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Glover's Second Entrance

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#### 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.

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#### THE COVER

Glover's Cave, Trenton, Ky. is the site of an archaeological study. The cave also has an interesting history. Several articles and a book has been published on the subject. An article on the cave appears in this issue of the JOURNAL. The drawing of the second entrance is taken from the Fall 1971 MVOR guide, produced by the Evansville Metropolitan Grotto.

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#### 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.

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#### 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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Official Quarterly Publication of the  
AMERICAN SPELEAN HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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#### OFFICERS

President: Kevin R. Downey  
V. Pres: Joel M. Sneed  
Sec/Treas: Jack H. Speece

ASHA 1980-1981

The Association usually holds its annual meeting at the NSS Convention each year. Since the Convention is being replaced with the Eighth International Congress of Speleology, no meeting was held. Many of the members attended the History Session held Wednesday morning, July 22, 1980, on the campus of Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky. Due to the resignation of President Paul Damon, the officers for 1981-1982 are:

President	Kevin Downey
Vice President	Joel Sneed
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THIRD ANNUAL  
PETER M. HAUER AWARD

Anne Whittemore  
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The Peter M. Hauer Spelean History Award for 1981 was presented at the NSS Convention in Bowling Green, Kentucky to Anne Whittemore for "The History of the Virginia Region: 1940-1970". The book itself is a collection of stories, photographs and recollections of the people who caved and frolicked through the Virginias during the youth and adolescence of organized caving. The histories of individual grottos are included and the origins of the many traditional gatherings (for which the VAR is famous) are told. The evolution of cave rescue groups is even described. Quite naturally, the book has a lot of appeal to those who cave or have caved in the area, but that appeal is broadened by the fact that much of the early NSS history was made in what became the Virginia Region.

Anne Whittemore (NSS 6879 FL), who lives in Johnson City, Tennessee with husband Whitt and son David, began caving in 1959 while attending the University of Maryland. During the 1960s and early 1970s she spent countless weekends surveying caves and ridgewalking in Southwest Virginia for the Virginia Cave Survey and in the later 1970s in eastern and middle Tennessee for the Tennessee Cave Survey. Anne has served in an official capacity at one time or another for the Potomac Speleological Club, the VPI Grotto, the Holston Valley Grotto and the Virginia Region. She was also chairman of the NSS Membership Committee for several years and co-chaired the Old Timers' Reunion in 1979 and 1980. Anne has been editor of The Potomac Caver (PSC), The Tech Troglodyte (VPI), and worked extensively on the VAR's Region Record. She was awarded an NSS Fellow in 1974 and received the Carnegie Museum's Outstanding Caver Award in 1977. Anne has a BA in Geography from the University of Maryland and a Masters in Library Science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

(The Gazetteer was printed in 1853 in Hartford, CT, and contained several interesting reports on caves. This material was located by Gary Pipher.)

p. 649.

MADISON'S CAVE, VA.

This cave is situated in the vicinity of Weir's Cave, and somewhat resembles that remarkable curiosity. It is, however, much less extensive, not exceeding 300 feet.

pp. 650-652

MAMMOTH CAVE, KY.

This stupendous wonder of nature is situated in Edmonson co., about 90 miles S. from Louisville, and about equally distant, in a N.E. direction, from Nashville, Te. A large and commodious hotel has been erected, two or three hundred paces from the mouth of the cave, for the accommodation of visitors. The tourist leaves the stage road about 6 miles from the entrance to the cave, and passes through some of the most romantic and beautiful scenery in reaching this public house, where he finds every thing provided to render his visit agreeable and instructive. It is only within a few years that this cave has been very extensively explored; and it is still supposed that but a small part of it, in comparison with the whole, has ever been trodden by the foot of man. It has been estimated that the length of all the different avenues and branches, when added together, would make more than 600 miles. As far as known, there are in the cave 246 avenues, 47 domes, 8 cataracts, and 23 pits. The darkness, deeper than that of the blackest midnight, which pervades these subterranean recesses, and which is little more than rendered visible by the torches which the visitors carry with them, renders it difficult for the spectator to form any thing like an adequate idea of its vast dimensions, its great heights and depths in the different apartments, and of the singularity and beauty of the natural decorations they contain. The recent attempt of an adventurous artist, however, to obtain drawings of a number of the different avenues, halls and chambers, for the purpose of illustrating the hidden wonders of this natural phenomenon to the eye by the aid of the beautiful illusion of the moving panorama, has been, in a great degree, successful. The different parts of the cave selected for this purpose were illuminated by hundreds of lights, placed at different points, so as to give the most powerful and just effect to the ever-varying perspective within.

Immediately upon entering the mouth of the cave, the visitor perceives a sensible change in the temperature of the atmosphere, which is that of 59° Fahr., and remains so uniformly, winter and summer. No impure air exists in any part of it; decomposition and putrefaction are unknown; and combustion is perfect. Visitors going in and out are not liable to contract colds; but, on the contrary, colds are commonly relieved by a visit to the cave. No reptiles of any description are found here. It is a curious fact that fish without eyes have been caught in the rivers of this cave. They have been dissected by skillful anatomists, it is said, who declare that they are without the slightest indication of an organ similar to the eye, and also that they possess other anomalies in their organization interesting to the naturalist. These fishes are from 3 to 6 inches in length. Specimens of them are found in most of our collections of natural history.

The cave is also inhabited by two species of rats and a species of crickets, neither of which partake of the peculiarity of the fishes, --of the want of eyes,--for in both of these animals that organ is very largely developed. These rats are white and very large. Professor Agassiz has some specimens of them in the collection at Cambridge. In the winter, millions of bats find here a resting-place well suited to their wants.

During the last war with England, a saltpetre manufactory was established in this cave; and, although it was discontinued in 1815, wheel tracks are still to be seen as clear and distinct as if made yesterday. The guides also point out corn cobs which were brought into the cave at that time, and which are perfectly fresh and sound.

The waters of the cave are of the purest kind; and, besides the

springs and streams of fresh water, there are one or two sulphur springs. There are streams, lakes, and waterfalls of sufficient width and depth to compare well with those of the world above ground. Some of these rivers, as they are called, are navigated by boats of sufficient size to carry 12 persons; and one of them, called the Echo, is said to be broad and deep enough, at all times, to float the largest steamers. The rivers of the Mammoth Cave were never crossed till 1840. Some of them flow in deep channels, the sides of which rise high above their ordinary level. After heavy rains, they are sometimes swollen so as to rise more than 50 feet. At such times the streams, and especially the cataracts, of the caves, exhibit a most terrific appearance. Great exertions have been made to discover the sources of these streams, and where they find their outlets; yet they still remain, in this respect, as much a mystery as ever.

"Darkly thou glidest onward,  
Thou deep and hidden wave!  
The laughing sunshine hath not looked  
Into thy hidden cave."

The different apartments and passages of this wonderful subterranean labyrinth have many of them received names, from their resemblance, more or less real, to the most celebrated interiors and decorations of architectural design. A few only can be here described.

At the Cave House, erected near the entrance by Dr. Croghan, the late proprietor of this wonder of the world, those visiting the cave are supplied with lights, guides, and whatever else may be required for their expedition. The air of the cave, as you enter, gives a pleasant sensation of refreshing coolness. As you continue descending some irregular stone steps, the daylight fades and the gloom deepens. Nothing is heard save your own footsteps, and the sound of the waters leaping from a precipice over your head and falling on the rocks below. A beautiful stream of water falls over the mouth of the cave, as one writer has remarked, as if it were the remnant of a graceful curtain, which had formerly concealed this wonder from the gaze of man. Looking back towards the orifice, the light of the external day appears dim, as if it were the twilight of evening. Looking before you, if looking it may be called,--what a world of darkness! With all your torches how little can be seen! A strange sensation comes over you, as with hesitating step you proceed.

The first great expansion of the cavern which you enter is the Great Vestibule, an immense hall, covering an area of an acre and a half, with a dome, lost in the darkness, 100 feet high, unsupported by a single pillar. By kindling a fire at this spot, the vast dimensions of the chamber may be faintly discovered. "Far up above your head," says one, "is seen the gray ceiling rolling dimly away like a cloud, and many buttresses bending under their weight begin to project their enormous masses from their shadowy wall." Two avenues lead out of this hall, at opposite extremities, which are about 100 feet wide and 500 feet long, with roofs as flat and smooth almost as if finished by the mason's trowel. About half a mile farther on, you pass the Kentucky Cliffs, so called from their resemblance to the famous cliffs on the Kentucky River. About half a mile beyond these is the Church, which is 300 feet in circumference, and its ceiling 63 feet high. A huge protuberance of the rock on one side serves the fancy for a pulpit, and a recess in the wall, in a corresponding position, serves for a gallery. From this hint of nature, religious worship has more than once been celebrated here. Concerts of music have been held here, which have been said to produce singularly fine effects. After leaving the Church, a passage leads off at an acute angle from the main cave to the Gothic Avenue, which is nearly 50 feet wide, 15 feet high, and about 2 miles in length. The ceiling of this avenue is so smooth and white that it is difficult to believe that the trowel of the mason has not been used upon it. A good road extends through its entire length, and so pleasant is the temperature, purity, and salubrity of its atmosphere, that it has been selected as a most desirable promenade for invalids, who have sometimes resorted to this cave for their health. In one of the recesses of this avenue were to be seen, as late as 1813, two mummies in a good state of preservation, one of which was a female, in a sitting posture, with arms folded, and having before her various articles of her wardrobe. When, or by whom, these remains were placed in this dark and silent sepulchre, is of course unknown. A little farther on in this direction are the Registry Rooms, the ceiling of which, being perfectly white and smooth, serves as the register of the cave. Thousands of names

have been traced upon it with the smoke of the torches. Next is the Gothic Chapel, a hall of almost overwhelming grandeur, elliptical in form, and 80 feet long by 50 in width. Immense stalagmites have been formed at each end, which almost close the entrance. There are also two rows of smaller pillars, extending from the ceiling on each side of the wall through its entire length. These impart to it, when strongly lighted up, the grand and solemn effect of a Gothic cathedral. Near this place is Brewer's Studio, a small room to which this name has recently been given by Mr. Brewer, author of the celebrated Panorama of the Mammoth Cave, from whose descriptions many of these notices have been compiled. He finished many of his sketches in this room. One or two other points of curious interest, such as the Devil's Arm-chair and the Lover's Leap, bring you to the termination of this Gothic Avenue.

Returning back to the main cave by another route, of more than a mile, through uninteresting scenery, and proceeding onward with this grand gallery, you soon reach the Star Chamber, one of the most brilliant apartments in the whole cave, and called by this name from the myriads of glittering points reflecting the light of the torches from the darkness overhead. The resemblance here to the splendid canopy of night is very perfect. Further on, the Chief City, or Temple, is formed by an immense dome, which rises 120 feet high, and covers an area of 2 acres. It exceeds in size the Cave of Staffa, and rivals the celebrated vault in the Grotto of Antiparos. In passing through it from side to side, the dome appears to follow the spectator, like the sky in passing from place to place on the earth. In comparison with this dome of nature's rearing, the most celebrated of human structure sink into insignificance. There are, however, other domes in this wonderful cave, which, for height and extent, are even more extraordinary than this. Such is that, especially, which is called the Mammoth Dome. This dome of domes is nearly 400 feet above the floor of the room which it covers. Its elevation has been carefully determined by a competent civil engineer.

It would be impossible, within the limits of this article, to describe in detail the many objects of curiosity and scenes of grandeur which are to be found in the apparently interminable recesses of the Mammoth Cave. The names of the principal apartments, not already mentioned, will serve, by the aid of the foregoing descriptions, to suggest to the imagination of the reader some idea of their most impressive characteristics. Such are the Giant's Coffin, the Labyrinth, the Cascade, Gorin's Dome, the Bottomless Pit, the Winding Way, the Bandit's Hall, Great Relief Hall, River Hall and Dead Sea, Natural Bridge over the River Styx, (80 feet high,) Pass of El-Ghor, Crogan's Hall, City of the Tombs, Saint Cecilia's Grotto, Silliman's Avenue, Great Western Vestibule, Martha's Vineyard, Snowball Room, the Holy Sepulchre, Cleveland's Cabinet, Serena's Harbor, Fairy Grotto, Paradise, and others of a hardly less remarkable character.

To select one only from this list of wonders for the conclusion of our descriptions, we would offer the remarks of an intelligent clergyman, who lately paid a visit to the cave, upon that splendid hall known by the name of Cleveland's Cabinet. "The most imaginative poet," says this gentleman, "never conceived or painted a palace of such exquisite beauty and loveliness as Cleveland's Cabinet. Were the wealth of princes bestowed on the most skillful lapidaries, with a view of rivalling the splendors of this single chamber, the attempt would be vain. The Cabinet was discovered by Mr. Patten of Louisville and Mr. Craig of Philadelphia, accompanied by Stephen, the guide, and extends in nearly a direct line about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, (the guides say 2 miles.) It is a perfect arch, of 50 feet span, and of an average height of 10 feet in the centre--just high enough to be viewed with ease in all its parts. The base of the whole is carbonate (sulphate) of lime, in part of a dazzling whiteness and perfectly smooth, and in part crystallized, so as to glitter like diamonds in the light. Growing from this, in endlessly diversified forms, is a substance resembling selenite, translucent and imperfectly laminated. Some of the crystals bear a striking resemblance to branches of celery; others, a foot or more in length, have the color and appearance of vanilla cream candy; others are set in sulphate of lime in the form of a rose; and others roll out from the base in forms resembling the ornaments on the capital of a Corinthian column. Some of the incrustations are massive and splendid, others are as delicate as the lily, or as fancy work of shell or wax. Think of traversing an arched way like this for a mile and a half; and all the wonders of the tales of youth--Arabian Nights, and all--seem tame,

compared with the living, growing reality. Here and there, through the whole extent, you will find openings in the sides, into which you may thrust the person, and often stand erect, in little grottoes, perfectly incrustated with a delicate, white substance, reflecting the light from a thousand different points. All the way you might have heard us exclaiming, Wonderful! wonderful! O Lord, how manifold are thy works!"

The route by which this cave is commonly reached is by the daily line of U. S. mail stages from Louisville to Nashville, over a very good turnpike road. The stock has been subscribed for a railroad between these places, and in a few years the cave will be rendered much easier of access.

p. 659

#### NICOJACK CAVE, GA.

This vast cave is situated in the N. W. extremity of the state, having its entrance about 20 miles S. W. of the Lookout Mountain, and half a mile from the S. bank of the Tennessee. The width of the entrance is 25 feet in height. The Students' Cave, first explored by the students of Mercer University in 1848, which has its entrance about 4 miles distant, in Tennessee, is supposed to be connected with this.

The interior passages and apartments of these caves afford much both to astonish and delight the visitor. Spacious rooms and lofty domes, tall columns and glittering pendants from the ceilings, arches and resemblances to architectural facades, entablatures, and other decorations, constitute a succession of interesting objects, the extent of which is not definitely known. The railroads from Charleston and Savannah to the Tennessee River afford a ready communication with the region in which these caves are situated.

p. 673

#### WEIR'S CAVE, VA.

This is considered as one of the most beautiful caverns in the world. It extends about 2500 feet in length, and is divided into a number of apartments, differing in size and in the beauty of their decorations. Some of the most extensive have received the names of "Washington Hall," "Congress Hall," "Solomon's Temple," "Organ Room," "Deacon's Room," &c. The walls consist of the most beautiful crystallized carbonate of lime, or calcareous spar. That which gives this cavern such a peculiar splendor is the great variety in form and color of the crystals with which its walls and ceilings are adorned, as they reflect the light of the torches with which these subterranean recesses are explored. Some of the apartments seem to be furnished, as it were, by the upholsterer, with hangings of rich and graceful drapery, formed by thin sheets of the same kind of incrustation; and from the lofty roof of one of the halls there is a sheet of this description which appears as if floating in the air, to which the appellation of "Elijah's Mantle" has been given.

The person who has the charge of this cave gives every requisite attention to the accommodation of visitors. It lies 17 miles N. E. from Staunton.



EARTHWATCH, 10 Juniper Road, Box 127, Belmont, Mass. 02178 is conducting an expedition to Timbiteni for the study of The Cave of the Beer Pots. The hope that the cave will have a dense array of archaeological debris beneath modern surface that will include artifacts of Middle Stone Age date. Timbiteni is verginal, with all its secrets still intact. It would appear that the cave is similar to nearby Boulder Cave which has already produced many interesting items. Two week trips will begin on June 28, 1982 and will end on Aug. 22. Students will be under the supervision of Dr. David Price Williams from the University of London. Individule's cost for a two week study is \$1235.

The Glover property was first surveyed in 1782, when two brothers-in-law bought a 2,000-acre tract of land. Captain John Montgomery and James Davis brought their families from Pittsburgh in a boat down the Ohio and Cumberland Rivers, then up the Red River and West Fork until they found the spring and cave entrance.

The two families lived in the cave while they built a blockhouse by the spring for protection against the Indians. Later they built a log cabin at the top of the hill, which has been added to at various times, and is the present home of the Glovers.

Montgomery's son was killed and scalped by Indians on Montgomery Creek and a limestone slab marks his grave at the site. Jefferson Davis was born here two weeks before his family moved to Fairview, Kentucky.

As the population of the county grew, James Davis became dissatisfied, sold his land in 1823 to Dr. John Francis Bell, and moved to a more unsettled part of the country. Bell built the office next to the house to carry on his practice. There is no record of what happened to Montgomery.

In 1884, Robert D. Glover, father of Armstead and Robert, purchased the farm from Bell. "The damned Yankees ruined us in Virginia," said Armstead, "so we moved to Kentucky." During the early years of the Glover ownership, the cave floor was covered with sawdust for the square dances held there.

An Indian village site, stone grave cemetery, and three mounds located near the cave were first studied in 1926 by Dr. W. S. Webb and Prof. W. D. Funkhouser from the University of Kentucky.

The cave was never researched before Raymond D. Vietzen, author-archeologist, visited the area beginning 1941. He published his findings about Glover's Cave and the area in 1956 in "Saga of Glover's Cave."

A few caves and rock shelters in the area have been used very little, but others and especially Glover's contain large quantities of ashes, kitchen midden, and other artifacts.

In the Glover's Cave region, especially in the area east of the cave entrance, there is a near-classical development of karst topography. All obvious landscape features are controlled, or influenced, by solution. The sinkholes of the region are numerous. The cave is located in the Hammacksville 7½ minute topographic quadrangle.

As you explore Glover's Cave you will see innumerable joints and occasional evidence of faulting. It is possible, even probable, that the main passages of the cave line up with the regional structural framework. The Cave is developed in the Ste. Genevieve Limestone, deposited during the Mississippian Period, a brief 335,000,000 years ago.

The mineralogy of the cave seems simple. Calcite and Gypsum form surficial formations throughout the cave. A rapid reconnaissance failed to reveal anything exotic. There are many different stratas containing fossils, chert, and Oolitic limestones. The area consists of widely spaced faults and very well developed joints.

The main entrance to Glover's Cave is a large opening into a relatively small bluff at the end of a draw. A walking passage winds past a few side passages and leads 300 feet north to a secondary entrance, also in a small bluff. A stream flows into the secondary entrance from a third entrance, 100 feet north-east. This is the water supply for the Glovers and should not be disturbed.

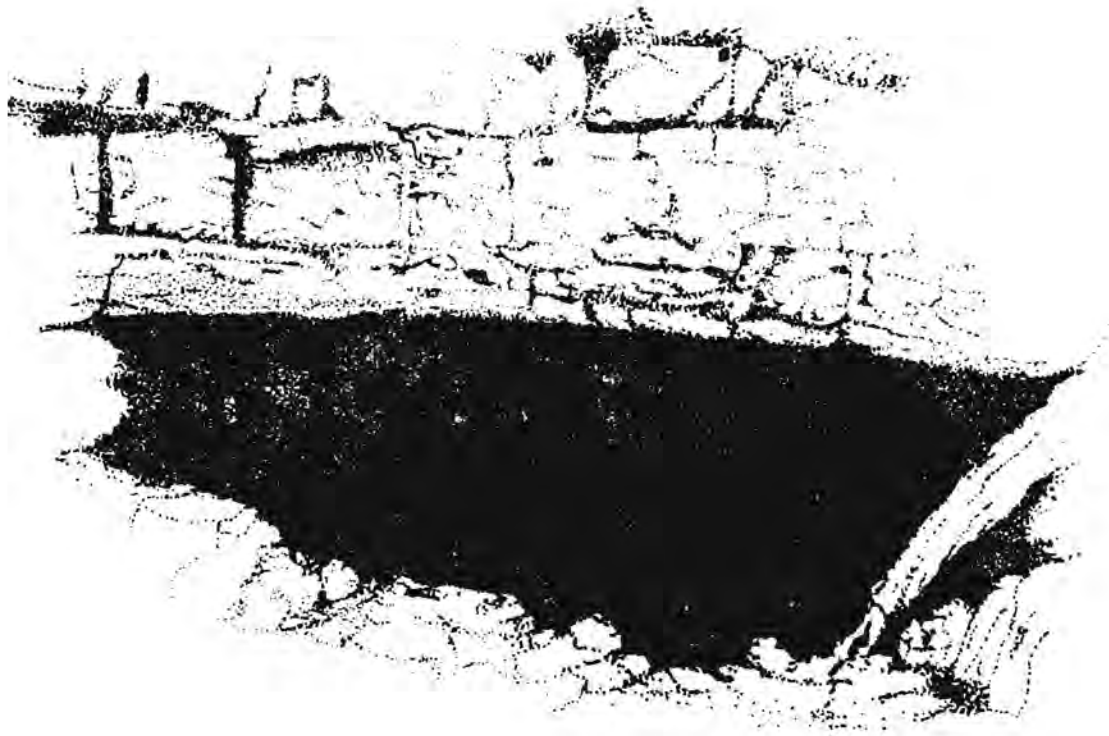
The first 2,000 feet of passage running east from the main entrance is large with a flat ceiling and a relatively level floor, except for intermittent rimstone dams; this passage is dubbed the Lincoln Tunnel. A side passage to the left near the end of this portion of the cave goes about 300 feet to a small pool. Just beyond the Lake Room passage, and at a point where the character of the cave

changes abruptly, is a small lower level passage to the left leading a short distance to a small domed grotto with a large brown flowstone formation. The passage becomes larger with large high ledges on both sides of the meandering muddy intermittent stream. A small hands-and-knees crawl extends about 700 feet to the left from the upper part of the first series of ledges, just past the grotto.

After another 700 feet, there is a large room with breakdown scattered throughout. A small tight corkscrew passage extends at least 700 feet from the lower right hand side of this room; the main passage continues through or over breakdown a short distance to the Saddle Rock overlooking a small pool. A slippery path skirting the edge of the pool leads to a sandy belly crawl which goes about 30 feet to the base of the first chimney. The chimney goes about 25 feet up to a small plateau with a low ceiling, beyond which is more large passageway; uneven, muddy, and interspersed with crumbly breakdown.

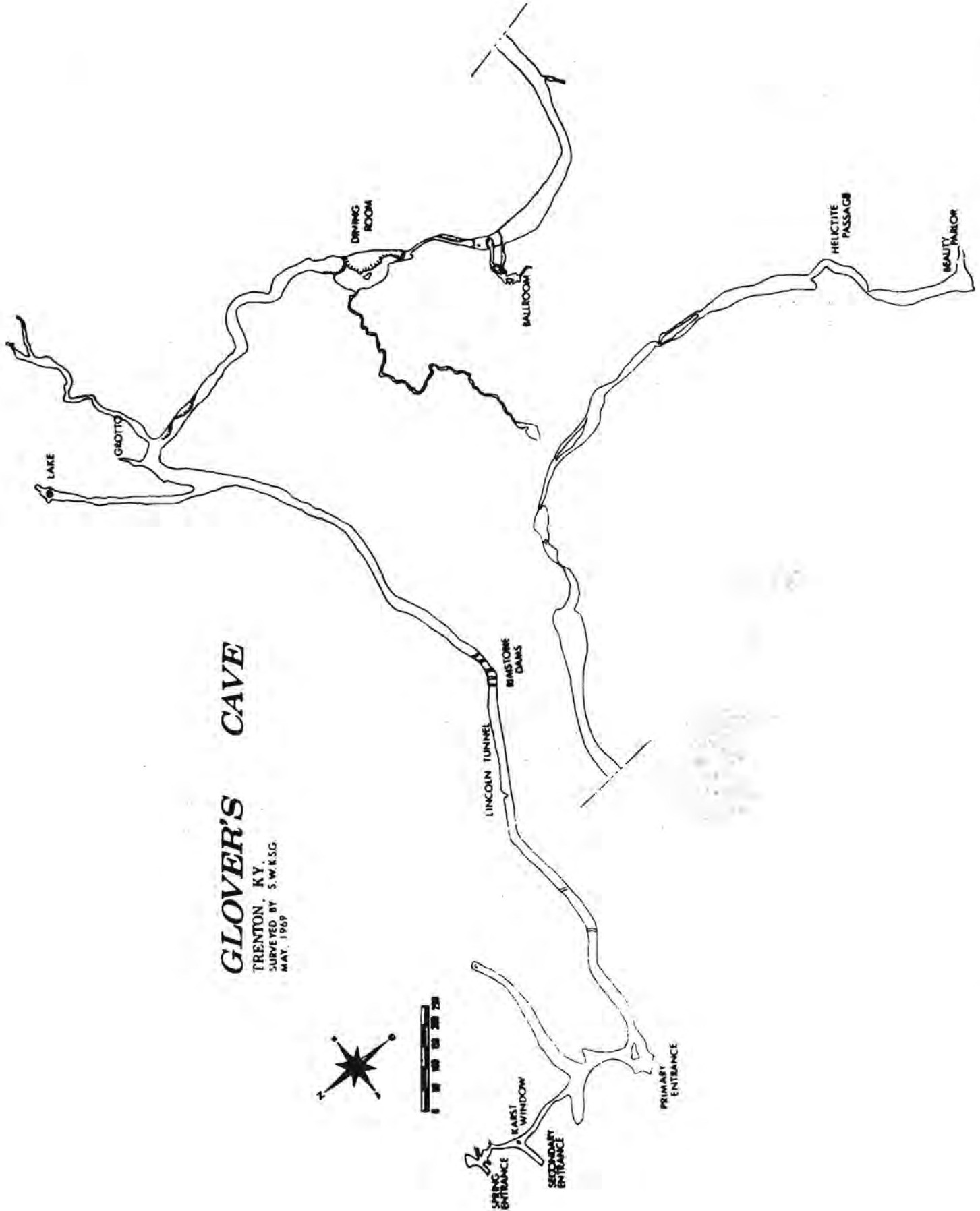
About 75 feet from the beginning of the large passageway, a small, tight, winding passage goes about a hundred feet down and to the right. The main passage continues 1,200 feet to the end of this large passage area. A small crawl to the right and then up, goes past a small pit into a large room; a crawl from the far side of the room leads about 100 feet to a second chimney. Another 25-foot climb leads to more large passage.

About 1,200 feet farther is the helictite passage, with brown helictites filling the entire left wall. This is followed by the Beauty Parlor which contains a few small speleothems. Another 1,000 feet of wet muddy low passage leads to a siphon which appears to be the end of the cave.



# GLOVER'S CAVE

TRENTON, KY.  
SURVEYED BY S. W. K. S. G.  
MAY, 1969





STEPHEN L. BISHOP

1821 - 1857

Explorer and Guide

*Mammoth Cave*

Stephen Bishop, a legend in his own time, has become a noted spelean folkhero. Some have credited him with the discovery, exploration and mapping of Mammoth Cave. These, however, are merely legends told by the early guides to make the attraction more exciting. Rivalry between the white and black guides helped to expand on Stephen's achievements over the years. This provided a sense of pride among the blacks who at that time were greatly suppressed when above ground by such organizations as the "Regulators".

When Frank Gorin purchased Mammoth Cave in 1838, he brought his 17-year-old mulatto slave, Stephen Bishop, to join the other guides in the cave. Stephen enjoyed the work and became well versed in the geology, history and lore of the area. His flare in presenting the cave to the tourists encouraged them to tell their friends, which quickly made the commercial venture a success.

Stephen was quick to learn all the information which was readily available on the cave and soon began exploring on his own. He extended the limits of the cave by crossing Bottomless Pit on a ladder and discovering Cleaveland Avenue, River Styx, Echo River, Snowball Room, Mammoth Dome, etc. In 1842, with the assistance of Col. George Crogham (the owner's brother), he drew from memory, with great accuracy, the newly discovered passages onto the 1835 Lee map. This new "Stephen Bishop" map was published in Bullitt's RAMBLES IN MAMMOTH CAVE (1844) and was considered to be the most authoritative for the next 40 years.

During the years Stephen served as guide, those who wrote about the cave would always mention him by name. He was not considered as a slave underground but was greatly respected. His owner described him as "... trustworthy and reliable, he was companionable, he was a hero, and he could be a clown. He knew a gentleman or a lady as if by instinct. He learned whatever he wished without trouble or labor." Joseph Parrish described him as "the Columbus of the underground world."

Stephen had a deep desire to purchase his freedom and move to Liberia with his wife, Charlotte, and son, Thomas. He was granted his freedom in 1856 and died in 1857 of unknown causes before realizing his dream. He was buried in the Old Guides Cemetery near the cave entrance. It wasn't until 1881 that millionaire James Mellon visited and became impressed with the legend and had a second-hand grave marker erroneously cut for him with "First Guide and Explorer of the Mammoth Cave" and a death date of June 15, 1859.

