teach school in Tilden and Cumru townships and night school in Reading. In 1904, Dietrich was employed as a clerk in the Philadelphia Post Office, and then in life insurance in Reading, and he even spent some time as a trolley conductor.³

Dietrich organized the Dietrich Family Association in 1903, and served as its secretary.⁴ The group held their reunions at the Kutztown Park. By the spring of 1906, Dietrich worked for J. H. Beers & Company, collecting genealogical information for the *Historical and Biographical Annals of Berks County*. He also contributed to the histories of Lehigh and Northumberland counties. His personal library contained all of the works on the local history of Berks County ever published. Dietrich was a member of the Pennsylvania German Society, the Berks County Historical Society, and the Lehigh County Historical Society.³

Dietrich married Sarah M. Merkel of Berne in 1899 at the St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church in Reading. The couple had four children. Tragically, Sarah died during childbirth in March, 1915, at the age of 37. William was in Harrisburg at the time, working on the history book for Lehigh County. Notified by telegraph, he returned to their home only to find both wife and infant deceased.⁵

William J. Dietrich wrote about five caves in Berks County: Crystal, Dragon, Merkel, Dreibelbis, and David G. Mengel. He was one of the few early authors who actually visited the caves that he wrote about, rather than relying on inadequate second hand descriptions. Dietrich was careful not to exaggerate distances and information. His history gives researchers valuable information about the caves in Berks County, much of which would have been lost in the passage of time. Dietrich gave a name to David G. Mengel Cave, which later was called Onyx Cave, and noted that Merkel Cave was never explored.¹ Thousands of eighth grade school students read his cave descriptions when they were used (without credit) in Balthausen's *The Story of Berks County*.⁶ Dietrich also participated in the Historical Society of Berks County's trip to Crystal Cave in 1906. The *Reading Eagle* remarked that Dietrich possessed an adventurous spirit and that he believed that there was little danger in exploring caves if one was equipped with proper light and rubber shoes.⁷

In an era when natural resources were being plundered, Dietrich recognized the importance of cave conservation. After seeing the destruction caused by oil lamps in Crystal Cave, he called for electrical illumination. Clearly, Dietrich was upset at the vandalism seen in the cave, as unscrupulous visitors stole speleothems. He wrote:

In the brief interval between the discovery of the cave and the acquisition of the property by Mr. Kohler, the cave was robbed of many crystalline treasures. What should have been regarded as an inheritance of the unnumbered ages, to be preserved intact for the common enjoyment of future generations, was looked upon as treasure to be looted. Vandalism was rampant to an extent hardly conceivable. Scars in the ceiling and floor of the cave are witness to this day of the robbery of the stalactites and stalagmites which once graced the cave but which many now can be seen, quite out of place, in houses and door-yards for miles. The new proprietor

proceeded to check this inexcusable robbery by placing a door at the entrance to the cave.

Dietrich resided in Allentown, Pennsylvania, for the last forty years of his adult life, at 224 N. 6th Street and then at 32 N. 12th Street with his second wife, Susan. The couple had one daughter, June. Without much success, he worked as a publisher, writer, salesman, building contractor, and foreman.⁸ Before his retirement, he was employed as the scrap supervisor for Mack Manufacturing Company.⁹ There is no evidence that he ever visited or wrote about caves after 1906.

On Saturday, November 25, 1950, a violent wind and rainstorm hit the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania. Two inches of rain fell in Allentown, accompanied by winds of 55 mph, with gusts to 83 mph. Most of Allentown was paralyzed, without electricity or phone service.¹⁰ While making repairs on the roof of his three-story home, Dietrich fell and landed on the porch roof. An ambulance took him to Allentown Hospital, where he died three hours later without regaining consciousness. He was buried in Grandview Cemetery in Allentown.⁹

Morton Montgomery, Berks County's most notable historian of the early twentieth century, said that Dietrich possessed "the most remarkable memory and knowledge of people and families of any man I ever knew."⁴ In speleology, Dietrich should be remembered as a pioneering cave historian in Pennsylvania, and an early proponent of cave conservation.

Acknowledgement

Thanks to Dale Ibberson, who reviewed this paper and made several helpful suggestions.

References

1. Dietrich, William J. "The Caves of Richmond and Perry Townships, Berks County," *Transactions of the Historical Society of Berks County*, Volume II, No. 1, 1910.
2. Rhoads, Charles Robert. *History of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania*, Lehigh Valley Publishing Company, 1914. William J. Dietrich is listed on the title page as one of the secondary authors. His photo, along with his father, grandfather, and son, appears in this volume. The children born to William J. and Susanna Dietrich were (1) Lizzie C. (1868-1881), (2) Agnes V. (1870-?), (3) Zivilla J. (1871-1872), (4) Oscar H. (1872-1956), who founded the Dietrich Motor Car Company in Allentown, (5) David J. (1874-1911), (6) William J. (1875-1950), and (7) Alfred M. (1876-?), a veteran of the Spanish American War. Oscar and David are buried in the Greenwood Cemetery on Chew Street in Allentown.
3. Montgomery, Morton. *Historical and Biographical Annals of Berks County, Pennsylvania*. J. H. Beers & Company, 1909.
4. *Third Reunion of the Dietrich Family Association*, Souvenir Program, September 1, 1906. (This booklet is found in the library of the Historical Society of Berks County.)

5. "Obituary—Mrs. William J. Dietrich," *The Allentown Morning Call*, March 17, 1915. Dietrich's children with his first wife were Naomi Evangeline, Ruth Emily, William Joseph Jr., and Esther Agnes.
6. Balthausen, F. W., Wagner, A. E., and D. K. Hoch. *The Story of Berks County*, Eagle Book and Job Press, Reading, PA, 1916.
7. Dietrich, William. "The Caves of Richmond and Perry Townships," *Reading Eagle*, December 20, 1906. This is the paper that was published four years later in the *Transactions of the Historical Society of Berks County*, with a few comments added by the newspaper.
8. Allentown City Directories. Found in the Local History Room of the Allentown Library.
9. "William Dietrich, 75, Dies Following Fall; Was Noted Historian." *Evening Chronicle*, November 27, 1950. Dietrich's will was signed in March, 1950, eight months before his death. His estate was valued at less than \$2,000 and he was declared insolvent, as there was a judgment against him in 1935 for \$580, which had grown to almost double that amount by 1950. Dietrich remarked in his will that "economic and political conditions, the past years have disturbed our earning capacity, and the tranquility of mind, heart, and understanding." Dietrich's second wife Sue M. moved to 2112 Hanover Avenue and then 1615 Linden Street. She died on February 28, 1974, at age 90. Her obituary is in the *Allentown Morning Call*, March 2, 1974. Mrs. Dietrich was buried next to William J.
10. "Storm Creates Emergency in City; Valley is Hard Hit." *Evening Chronicle*, November 25, 1950.



William J. Dietrich was injured fatally when he fell from the roof of his home at 32 North 12th Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania.



William J. Dietrich is buried in the Grandview Cemetery in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

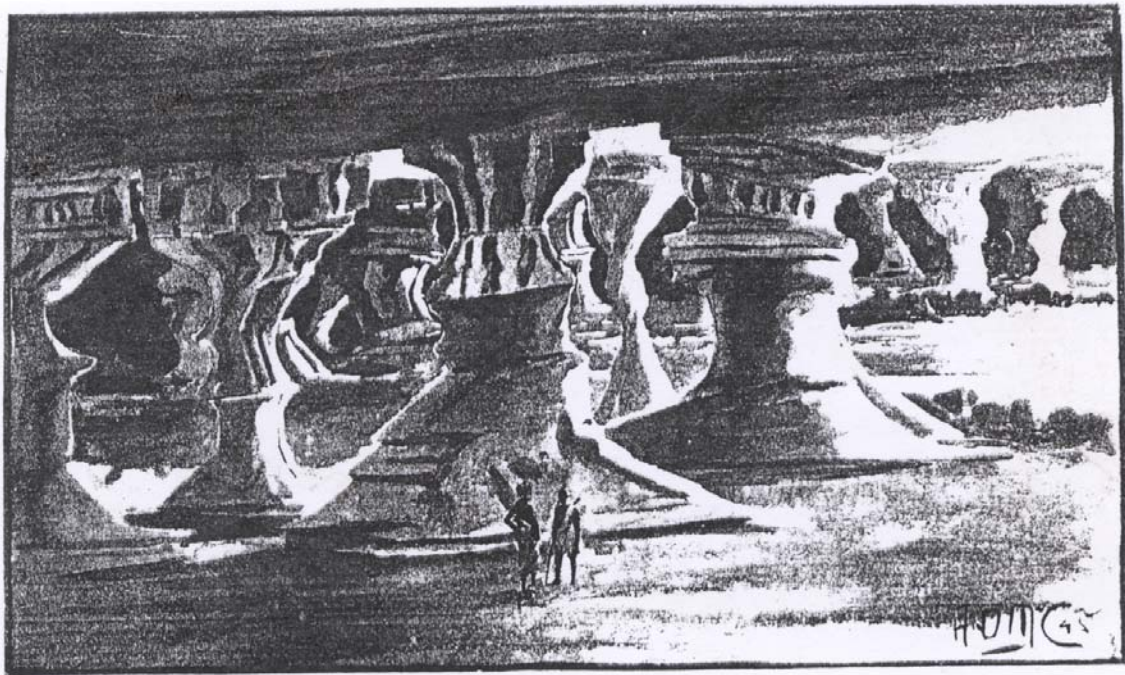
The First Published Account of Ethiopia's Sof Omar Cave

By William R. Halliday

The newly published *Encyclopedia of Caves and Karst Science* (Gunn, 2004) contains a short entry by Steve Worthington (pages 655-656) on Ethiopia's remarkable Sof Omar Cave, one of the longest known caves in Africa, but the article is lacking in details. The mid-20th century Ethiopian Tourist Organization booklet about the cave (Clapham and Robson, n.d.) gives a little more historical or legendary information:

The caves have always held a prominent place in the cultural life of the area and are revered as a shrine by the local people. The caves were the home of the holy man Sof Omar at a time long past whose name was given to the village. His daughter Ayiew gave her name to the portion of the cave where the river first enters the mountain. It is known as "Ayiew Maco," "maco" being the Gallinya word for "name." The point where the river reappears after its subterranean journey is called simply "Holuca" which is the local name for "cave"...In both the Ayiew Maco and the Holuca Caves, thanksgivings can be seen in the form of leather straps and small pouches...which contain rolls of parchment on which prayers have been written by a priest...passed down from father to son for generations...

While browsing in the U. S. geological Survey library in Reston, Virginia, I recently encountered A. Donaldson Smith's 1897 book, *Through Unknown African Countries: The First Exploration from Somaliland to Lake Lamu*. Pages 83 to 91 contain a description of part of the Sof Omar Cave together with two fantastic illustrations that clearly demonstrate that people see what they want to see. Primarily he visited parts of the cave in daylight or twilight, but used candles for a supposed hundred yards along the course of the underground stream. The bizarre illustrations are the only memorable parts of the account.





Smith comes across as a pompously obnoxious sahib. I know nothing about him except through the contents of his book. At the time, he had a summer home near Philadelphia, and “renamed” Sof Omar Cave after it (fortunately the name never stuck). But he sounds very British. His book was published in London, “by the Publisher to the India Office.” The title page states that he was an Honorary Member of the Academy of National [sic] Sciences of Philadelphia, obviously meaning *Natural* Sciences. However, I cannot find that he was ever mentioned by Philadelphia speleologist Edwin Swift Balch, then at the height of his world travels and cave-hunting (Balch, 1900). And their writings are at opposite ends of the spectrum of perception and cultural sensitivity. But until someone finds an earlier published account of Sof Omar Cave, Smith qualifies as the first Caucasian to visit and describe it.

On the other hand, Amazon’s website mentions that this book was reprinted by Reprint Services Corporation as part of an American Biography Series, so some of our Pennsylvania members might be able to find interesting biographical material through local channels. The ISBN of the reprint is said to be 0781283574.

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Clapham, C. S., and Eric Robson. N.d., post-1967. *The Caves of Sof Omar*. Addis Ababa: Ethiopian Tourist Organization. 12 p., paper, with sketch map in rear pocket.

Gunn, J., ed. 2004. *Encyclopedia of Caves and Karst Science*. New York: Fitzroy Dearborn.

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A Piping Voice: Theories of Cave Genesis in Minnesota Prior to 1880

By Greg A. Brick

When considering theories of cave genesis in Minnesota, most researchers think first of Mystery Cave, the longest cave in the state. But it was not always so. In terms of speleogenesis, Fountain Cave, a sandstone cave at St. Paul, held the importance in the nineteenth century that Mystery Cave, a limestone cave, holds today. Unlike other caves before and since, almost every visitor to Fountain Cave had something to say about its genesis. While some discussed the cave's origin, *per se*, others addressed the cave's ongoing development. No other cave even comes close in the sheer volume of references—a selection of which is included below.

All the early ideas about the genesis of Fountain Cave involved “piping,” a kind of mechanical erosion in which sediments are washed away by flowing groundwater, leaving a pipe-like void. Cause and effect were juxtaposed at Fountain Cave as nowhere else. The sight of the flowing stream in contact with the loose sandstone made the conclusion obvious. It was not so obvious at the other major sandstone cave in the vicinity—Carver's Cave—which contained a stagnant pool, rather than a stream. But no one used the term “piping” back then; the word was borrowed from engineers in the late 1940s by soil scientists and geologists who applied it to caves. Hogberg and Bayer's *Guide to the Caves of Minnesota*, published in 1967, gave currency to the term piping locally.

Major Stephen H. Long, of the U. S. Corps of Topographical Engineers, discovered and named Fountain Cave in 1817 while searching for a good location for siting a fort—what later became Fort Snelling. In his journal for July 16, 1817, he reported that “instead of a stagnant pool and only one accessible room of a very different form, this cavern [Fountain Cave] has a brook running thro' it and at least 4 rooms in succession one after the other. Carver's Cave is fast filling up with sand so that no water is now to be found in it, whereas this from the very nature of the place must be enlarging, as the fountain will carry along with its impact all the sand that falls into it from the roofs & sides of the Cavern.” **Henry R. Schoolcraft**, who would discover the “true head” of the Mississippi River in 1832, wrote in his *Narrative Journal of Travels* (1821), for August 2, 1820, that, “the rock is of a very friable nature, and easily acted upon by running water...thus enlarging the boundaries of the cave.” **George W. Featherstonhaugh**, the first person to hold the title “United States Geologist,” in his *Canoe Voyage up the Minnay Sotor* (1847), wrote for September 12, 1835, “Like many other caves, this appears to have a reservoir of water in it arising from springs, that in long periods of time have effected the excavations in the rock, which is so soft and incoherent as to be easily cut by a knife.” A Canadian visitor, **Peter Garrioch**, in his diary for November 16, 1837, described “narrow passages formed by the force of the stream of water running through the cave and washing away the sand from between the contiguous and more consolidated rocks. The apartments diminish in size, however, as they approach the head or termination of the cavern. The water running through the cave, and which doubtless has brought it to its present form, is a beautiful, crystal stream, and as pleasant to the taste as any water I ever tasted.”

Joseph N. Nicollet gave the most elaborate account of the genesis of Fountain Cave—the stream piracy theory. After a distinguished mathematical career in France,

Nicollet immigrated to the United States in 1832 and devoted the rest of his life to mapping the Upper Mississippi, determining for the first time accurate longitudes, latitudes, and altitudes. His great cartographic work is considered the “mother map” of Minnesota. In his *Report Intended to Illustrate a Map of the Hydrographical Basin of the Upper Mississippi River* (1843), writing about Fountain Cave, he stated that, “It owes its formation to the dislocation and decomposition of the upland [Platteville] limestone, which have left sloughy places; the waters of which have penetrated into the [St. Peter] sandstone, wearing it away, and giving origin to the streamlet [Fountain Creek] that issues from it. The location of this cave is on my map designated as the *new cave*.” Two subsequent accounts are quite similar to Nicollet’s, perhaps because of borrowing. **E. S. Seymour**, in his *Sketches of Minnesota, The New England of the West* (1850) wrote, “This cave is probably produced by the action of this stream of water, which has broken through the strata of superincumbent limestone, and worn a passage through the sandstone. The latter is constantly crumbling off, and is carried away by the current.” The artist **Henry Lewis**, in his *Valley of the Mississippi Illustrated* (originally published in German in 1854), wrote that “This cave is, doubtless, of comparatively recent formation and owes its origin to the stream of water breaking through the fissures of the plate of limestone which forms the roof, disintegrating and washing out the stratum of soft sandstone beneath.”

A letter to the *Congregationalist* of Boston, for September 19, 1856, signed “H,” describes “A small stream, a rill of water, has worn itself a channel through this bed of sand-stone, and thus formed the cave.” **Robert Watt**, a Danish visitor, wrote in 1871 (as translated by Jacob Hodnefield in 1929) that “A stream from within apparently has hollowed it out, and some maintain that a person could penetrate a couple of miles beneath the surface either by canoe or by picking his way along the narrow white sand edges of the stream.” **James Davenport**, in his *Minnesota Tourist’s and Traveller’s Guide* (1872), wrote, “Here a stream of water, which empties into the [Mississippi] river a short distance below, has hollowed out a large cave over one hundred feet in length, while a narrow passage extends still further into the bowels of the earth, and is said to have been explored for a quarter of a mile by some adventurous persons some years since.” Minnesota’s third and most prominent early state geologist, **Newton H. Winchell**, although referring to Fountain Cave in his various reports, is silent regarding the cave’s genesis—or the genesis of any other Minnesota cave, for that matter.

Fountain Cave largely disappears from the literature after 1880, when it became a sewer for the overlying Omaha Railroad shops. When the topic of cave genesis was next taken up seriously in Minnesota, in the early twentieth century, it was with regard to the chemical solution of limestone caves. The geomorphologist **William M. Davis** published his classic paper, “Origin of Limestone Caverns,” in the *Bulletin of the Geological Society of America* in 1930, and within a dozen years four other important papers on speleogenesis appeared. One of Davis’s followers, the geologist **J Harlen Bretz**, of the University of Chicago, published his own paper, “Caves in the Galena Formation,” in the *Journal of Geology* in 1938, dealing with the genesis of Niagara Cave in Minnesota (among others). Mystery Cave, which subsequently inherited much of the speculative attention, was discovered about this same time, continuing a tradition that endures to the present day.

Cave Clippings

Alaskan Cave Mummies Reinterred

By Larry O. Blair

I recently was loaned a large collection of old newspapers from an upcoming estate sale in order to ascertain their contents. This lot contained papers from World Wars I and II and up to a period of about ten years ago. One paper, the Marietta Daily Journal, (Marietta, Georgia), dated Sunday, March 14, 1993, on page 2A, contained a brief account of Alaskan Native mummies removed from a cave around 1900. This article brought to mind stories of Lost John of Mammoth Cave, Little Alice (actually Little "Al") of Salts Cave, and Fawn Hoof of Short Cave, Kentucky. This mother and child, too, were displayed as many such human remains. Many have been lost to the forces of time and even to museum fires. These two, however, were returned to their native people and land where they will find peace and dignity.

Natives Bury Mummified Remains

By Roseanne Pagano, Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—Mummified remains of an Alaska Native woman and child were returned in a wooden crate to remote Point Hope where elders gathered for a graveside and hymn singing.

The remains arrived at Barrow in a sealed crate Wednesday, sent air-freight from Cincinnati, Elise Patkotak, spokeswoman for the North Slope Borough, said Friday. Burial was Thursday.

Point Hope on the Chukchi Sea is 325 miles southwest of Barrow and among the oldest settlements in North America.

The remains were in possession of an Ohio family whose ancestor apparently removed them from a cave at Cape Lisburne around the turn of the century and placed them in a traveling peep show. Elders in the tightknit community of Point Hope were upset to learn bodies had been removed and displayed.

Literature promoting the mummy display claimed they were 900 years old. But the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, which aided in the repatriation, said that had not been verified. The mummies apparently were preserved naturally as they froze and dehydrated.

Patkotak, among 50 people who attended the Episcopal church service at Point Hope, said villagers were relieved. "I think the community felt that this was one more unhappy chapter we can now close."

All members are invited to contribute material to the "Cave Clippings" department!

Reprint Section

A short Account of the PROCESS used for making NITRE at PARIS, as collected on the spot (in the year 1771) at the desire of an eminent Physician, since dead; by Dr. Thomas Houlston, of Liverpool.

At Paris there is a company of persons employed in making salt-petre, in number about twenty. They were incorporated so long ago as the reign of Charles IX and have several statutes for their regulation. Any of them can, when a house is taken down, place a man in it, and, during, three days, he has a right to take gratis, such part of the old plaster as he shall chuse, or think worth the pains of lixiviating.

The quantity made annually, is from 6 to 700,000 lb. They are obliged to deliver it in, rough, to the royal arsenal, where they receive for it 7 sous (about 3d.) *per* lb. It is there purified, undergoing three lixiviations, and is then sold at 10, 15, and 18 sous *per* lb.

The water poured on, soaks thro' both the plaster and ashes, and is five times passed through fresh plaster. It is then boiled down in a copper pan, so set, that the flame passes quite round its sides. The fires are of wood, which is very dear, and forms a considerable article of expence. The lixivium, when properly evaporated, is set to chrystallize, and the chrystals to.

Mons. Bouret, from whom this information was received, makes every year from 35 to 36,000 lb. He employs therein six men, night and day, two rooms, twenty large casks, and three horses. The casks are filled half with old plaster, which is changed every time of pouring on water, and the lower half with wood ashes, which are changed but once in five lixiviations. drain. The scum taken off in the boiling, is thrown upon the plaster collected, which the longer it lies in heaps (wetted from time to time) the stronger it becomes; as also the more putrid matters are thrown on it. The plaster used in the buildings at Paris, is made of that gypseous earth, called plaster of Paris, and found in the neighbourhood of that city. No lime is mixed with it in general, but, where there is lime mixed, it is remarked that the nitre made from thence is not so good, nor in so great quantity. They know when the old plaster is worth being collected and employed, by the saltish tastes of it. The nastiness of the French houses, even in some parts of the great ones; the durability of their buildings, the nature of their plaster, and the regulations of their *police*, give that nation an advantage over us in making nitre, which it will be well if the ingenuity and science of those who attempt it among us, may suffice to counterbalance. It is made also in other great towns in France.

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