THE ASSOCIATION

The American Spelean History Association is chartered as a non-profit corporation for the study, dissemination and interpretation of spelean history and related purposes. All persons of high ethical and moral character who are interested in these goals are cordially invited to become members. Annual membership is $5.00; family membership is $6.00; and library subscriptions are $4.00. ASHA is the official history section of the National Speleological Society, 1 Cave Avenue, Huntsville, Alabama 35810.

THE COVER

"Shadow Cave" is one of several geological features located in the Lost River (gorge) area of New Hampshire. This old post card is one of many which has been produced on this commercial enterprise. Although the card is not dated it was probably produces around the turn of the century. The name W.R.M. Haverhill, Mass. is printed on the back.

THE JOURNAL

The Association publishes the Journal of Spelean History on a quarterly basis. Pertinent articles or reprints are welcomed. Manuscripts should be typed and double-spaced. Submission of rough drafts for preliminary editing is encouraged. Illustrations require special handling and arrangements should be made with the editor in advance. Photos and illustrations will be returned upon request.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues of all volumes of the Journal are currently available from Jack H. Speece, 711 East Atlantic Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602. Several of the early editions have been reprinted. Indexes for the first five volumes are also available upon request. All issues of Volumes 1 to 7:2 are available on Microfiche from Kraus Reprint Company, Route 100, Millwood, New York 10546.

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Sec/Treas: Jack H. Speece
SECOND ANNUAL
PETER M. HAUER AWARD
JACK H. SPEECE

The 1980 Peter M. Hauer Award for Speleological History was presented to Jack H. Speece for outstanding past and current contributions in the field. In addition to his many activities in general speleology, he is a charter member of the American Speleological History Association, serving as Editor for several volumes of The Journal of Speleological History, Trustee, and Secretary-Treasurer since 1975.

As a publisher, Jack has printed Peter Hauer's Caves of Massachusetts (1969) and a series of six rare cave books in his reprint series. An author in his own right, four original titles now appear in his historical series. He also produced three volumes of The Shippensburg Grotto Newsletter while he was a college student.

He has presented several speleological history papers at NSS Conventions and even more for various speleological publications. A close friend of the late Peter Hauer, Jack is in possession of Pete's old files and is continuing with his research to complete several manuscripts.

ASHA 1979-1980

Due to the poor attendance of members at the 1980 Annual NSS Convention at Lakewood Community College, White Bear Lake, Minnesota, the ASHA meeting was canceled. Cave History sessions were held Monday afternoon, July 28, and Wednesday afternoon, July 30, 1980.

The following officers have agreed to continue to serve until our 1981 meeting:

President: Paul Damon
Vice President: Kevin Downey
Editor: Joel Sneed
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JOURNAL OF SPELEOLOGICAL HISTORY
The men who helped to shape this nation during its conception were men of action, adventure and curiosity. They had a deep concern for nature, for often it was their only means of survival. Caves were as much of a challenge to these men as they are to men of today. Even famous men like George Washington, James Madison and Thomas Jefferson enjoyed the beauty, grandeur, mystery and excitement which caves possess. Their inscriptions and writings can be found to this day.

Thomas Jefferson was a man of many talents: politician, scientist, farmer, inventor, statesman, paleontologist, traveler, explorer, author and speleologist. Most regard him only as a president and the author of the Declaration of Independence. He was also sensitive, perceptive, gracious, charming, tolerant and even-tempered. His book, Notes on the State of Virginia, first published in 1782, is evidence of his brilliance and the first good look at his speleological efforts. After the original printing, which he had done privately in France, several additional printings were also made. Copies of this literature are still sought after as good historical reference.

Included in Jefferson's 1782 book was an eye draft map of Madison's Cave in Virginia. This is the first known map ever produced of an American cave. Madison's Cave was well known and reported on by many travelers, but the niter deposits which were being mined within also could have attracted Jefferson's attention. He later reported that during the years 1813 and 1814 over 2,000 pounds of saltpeter was produced here, with the soil yielding two to four pounds per bushel. Nearby Mountain Cave, which was America's first commercial show cave, and Weir's Cave, which is now operated as Grand Caverns, had not yet been discovered.

Jefferson also noted that the termination "basons" within Madison's Cave are at the same level as the river which flows past the base of the hill within which the cave is located. Since these pools of water are never turbid and do not rise and fall in accordance with floods and droughts, the two water bodies are independent. He states that the basons are "probably one of the many reservoirs with which the interior parts of the earth are supposed to abound, and which yield supplies to the fountains of water."

The observations made on the water at Madison's Cave influenced Jefferson's thinking when he visited Blowing Cave at Panther Gap. This cave emits a strong current of air which had been explained by interior fountains filling with water. Since the system does not "inhale air" when these reservoirs empty and only blows air out, varying only in its force, a new hypothesis is required.

Writing from Philadelphia in 1783 to Isaac Zane, owner of Zane's Cave in Virginia, Jefferson requested Zane to record the temperature of the cave from the entrance at two-foot intervals for about twenty feet in, at which point the temperature should be nearly uniform. Although a second letter requesting this information was also drafted, the data was eventually obtained and printed in Jefferson's "Notes." The cave has a 30- to 40-foot entrance drop and a uniform temperature of 57°F after entering only a few feet. This closely corresponds to other subterranean cavities. The curiosity of constant temperatures came from reports that the temperature of the cellars of the observatory of Paris, which are 90 feet deep, stay at 54°F. The discrepancy of the temperature variance he attributes to the calibration of the thermometers. Scientists today have different explanations.

Saltpeter was an important commodity in Colonial America. As matters of national defense were being discussed, Jefferson considered establishing a factory to manufacture gunpowder, which would cause a severe blow to England's commerce in this country. A $50,000 supply of saltpeter was purchased from India, just in case, but the caves of Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee were also considered as valuable resources. Jefferson invited DuPont to America to establish a powder factory near Wilmington, Delaware. This was utilized during the War of 1812 to refine the saltpeter mined in the numerous southeastern caves.

Jefferson was studying the nitrate situation as early as 1775, as is evident from a series of correspondence between him and Charles Lynch. Lynch sent samples of the mineral to Jefferson for examination and reportedly established several crude factories in Virginia for the production of saltpeter from soils, obtaining the financial assistance locally and not from the government.
Another set of letters was written in 1792 to Thomas Mann Randolph, Jr. requesting that he send a stalactite to Jefferson for viewing. Jefferson wanted it to be donated to the Deale's Museum. It might be noted here that much of Jefferson's great fossil collection was given to various museums and is still on display.

In 1796 while niter was being dug in a cave in Greenbrier County (West Virginia) several unusual bones were found. Colonel John Stuart wrote to Jefferson first on April 11, 1796 concerning this find and sent several bones. These bones proved to be that of a "great claw" from a giant sloth, unknown at that time. It was a type of Megalonyx. Jefferson gave a full report of these bones to the American Philosophical Society (Philadelphia) and he was later elected as its president. The full identity of these remains was made in 1822 by M. A. G. Desmarest (Paris, France) and in honor of Jefferson he named the new species "Megalonyx jeffersonii."

Jefferson used scientific principles to study and evaluate various aspects of speleology, the results of which he carefully recorded and published. Although his efforts were not as extensive as Hovey or Martel, he should be considered as a contributor to the science and one of America's noted speleologists.

REFERENCES


Faust, Burton, "Jefferson's interest in Saltpeter," Faust Collection, Univ. of Ky., Bowling Green, Ky., undated.


SPELEO STAMPS

Since our special issue, Volume 11 #4, on cave stamps, there have been numerous articles published on the subject:


Again, this is by no means a complete list of the articles produced on the subject, but an indication that there is a great interest among cavers.

A rather regular publication has been edited by Jan Paul van der Pas entitled "The Speleo Stamp Collector". All correspondence should be directed to him at: Vauwerhofweg 3, 6333 CB Schimmert, the Netherlands.

Richard Breisch reports that Egypt has also produced a stamp symbolically depicting the cave in which Muhammed hid: Scott #1144, 45m, multicolored. It shows a spider web, a dove and two eggs and was issued 9 November 1980.

Also, the Earth's Physical Features Study Unit of the American Topical Association publishes articles on cave stamps now and then. Dues are $5.00 per year: Bryan Elliott, 3519 C Richmond Road, Nepean, Ontario, Canada.
WONDERS OF THE WORLD

Emily Davis Mobley

In past issues of J.S.H. we have heard about several volumes of Wonders of the World. I recently came across a book of this type which I have not seen mentioned. This book is a collection of information gathered by D. R. Preston.

The Wonders of Creation; Natural and Artificial
Being an Account of the most Remarkable Mountains, Rivers, Lakes, Cataracts, Mineral Springs, Miscellaneous Curiosities, and Antiquities in the World.

Compiled from Geographers, Historians and Travellers, of the Greatest Celebrity. In Two Volumes.

By D. R. Preston, Author of the Juvenile Instructor, &c. Boston

Published by John M. Dunham. 1807, Greenough, Stebbins and Hunt, printers.

The book includes contributions from several sources, including: Dr. Morse, Dr. Waterhouse, and the Rev. Mr. Harris. I was able to determine some information about the men contributing to the cave sections of the book.

Much of the information on caves came from Dr. Jedidiah Morse (b. Woodstock, Conn., 1761; d. New Haven, Conn., 1826). Morse was a graduate of Yale. He was best known for his work in geography which made him "the father of American Geography". Most of the cave information in the book came from The American Geography (1789). He also wrote a very famous Gazetteer (Boston, 1797). Jedidiah Morse was the father of Samuel Morse of Morse Code fame.

Jeremy Belknap (b. Boston, 1744; d. Boston, 1798) was a Congregational Clergyman. He wrote an outstanding three volume History of New Hampshire (1784, 1791, 1792). He helped form the Massachusetts Historical Society, which was the first antiquarian society of its type in the United States.

The Rev. Dr. Harris mentioned in the book may have been Thaddeus Mason Harris (b. Charlestown, Mass., 1768; d. 1842) but I was not able to identify him positively. If I am correct in my assumption, he was an author and Unitarian Clergyman who was associated with the Massachusetts Historical Society during 1837 to 1842.

I was unable to find any information about Samuel Williams (1743-1817) except that he wrote The Natural and Civil History of Vermont (Walpole, N.H., 1794).

The book contained information on Caves in North America, Asia, Africa and Europe. I will list the name of the cave and location (if known) then the page and contributor.

NORTH AMERICA

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Habitation of the Great Spirit, near fork of Ohio and Mississippi Rivers 119-121 Harris Tour
Manito ah Wigwam, West of Lake Ontario 121 Dr. Morse

There are no caverns in the section on South America, but in the section on Asia there are the following:

Grotto of Nativity 37 Mariti's Travels
St. John's Grotto 38 Mariti's Travels

The section on Africa mentions only:

Caverns at Antinoe 255-256 Sonnini's Travel in Egypt

The description of European caves was a great deal more lengthy. Several of these selections were contributed by Joseph Addison (1672-1719), a famous essayist and statesman. He traveled in France, Italy, Austria, Germany and Holland as a member of the U.S. diplomatic service. I was unable to obtain any information on the other contributors to this section of the book.

**EUROPE**

Grotto of Antiparos 149-150 Addison
Cavern of Pausilippo, near Naples 150-151 Addison
Grotto del Coni 151 Addison
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Grotto of the Cumean Sybil 152-153 Wonders of Art and Nature
Cave near Adlers berg 153 ?
Magdalen's Cave 153-154 ?
Elden Hole 154 Mr. Lloyd in Philosophical Transactions
Poole's Hole 155 Wonders of Art and Nature
Devil's Hole 156-158 Miss Wakefield
Weathercoat Cave 158-159 Miss Wakefield
Grottos in Chablais 159-160 ?
Grotto near Auxerre 160-161 Dictionary of Art

Although many of the caves are described briefly, there are others which are described in great detail, with special attention paid to local lore and history. If anyone is doing research on any of the New England caves mentioned, this section is especially detailed.
One of the most important "side shows" on the Grand View trail; and one that will well repay the loiterer who wanders from the beaten paths, is the great cave or system of caves that undermine and honeycomb the limestone peninsula on which the copper mine is situated. It is usually visited on the return trip by parties who have made an excursion to the river, though frequently it is made the objective point of a special excursion. To reach it one follows a dim trail leading northward from the mine buildings, and scrambles, as best he can, down the west face of the cliff to a narrow trail that leads him, in a hundred feet or so, to an ominous black hole in the overhanging wall where he has to stoop in order to enter. But why try to describe? Limestone caves are all alike in general characteristics, and only differ in detail.

There is the usual succession of high vaulted chambers hung with stalactites—many of them dropping close to the floor while others are striving to meet ambitious stalagmites that rise in pinnacles and tapering needles anxious to hasten the meeting. Hundreds of them have met, and thus formed slender columns that reach far upward into the somber darkness above for many of these dim mysterious halls one can see nothing overhead but darkness, even when aided by the light of half a dozen candles. These caves have never been really explored; and thus any chance visitor may prove to be a discoverer. The proprietor, who also built the Grand View trail, has penetrated about half a mile in one direction; but there were unexplored passages still ahead of him when he turned back, and there are many side passages of which no one knows the end, that lead no one knows whither.

The series, or suite of lofty halls that give on the entrance, are partitioned off from each other by drooping curtains of stalactite (travertine) that hang down within a few feet of the floor, which is covered with a carpet of fine, powdery dust, into which one's feet sink as in a velvet carpet. By the candle's flickering light one discovers dim passages leading downward into subterranean vaults as well as upward inclines, serving the purpose of stairways, reaching to unexplored labyrinths above.

As we thread the silent passages, the uncertain light from our candles casting weird shadows of spectral stalagmites, and half revealing dim alcoves and pillared grottoes in the surrounding walls, we move slowly in the narrow hallways and smaller rooms, where the roof stoops low enough to be seen, circular, dome-like concavities in the ceiling, six or eight feet in diameter, penetrating upward about the same distance. They are perfectly symmetrical in all their proportions, and almost suggest the work of a human architect. These domes occur in several of the compartments, and it seems impossible to discover the cause of their existence or how they were formed.

In another way these caves differ from many well known limestone caverns; they are dead. That is, the agency that constructed them is no longer at work. Consequently, though they are still full of wonder and mystery, they lack the brilliant beauty that they once possessed, when flowing water glistened on the walls and crystal drops sparkled at the points of a thousand pendant stalactites. To explore these caves properly, the party should camp close by; or even in the outer cave itself, and be provided with provisions, water and all other necessaries—not forgetting a liberal supply of candles and torches—and remain a week or so if necessary. This will be done some day; and then, who knows? It may be discovered that miles of those wondrous canyon walls are undermined and honeycombed.
THIS AND THAT

TERRY W. PARKINGTON reports that the Alabama Tourist Commission is advertising that the oldest recorded cave in the United States is in Alabama. DeSoto did explore the area in 1540. Can anyone report on this reference?

THE HUNTER'S CAVE (THE YOUTH'S LITERARY GAZETTE, Vol. 1, No. 21, Philadelphia, Pa., April 20, 1833). Juvenile Rambler wrote the following. Do we know what cave is described here?

The Hunter's Cave

Many years ago, a Frenchman and his son were hunting within 40 miles from St. Louis, in Missouri. A large bear that they had wounded, escaped into a cave, through a small opening. The hunter instantly crowded through the opening, and followed the bear. Soon he shot and fatally wounded him. The bear rushed forward by the hunter to the mouth of the cave, but had not strength to struggle through the gap. Of course, he soon died, and his carcase completely closed the passage.

The son, on the outside, heard his father screaming for help, and attempted, but in vain, to drag out the bear. He was terrified, and mounted his father's horse, in order to find assistance.

There was no road through the woods; but the horse carried him to St. Louis. A party was soon raised and despatched for the relief of the hunter.

The track of the horse could not be found. The boy, in his agitation, had not carefully observed, or had forgotten the landmarks that led to the cave. After long search and fatigue, without success, they returned, not doubting that the hunter had perished in the cave.

Some years after, the cavern was discovered. Near its mouth was the skeleton of a bear. Within the cavern was found the skeleton of a man, and, doubtless, it was that of the hunter, with gun and equipments, all, apparently, in the same condition as when he died.

The hunter, most probably, died of suffocation; or, it may be, for want of presence of mind or power to cut up and remove the dead bear, piece by piece, from the entrance. Possibly he might have injured both his body and mind by firing his gun in a place so confined. The place is called "The Hunter's Cave."

MY CAVE LIFE IN VICKSBURG WITH LETTERS OF TRIAL AND TRAVEL by James M. Loughborough, first published by D. Appleton & Co., 1866, and later by Kellog Print Co. of Little Rock (1882) has been reprinted in 1976 by The Reprint Company, Publishers of Spartanburg, South Carolina. This is a story of how the population of Vicksburg hid in the caves along the cliffs outside the town during the siege of Vicksburg around 1863.

The Sistema Huautla in Mexico reached a depth of 1221 meters on March 28, 1980, to become the third deepest cave in the world after Pierre Saint Martain (1332 meters) and Jean Bernard (1410 meters), both in France.

EARTHWATCH, 10 Juniper Road, Box 127, Be-smont, Mass. 02178 is conducting a Bermuda Cave Exploration Sept. 28 to Nov. 22, 1981. Individual's share of expenses for a two week stay is $1160. The limestone caves of the oceanic islands of Bermuda, which boast one of the highest concentrations of caves in the world, offer a unique opportunity for biological, geological, and paleontological studies. Dr. Thomas M. Iliffe, Research Associate at the international research center, the Bermuda Biological Station, plans to investigate and document Bermuda's many caves so that they may be better understood and thereby protected.
Caves are many things to many people... a world of strange beauty, a recreational challenge, a nearly untouched scientific treasure chest, or simply an enjoyable excuse to get away from the city and off the beaten country tracks. Caves have all these and more to offer, but the entire concept of caving is threatened by an undeniable circumstance... for all their rock-hewn massiveness, caves are fragile and rare. Though no one is likely to succeed in destroying the great holes in the earth that we call caves, we should realize that many of the reasons for our visits center on the smaller and more vulnerable features... the delicate stalactites and stalagmites, the brittle, fragile helinites that defy gravity, the gypsum flowers that bloom in rare splendor, even as is more often the case, the unmarred and incredibly varied beauty of water-carved limestone and marble walls, bare of more showy ornamentation, but magnificent in a quiet majesty all their own. Pools of clear water hold rare animals, blind and white, delicate and unable to live but in a cave, tens of thousands of years in evolving, their hold on life by a mere thread... a wide field, nearly untouched for scientific study... thousands of years of nature's artistry and genius, easily destroyed in a misguided moment.

This is what we wish to preserve... so that each visitor may savor the same beauties that greeted the original discoverers... so that our children and their children may someday return to our caves and once again enjoy them.

But the future for this idea is dark. At the present rate of destruction there will soon be few caves left that are not merely broken, dirtied hulks of their former glory. New, pristine caves will continue to be found, but these, too, will be quickly shattered.

If caving, both as a recreation and as a science, is not to disappear as a worthwhile thing, the idea that caves must be preserved as an irreplaceable natural resource must be uppermost in the mind of every person who has occasion to enter a cave. Unless this happens, we will live to see the death of a great natural heritage in our own lifetimes. Let us all strive to prevent this tragedy now. Good caving to you!