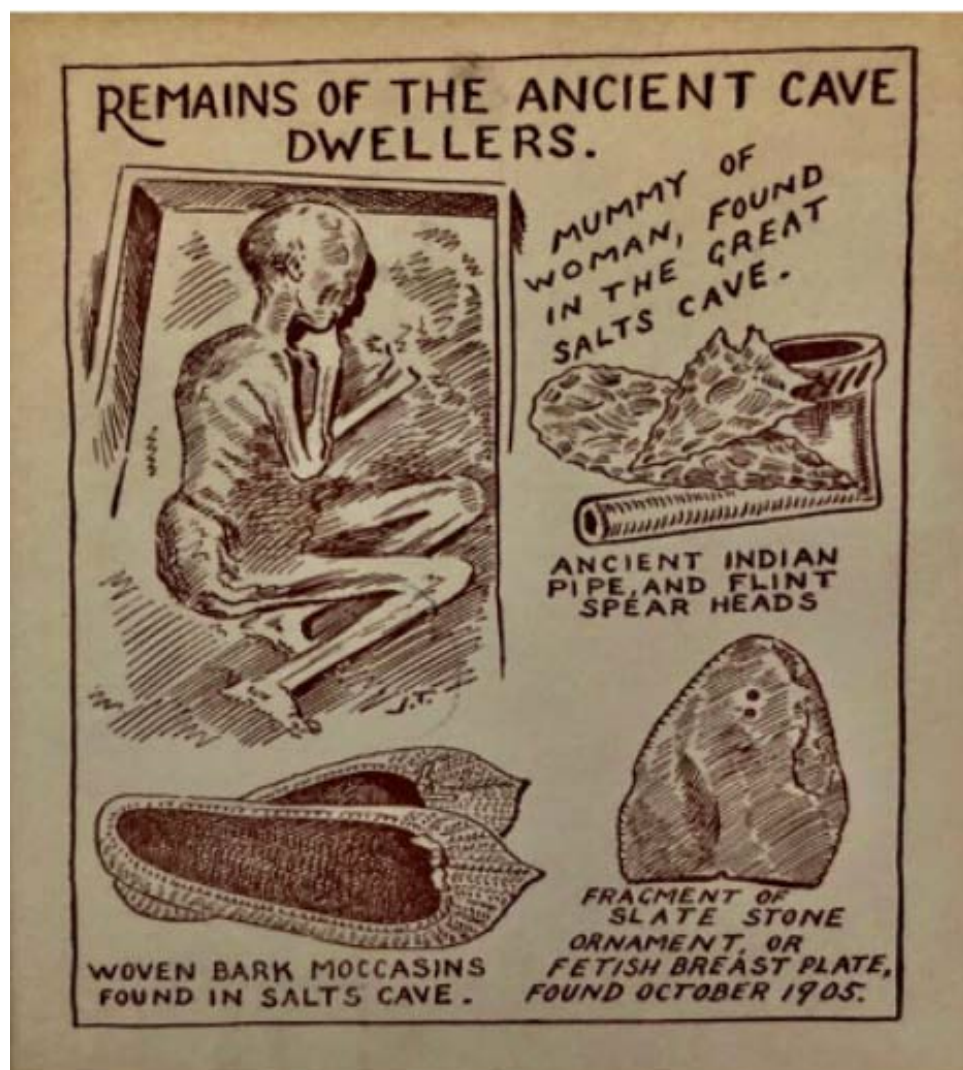


The Journal Of Spelean History

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Cover: Remains from Salt Cave, Kentucky, from an early 1900s postcard.

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THE BIG GUN FIGHT AT MAMMOTH CAVE

Norman Warnell

At Mammoth Cave in the 1800s, every man who could afford a gun, carried one, usually concealed, whether in the woods, at church, in town, or in the field. The weapons were used not only for protection from snakes and animals, but for shooting your way out of a scrape, if need be.

D.L. Graves, in the years following the Civil War, was a successful businessman of Marion County, Kentucky. The "D.L. Graves" distillery near Lebanon was one of three distilleries that he owned and operated.

On January 15, 1871, the Hotel and grounds at Mammoth Cave were leased to David L. Graves. He brought improvements by installing a water line from the Three Springs to the Estate, bringing running water to the Hotel.

On May 10, 1872, Graves was informed that he was no longer the acting manager of the Hotel. However, trustees encountered a problem: Graves refused to vacate his lease at the termination of it in January, 1873. In March 1873, the court forced him out. However, he still didn't leave, and apparently no one would confront him because of his reputation.

O.P. Shackelford, under oath, stated, "It is generally said that he (Graves) is a violent or dangerous man." This probably stemmed from an encounter at Cave City between Graves and Creed Tucker, his agent. During a settlement in July, 1873, Tucker attacked Graves with a Bowie knife resulting in Graves being slashed several times. Both parties fired pistols numerous times, Tucker missing each shot. Graves slightly wounded a young brother of Tucker's, who had jumped between them, by an accidental shot. Both men were arrested.

On October 27, 1873, the time for entering the cave for the Long Route was at 9 o'clock, with 20 minutes for late arrivals. For the Short Route, it was also 9 o'clock, with 30 minutes for late arrivals. The coach was late that morning and one of the visitors, wishing to enter the cave, was 50 minutes late. Graves, hearing that a visitor had entered the cave "off time" approached the stage driver, Wm. Yancey, to ascertain what route the visitor had taken in the cave. He then turned to Edd Wilcoxen and upbraided him for sending a visitor into the cave. Wilcoxen replied that it was none of his (Graves) business (i.e., Graves was in charge of the Hotel, not the cave).

Graves then called Wilcoxen a "lying son-of-a-bitch," whereupon Wilcoxen drew his pistol and "snapped" it but it failed to discharge. Graves immediately drew his pistol, and fired at point blank. Wilcoxen fell forward, apparently having tripped, but instantly jumped up and began to retreat.

Nick Bransford was caught between the two men, each opponent circling Nick and firing their pistols at one another. Both ran out of shells and while reloading, Nick made his escape. Meanwhile, Wilcoxen kept backing away, while reloading, as Graves advanced toward him. At this point, Graves' son, L.B. Graves, began throwing rocks at Wilcoxen. The crowd scattered in every direction, taking shelter behind trees, etc. Yancey, the stage driver took shelter inside the coach. After both men reloaded, they started shooting again, all the while Wilcoxen was

retreating amidst a shower of bullets and rocks. Finally, one of Wilcoxen's bullets took effect on Graves.

When the smoke cleared from the field of battle, Graves lay on the ground with a single gunshot wound to the abdomen. That afternoon, the Cave City News reported, "A difficulty today between D.L. Graves, proprietor of the Mammoth Cave Hotel and E. Wilcoxen, agent of the cave, in which pistols were used and several shots were fired by both parties, Graves received a wound in the bowels, which is thought, will prove fatal."

Graves recovered from his wound and returned to Marion County and eventually to Jefferson County where he passed away in 1907.

Edd Wilcoxen married and went into the mercantile business at Cave City. Nick Bransford lived until July 3, 1904.



D.L. Graves (*Every Saturday*, May 8, 1871)

A 1833 VISIT TO ORGAN CAVE, WEST VIRGINIA

Philadelphia Gazette, May 21, 1834

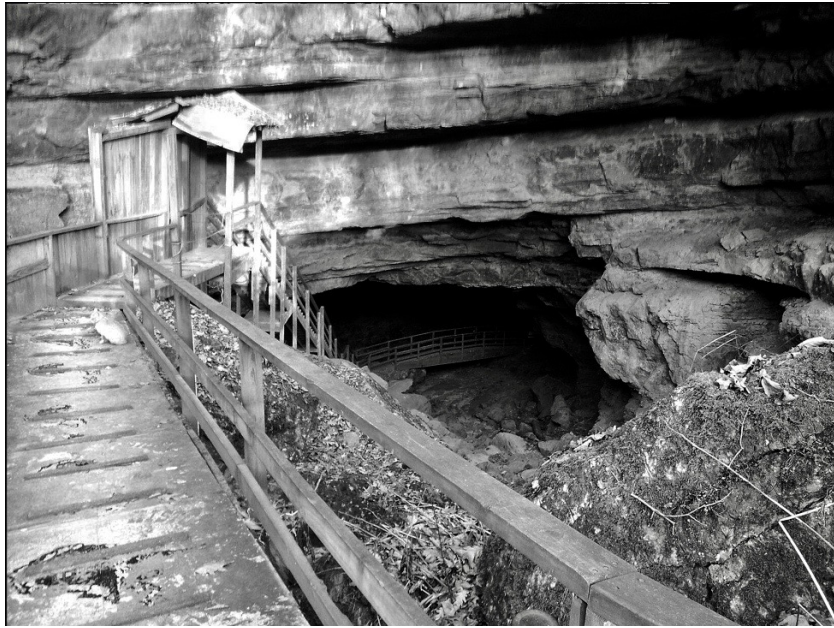
Signed by "O"
Submitted by Marion O. Smith

By reference to the *National Gazette* of August 13th, September 10th, and September 16th, 1833, a few observations will be found concerning the Springs situated in the south western part of Virginia. As the group taken together some of the most interesting and valuable in any part of the world, and presents a greater variety than can be found elsewhere in a compass of forty miles, the near approach of the season when valetudinarians, and persons of leisure go in search of health or pleasure, and the desire of information frequently expressed, induce me to give from my itinerary, some additional extracts on the subject, under the hope that they may be useful.

Having spent a few days at the White Sulphur Springs, we departed on the 19th of August for the Salt Sulphur, distant twenty-three miles. The road is hilly and occasionally rough but if passed leisurely is not dangerous, six miles of the beginning, being on the Lewisburg turnpike is good. Three miles the White sulphur, the road of the left side, immediately beneath the road is Rodgers or the Organ Cave, of limestone rock, being so called from a group of stalactites of very large size, and bearing some resemblance to the pipes of a church organ. Owing to the want of sufficient light we did not penetrate to the chamber containing them, when struck they are said to emit distinct sounds, which with some imagination may assist in justifying the name given to this cave.

The entrance to the cave is in a ravine a hundred feet or so below the road; it forms a fine arch of eighty or more feet span and forty or fifty high; this at least was the estimated I made by the eye, or proportion; it is however extremely difficult to be accurate in this way where large masses are concerned, and we commonly fall short of the actual measurement.

The entrance is the beginning of a vestibule which slopes downwards rapidly for three or four hundred feet, and has its bottom covered with large masses of rock



The entrance to Organ Cave, West Virginia

detached from the arch above. At the lower extremity of this spacious vestibule, on the right, a small craggy opening of four or five feet, leads into the interior chambers of the cave, and from this point all its perfect darkness naturally. The opening itself is rather appalling, and the first sensation of getting into it is somewhat like that of Sinbad the Sailor when he was entombed alive.

After a few paces, the space is enlarged so as to vary at different parts from five to twenty or thirty feet. In the interior chamber is a stream of water, and at the end of the chamber a considerable expansion of dimension takes place at a point where salt peter has been occasionally made to the amount of two thousand pounds a year. A part of the route leading to it is evidently a fissure or vent of fifty one hundred feet in the limestone rock, presenting a forcible parting of the two portions, and a subsidence one side of two feet, the depression and projections of one wall having the reverse surfaces on the other side.

All of the channels in this cave have not been explored, so that its actual extent is unknown; it has however been traversed for three miles to an open entrance on the other side of a hill at that distance and from which emerges the stream of water mentioned. The interior of this cave is for the most part dry and the

air pleasant the guide being the owner of it, and having worked in it for ten years is well acquainted with it and may be trusted.

Some persons who go alone, when they reach the narrow pass to the interior become intimidated at the thoughts of murder, robbery, &c., and decline entering. The guide however seems to be a plain honest countryman, whose only peculiarity, is that of a wild expression of the eyes having spent so much time in the darkness of the cave in manufacturing salt petre. Some splitting of the resinous pine constitute his flambeau, and seem to be well managed so as to prevent being extinguished; deposits of the same are made at intervals, so as to furnish a supply of fresh materials as the old are exhausted.

The cave is sufficiently interesting to be visited; and like such generally in limestone countries, it seems to be very extensive, the whole length of it is unknown. The place of this cave is known by a small board fixed to the road side, and there is generally a vidette on the lookout for visitors.

[Reprinted from the June 2020 issue of the *West Virginia Caver* (Volume 38, Number 3)]

Note by Bob Hoke: The article says "it [the cave] has however been traversed for three miles to an open entrance on the other side of a hill at that distance, and from which emerges the stream of water mentioned." There are nine entrances to the cave, but all accept water flowing in and none have water flowing out. The stream in the cave resurges in a spring on Second Creek that has no cave passage associated with it.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF HORSE CAVE & THE DISAPPEARANCE OF A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN HIDDEN RIVER CAVE, KENTUCKY

Norman Warnell

One of the attorneys in Hart County a few years ago presented me with a copy of an old document which read in part, "Robert Anderson enters a survey: 1796, '2 or 3 miles from Green River and 7 or 8 miles south of Log(s)don's Station' On a large Buffalo Road that leads from said survey a westerly course passing a remarkable place about two miles from said land that goes by the name of Cedar Springs including a large Cave nearly in the center of said survey..."

Historians have already commented on this ancient survey and reached the conclusion that it was located just west of Chaumont on Hwy 70 in Edmonson County or perhaps the Cedar Sink within present Mammoth Cave National Park. However, after carefully reading the paper, I concluded that it was not in Edmonson County for several reasons.

"Logsdon Station" was located in the vicinity of Munfordville, most likely near the corner of the old Vaughns Survey at the head of today's Logsdon Valley. Seven or eight miles south would place the survey where Horse Cave is situated.

A "large Buffaloe Road," at one time, meandered from present Horse Cave north toward the "Big Buffalo" crossing at Munfordville and on towards Bacon Creek. Luke Munsell's 1818 map of the area shows the Buffalo Road in question and the gap in the knobs at present Horse Cave. Also there is no "remarkable place" near Cedar Springs in Edmonson County, neither is there a "large" cave at that location.

Given the names of the adjoining land surveys, and the names of those early settlers who took up the land in the region of Horse Cave, it becomes apparent that this "remarkable place" and the "large cave" is one and the same as today's Hidden River Cave entrance.

Comparing Luke Munsell's 1818 map of the Horse Cave area to a modern day map, you quickly notice that the original road that became the 31-W ran 1/4 miles closer to the southern base of the knobs than it now does. This is affirmed by older residents and also by a dim outline of a winding road at the base of the knobs running toward Rowletts. Also, a road leading up the Hatcher Valley (now the I-65 corridor) from the old Hatcher Valley Saltpeter cave in the knobs, appeared to be the route used by the miners in removing saltpeter to Green River for shipping.

At this early date, the main road passed along the rim at the edge of the entrance into Hidden River Cave. This seems to be supported by an early news article describing a stage tragedy in which the ground supporting the road, and adding the rim of the cave, collapsed carrying a coach, people, and horses over into the gaping hole to their death. Thereafter the name "Horse Cave" became connected to the opening until recent years when the title "Hidden River Cave" came into use.

Recently, Dr. Stan Sides sent me a copy of an article on Hidden Rive Cave. I hinted to him that I knew a story that had never been brought to light within the caving community that involved that particular cave. Here is the story and I'm just presenting the facts and make no comments on how, "what if" or any other possibilities. Read and enjoy and form your own conclusion.

The United Procession of Women, or "Mud March" as it became known, was a demonstration in London on February 9, 1907, organized by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in which more than three thousand women marched from Hyde Park Corner to the Strand in support of women's suffrage.

Back home in Kentucky, local elections and politics have always been nasty at times. For instance, at the polls in Bee Spring in Edmonson County in 1899, Will and Jake Meredith, Jake VanMeter, and Bill Agie were seriously injured by shooting and cutting.

At Glasgow Junction, a mob of black men lynched another black man for not voting correctly in one of the elections.

In November 1907, Bily Wirth, a self-proclaimed candidate for the presidency of the United Staes, arrived in Horse Cave, a village of some 1500 inhabitants. He deposited his baggage and secured a room at the Pace Hotel but neglected to

register. After breakfast, he announced his intentions of exploring the cave which underlies the town. He announced that he would lecture that afternoon in the town of Horse Cave on "The Danger of the Middle Man in Woman Suffrage." The lecture was to have been given on a Saturday night.

Detectives later believed that he was originally from St. Louis, but had recently landed in Louisville. It's extremely hard to get a fix on who he was. "One" Billy Wirth of St. Louis is listed in 1900 at age 24, living with his parents, and an occupation of "Peddler." This occupation would seem to explain his removal to Kentucky. Whether this is the same man or not is difficult to tell.

Horse Cave (Hidden River Cave) is supposed to extend for miles below the surface of the earth. It underlies the whole town which bears its name and much of the surrounding county which facts were well-known even in 1907. The entrance the caverns is on a side hill, just off the main street of the town, and the last seen of Wirth was when he entered the caverns on his way to the gloomy depths. He was never seen or heard from after that.

Later, in the deepest recesses of the cave, far from the entrance a hat was found which some claim to recognize as the one worn by the missing man.

Investigation the following two days failed to reveal his whereabouts, and no man answering his description had been seen in the surrounding hamlets. On Saturday night pedestrians on the main street claimed to have heard cries for help with shrieks and whistles issuing from the cave. An investigating party was hastily got together.

Headed by Dr. A.G. Smith, a leading physician of the town, the party entered the cave in all directions for fifty yards, calling and flashing their lights in an endeavor to locate the lost man, but their search was fruitless.

Two days later, a party of 100 men, following two bloodhounds, entered the cave and came upon one of the hounds standing upon the brink of a pit. They came to the conclusion that the other dog, and most likely the man lay dead at the bottom of the pit. When the bloodhounds were sent into the cave they darted down a side passage that had never been tried before. The patter of human footsteps was heard distinctly by several of the men in the group, but when the searchers came to the terminus of the passage, only one dog was there which was baying at the edge of a

gloomy and apparently bottomless gulf. They could hear nothing from the depths and the dog was reluctant on leaving and had to be tied and led from the cave.

(Possibly the rest of the story....)

About two years after the disappearance of Billy With, according to Homer Collins, Dr. Harry Thomas, owner of Hidden River Cave, hired Floyd Collins to explore it for him.

Floyd went alone into the cave and one morning, he found a lantern in a passage which was in good shape. Why would anyone leave a lantern behind? A little later, in a muddy passage he came to a ledge about shoulder high, it looked as though there might be a side lead taking off at that point. He noticed a strong odor in the passage. Floyd climbed over the ledge and crawled along, shoving his lantern in front of him. Before he had gone more than a few feet, he found the source of the odor— a human body badly decomposed. This was no prehistoric man but a recent specimen. Judging by his clothing, he had not come into the cave as an explorer. Floyd became very uneasy, and for the first time, the cave seemed somber, the atmosphere depressing. He called off further exploration. He told Dr. Thomas about finding the body and informed him that he would not go in again. According to Homer, no one ever brought the body out of the cave.



Entrance to Hidden River Cave, Horse Cave, Kentucky

CAMP HAMBRIGHT AND “DRIPPING CAVE,” KENTUCKY

Marion O. Smith and Joseph C. Douglas

During the American Civil War many named “permanent” camps of muster, instruction, organization, and transit existed. Soldiers on the march also commonly assigned a name to their more temporary encampments. The designation used could be for an officer, a famous historical person, a local inhabitant who supported the soldier’s cause, a geographical feature, or an aspect of the camp itself, such as condition of comfort. Camp Hambright was one of these temporary encampments, and until recently was “lost.”

The authors are currently studying 1860s wartime soldier visits to Mammoth Cave and a number of other caves in the south-central Kentucky vicinity. To do that they have immersed themselves in understanding the movements of each army and especially the late 1861- early 1862 build-up of the Union Army of the Ohio and its staggered moves from Elizabethtown and Munfordville, Kentucky toward Bowling Green and Nashville, Tennessee. In the process we learned of a number of Federal camps, with names such as Harris, Jefferson, Nevin, Wood, Sirwell, Hambright, Fry, and Rousseau.¹

Some of these camps were quite large, accommodating a brigade or perhaps an entire division. Most were ephemeral; they last from one night or a few days, to several weeks, a month, or more. Four camps, Jefferson, Wood, Hambright, and Fry, were more interesting because men from each toured caves and referenced them in their letters, journals, memoirs, newspaper reports, and regimental histories.

Camp Hambright was the most intriguing. Its exact location was unknown,, and it encompassed a mysterious grotto variously referred to by the soldiers as “Dripping Cave,” “Dripping Spring Caves” or “Camp Water Cave.” Descriptions of the camps’ locations were vague, only that it was a mile or more toward Bowling Green beyond Bell’s Tavern (present day Park City.) The authors questioned James Cave Project cavers, Mammoth Cave National Park personnel, local residents, and

Cave Research Foundation members, but no one knew which modern-day named cave, if any, "Dripping Cave" equated to.²

As it organized, the Army of the Ohio under Brigadier General Don Carlos Buell advanced in stages from Elizabethtown to Nolin River, Bacon Creek, and other places. By December 1861 five divisions were being outfitted and trained, with another to follow a few months later. Before the year's end Brigadier General Alexander McD. McCook's Second Division was advanced to Munfordville to repair the Green River railroad bridge, build a pontoon bridge, and observe Confederate activity. McCook commanded four brigades totaling fifteen infantry regiments and one battalion: the Fourth Brigade (1st Ohio, 6th Indiana, 3rd Kentucky, and a battalion of the 15th and 19th US Infantry); the Fifth Brigade (29th and 30th Indiana, 34th Illinois, and 77th Pennsylvania); The Sixth Brigade (32nd and 39th Indiana, 15th and 49th Ohio); and Seventh Brigade (38th Indiana, 1st Wisconsin, 78th and 79th Pennsylvania).³

The February 6, 1863 Union capture of Fort Henry on the Tennessee River caused a major shake-up in the General Albert Sydney Johnson's Kentucky Confederate troop dispositions. The next day he ordered the evacuation of Bowling Green and the entire south-central part of the state. Some of his forces were sent to bolster the garrison of Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River, soon to be invested by the western Kentucky army of Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant, and other units headed south. After a few days, on February 13, Buell's army finally lurched toward Nashville.⁴

Two days later the Second Division moved from the Munfordville vicinity, with the Seventh Brigade in front. By the evening of the 17th that brigade bedded down in the rain at what was called Camp Hambright, named for the colonel of the 79th Pennsylvania, Henry A. Hambright (1819-1893), a Mexican War veteran and railroad builder. The camp's location was near "the pike" and it was occupied until February 23. The Sixth Brigade stopped at what they called Camp Fry, named for Colonel Speed S. Fry, who reputedly had shot Confederate General F.K. Zollicoffer a few weeks before at the battle of Mill Springs in Southeastern Kentucky. It is not known if the Fourth and Fifth Brigades had their own named camps or were part of Camp Fry, which included Bell's Tavern.⁵

McCook's men were within walking distance of a number of well-known caves, especially Mammoth, Hundred Dome, and Diamond, and they visited those

and at least two others. Camp Hambright (Seventh Brigade) soldiers gave what they called "Dripping Cave" a lot of attention because it served as a water source.⁶

On the evening of February 17, 1862, William T. Clark (1836-1911), a private in Company B, 79th Pennsylvania, with companions visited the cave at camp:

We went 50 feet down a ledge of broken rocks at the foot of which is a good spring of water, which runs into a trough, and buckets coming down by windless are filled with water, and drawn up on a wire. We went 1/2 mile into the cave but had to return as our light was burning low.⁷

The next day John H. Druckenmiller (1840-1924), a 2nd lieutenant of Company 1 of the same regiment "Made an examination of the cave which is on the grounds on which we are camped," and the same day Franklin Nupp (1838-1922) of Company D, 78th Pennsylvania "was in it about 40 [r]ods."⁸

"N.J.," a correspondent from one of the Seventh Brigade's Pennsylvania Regiments, reported to a hometown newspaper that "Most of the water used" by that brigade was "obtained from 'Dripping Cave' . . . , I examined it as far as I could for water." "Boanerges," another Pennsylvania soldier, informed a second newspaper back home that while at Camp Hambright he also "had the pleasure of visiting Dripping Cave and the Hundred Dome Cave. We could not penetrate the former to a great distance, on account of the water which flows through it."⁹

Another 79th Pennsylvania soldier, Private Adam S. Johnston, while at Camp Hambright, simply referred to the speleological feature there as "Camp Water Cave, or a branch of Mammoth Cave." "Quad" of the 1st Wisconsin wrote on February 22 that many men's quarters were only "a few rods from Dripping Spring Cave." The same day, Henry W. Miller (1836-910) of Company I, 79th Pennsylvania, who the following December 14 transferred to the 1st Middle (10th) Tennessee Infantry, USA, wrote to his father. He noted there were:

Several caves in the vicinity of our encampment[,] one of which is supposed to be the South end of Mammoth[,] [I]t has a Splendid ceiling formed from water drippings[,] [A] place in the center looks much like a center table, and over it hangs a

rock. . . [T]here is a fine spring of water in it. [T]o this cave the Soldiers pay frequent visits.¹⁰

Decades later, J. Thompson Gibson, author of a history of the 78th Pennsylvania Regiment, mistakenly wrote that the February 1862 stay at Camp Hambright was “near Long’s Cave,” which many soldiers visited, “said to be a branch of Mammoth Cave.” Most likely he really meant “Dripping Cave.” Neither he, Johnston, nor Miller explained the thinking behind the idea that the camp cave was part of Mammoth.¹¹

The authors first learned about “Dripping Cave” fall 2015 and for near a year and a half its whereabouts and identity remained a mystery. Then, on February 25, 2017, they plus Mike Moser and Dennis Smith of Wilson County, Tennessee, visited Doyle Cave, on the sinkhole plain 1050 feet north of US Highway 31W and less than two miles west of Park City. The fifteen-foot wide entrance slopes down over breakdown for twenty-five vertical feet to a walking passage showing signs of past flooding. Altogether, there is a thousand feet of passage, with two “side” branches toward the back. Just inside the entrance, at a high area on the right, is a wet-weather stream which falls literally as a dripping spring. Exploration on the way into the cave yielded no graffiti of interest except several Mormon names from Utah. But on the return, a more careful examination of the cave walls using oblique (side) lighting revealed very faint scratched signatures made by Civil War soldiers. There are also a few pencil signatures. These graffiti represent three of the “right” regiments (38th Indiana, 78th and 79th Pennsylvania) with the “right” dates (February 1862) for “Dripping Cave.” All the soldier markings are within 400 feet of the entrance.

The following names and initials were recorded in notes and images that day and the succeeding March 9 and July 1 (by Smith and Terry L. McClanathan of Maryland and then by Smith, Douglas, and Kristen Bobo of Tennessee). Underlines indicated uncertainty by the recorders:

C Cain 38 Ind
February 1862

W D Wallace 40th Ind

Chas B Madden

H.J. Clark #[and two marks] Lancaster City Pa	John J Reiber Comp H 78 Regt Penn Vol	O V Harvis [Harris?] Ohio Vols
C.L. Ballard	A <u>H</u> OB <u>get</u> Co B 79	CM Gowing
J Melchor [?]	E A PETERSON Jr 4 th OVC	W W Hamilton 78 Feb 18 Co D
Harry J Test Penna Vols	I. <u>I</u> . [L?] H York Pa	F McNeal Feb19 th
Wm English [all in box] C. <u>oti</u> [?] V Harr Ohio	C R Cobb	W J Clark
J.C.D._ _ IF Indn	B F Mc Neal Feb 17 th 1862	H W <u>S</u> ontasse [S is backward] J? A? Kipp 78 pv
Meshack A. Hambright	____ [three illegible lines] Feb 18, 1862	A CALPEN
Jacob S. Melchior	____ DUO Penn Vols	A J Murphy
Wm C[umming?] Co A 78 P	O E 64 Reg O V	Robert O <u>Maller</u> [?] 30 Edward Edward [?] ¹²

The regiments and dates represented on the wall of Doyle Cave confirm that it is the same as the soldier's "Dripping Cave." But, were the men of the Seventh Brigade of McCook's the first to camp near the cave entrance in February 1862? Two names in the cave, "E A Peterson Jr. 4th OVC" and "A J Murphy", possibly of the same unit, may have been written a few days earlier. That is because the 4th Ohio Cavalry under Colonel John Kennett was attached to Brigadier General Ormsby M.

Mitchel's Third Division, which, as earlier mentioned, moved south a couple of days before McCook. At 3:20 that afternoon Mitchel sent a dispatch to General Buell from Bell's Tavern, saying the "cavalry [4th Ohio] are already in advance of this place," and his infantry would "camp in this vicinity to-night." So, did Peterson and Murphy enter "Dripping Cave" that night or the following autumn when their regiment again traversed the area? The 4th Ohio Cavalry was organized August-November 1861 but all records for Peterson have him enlisting August 13, 1862. Was that incorrect and he really joined in 1861? Murphy's service began about September 17, 1861.¹³

"Dripping Cave" also contains names from the 40th Indiana and 64th Ohio regiments. These were men from Brigadier General Thomas J. Wood's three brigade strong Sixth Division. Wood was ordered forward from Munfordville February 24, 1862, and it took his troops three days to make it to Bowling Green. They were delayed because their teams and wagons could not keep up. On the 25th the bulk of the soldiers got to Bell's Tavern and camped. There the division was held up for a day and a number of individuals used the time "in visiting the numerous caves with which the country abounds." Personnel from at least five of Wood's regiments, the 40th, 51st, 57th, and 58th Indiana, and the 64th Ohio took the opportunity to investigate a minimum of four, possible five, caves in the area.¹⁴

Biographical sketches for some of the of the "Dripping Cave"/Doyel Cave soldiers have been constructed as follows:

Stephen Coleman Cain (November 24, 1833-August 4, 1904), a son of Matthew Cain (1804-1892) and America Allen (1810-1892) was a Kentucky native who at mid-century lived with his parents in Spencer County. However, a decade later he resided in Monroe County, Indiana, with his wife, Eliza J. Crist (1836-1904), their two young daughters, and his sister-in-law, Mary Crist. While there, he joined Company G, 38th Indiana Infantry and served from September 18, 1861, until September 17, 1864. He returned to Kentucky where he farmed in Webster and Union Counties, and fathered several more children.¹⁵

Calvin R. Cobb (c1839-April 2, 1894), was born in New York to Josiah and Lois Cobb, and by 1850 lived with them in Kenosha County, Wisconsin. His father died within the next few years and he remained with his mother and five siblings.

During the war he served in Companies G (three months), April 17-August 21, 1861, and E (three years), September 10, 1861-November 29, 1862, of the 1st Wisconsin Infantry as a private. He was discharged for disability, and on March 13, he applied for and soon received a pension. But his health apparently improved because May 17-September 22, 1864, he was a corporal in Company C, 39th Wisconsin Infantry. He returned to Kenosha County, where in 1870 he was a farmer with his mother and younger sister, Amelia. Not long after he married Carrie E. Morse (1845-1918) continuing in the same area as a laborer. Sometime later they moved to Richmond, Virginia, where a daughter, Madge C. (1884-1971) was born. His occupation there has not been determined, but he was buried in the local National Cemetery.¹⁶

William C. Cummins (March 28, 1834-January 7, 1915), offspring of David Cummins (1804-1877) and Mary Wilson (1810-1888), was a native and resident of Indiana County, Pennsylvania. In 1860 he was a farm laborer possessing real estate worth \$500. In 1861 he helped recruit company A, 78th Pennsylvania, and was mustered as its captain October 12. Wounded at Stones River, Tennessee, he resigned August 1, 1863. Not too long afterwards he married Mary Jane C. Morrow (1836-1906) and by 1867 they moved to Ohio, where he farmed in Crawford County and later was a coal dealer in Seneca County. He and Mary Jane had ten children, of whom six lived to adulthood. After becoming a widower he lived with three of his daughters in Shelby, Richland County, Ohio, where he died. He drew a pension based on his war time service.¹⁷

William Wallace Hamilton (September 23-November 7, 1891) was born at Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, to Robert A. Hamilton and Anna Mary Evers. In 1848 his family moved a short distance to Montgomery Township, Indian County, and while growing up he learned farming and lumbering. On September 1, 1861, he became a private in Company D, 78th Pennsylvania Infantry, and a month later was promoted to sergeant. At Nashville on January 14, 1863, he received a disability discharge. The next summer, July 6-August 18, occasioned by Governor Andrew G. Curtin's call due to Lee's invasion, he served as a 2nd lieutenant in the 46th Pennsylvania Volunteer Militia. On November 29, 1864, he married Euphemia Susan Clark (1834-1882) and they had three sons and four daughters. Briefly, 1865-1867, he operated a store in Cherry Tree, but generally he farmed in Montgomery Township. In 1862 while at Camp Hambright he also visited Hundred Dome (Coach) Cave.¹⁸

Abram Edward Kipp (1840-January 3, 1879) whose father was John Kipp (1811-1849), prior to the conflict lived with his stepfather and mother, Charles and

Eliza Keely Bawn (1816-1877) on a farm in Allegheny Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. He then served as a private in Company F, 78th Pennsylvania Infantry, October 13, 1861-November 4, 1864. Sometime after returning home he married Rebecca Shuster (1841-1919) and in time they had five children. Abram became a gas and oil driller, living occasionally in Clarion County. He reportedly “became entirely grey, while still a young man.” A new gravestone gives his dates “1840-1848” but a photograph of his old stone seems to show a January 1879 death, with several months and days beyond thirty-eight years. A private collector owns his wartime letters.¹⁹

Benjamin F. McNeal (June 12, 1843-April 13, 1879) was a farm laborer residing with the family of Henry M. Musser in Earl Township of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania,, before the war. He was a private in Company C, 79th Pennsylvania Infantry from September 24, 1861, and was absent on detached duty when the regiment was mustered out. In 1870, still in Earl Township, he was a farm laborer with the family of John Buckwalter. At some point he married Mary Erschick (1846-1927)²⁰

Charles B. Madden (c1843-June 14, 1928) a son of John Madden, before the war was a “Morocco Dresser” (maker of fine leather) in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. On September 2, 1861, he joined Company F. 79th Pennsylvania Infantry as 1st sergeant. He received promotions as 2nd (January 18, 1863) and 1st lieutenant (January 1, 1864) before resigning August 3, 1864. Postwar he was a bookkeeper in Atlanta before living variously in Oswego, Erie (Buffalo), and Steuben Counties, New York, working as a coal agent or painter and hand decorator. About 1891, he married Elizabeth “Nellie” Lewis (b. c1853), a native of England. Briefly in 1906-7 he was an inmate of a Soldiers Home. By 1910 he and Nellie had permanently settled in Bath, New York, where at least for a while their address was 10 William Street²¹

John J. Reiber (December 12, 1842-January 2, 1901) was a New York-born son of Jacob (1819-1912), a German, and Elizabeth Reiber (d. 1898). In 1830 the family lived in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania, and a decade later in Butler County, where John J. was a storekeeper. After three years’ (October 12, 1861-November 4, 1864-November 4, 1864) service as a private in Company H, 78th Pennsylvania Infantry, he

returned to Butler County and became a dry goods merchant. Around 1865 he married Sarah Pflough (1845-1929), and between 1866 and 1884 they had five boys and a girl. By 1880 he was a hotel keeper in Allegheny County.²²

Henry “Harry” J. Test (c1844-October 8, 1862), a child of Westley (1807-1881) and Mary Ann Test (1814-1858) of York, Pennsylvania, was in 1860 a dry goods clerk. He served April-July 1861, as a private in Company A of the three months’ organization of the 16th Pennsylvania Infantry. Then the following September 25 he enlisted in Company C, 79th Pennsylvania, and became its 1st sergeant. The next year, on July 8, he was promoted to 2nd lieutenant, dying in battle at Perryville, Kentucky, three months later.²³

Albert J. Murphy (b. c1842), a private, Company G, 4th Ohio Cavalry September 17, 1861-October 20, 1864, is perhaps the “A J Murphy” who visited “Dripping Cave.” He was born in Ohio and just before the war lived with his mother, Jane (b. c1797), and five siblings in Ironton, Lawrence County, Ohio. In 1850 he resided in Greenup County, Kentucky. May 26-August 28, 1861, he served in the three months’ organization of Company E, 18th Infantry.²⁴

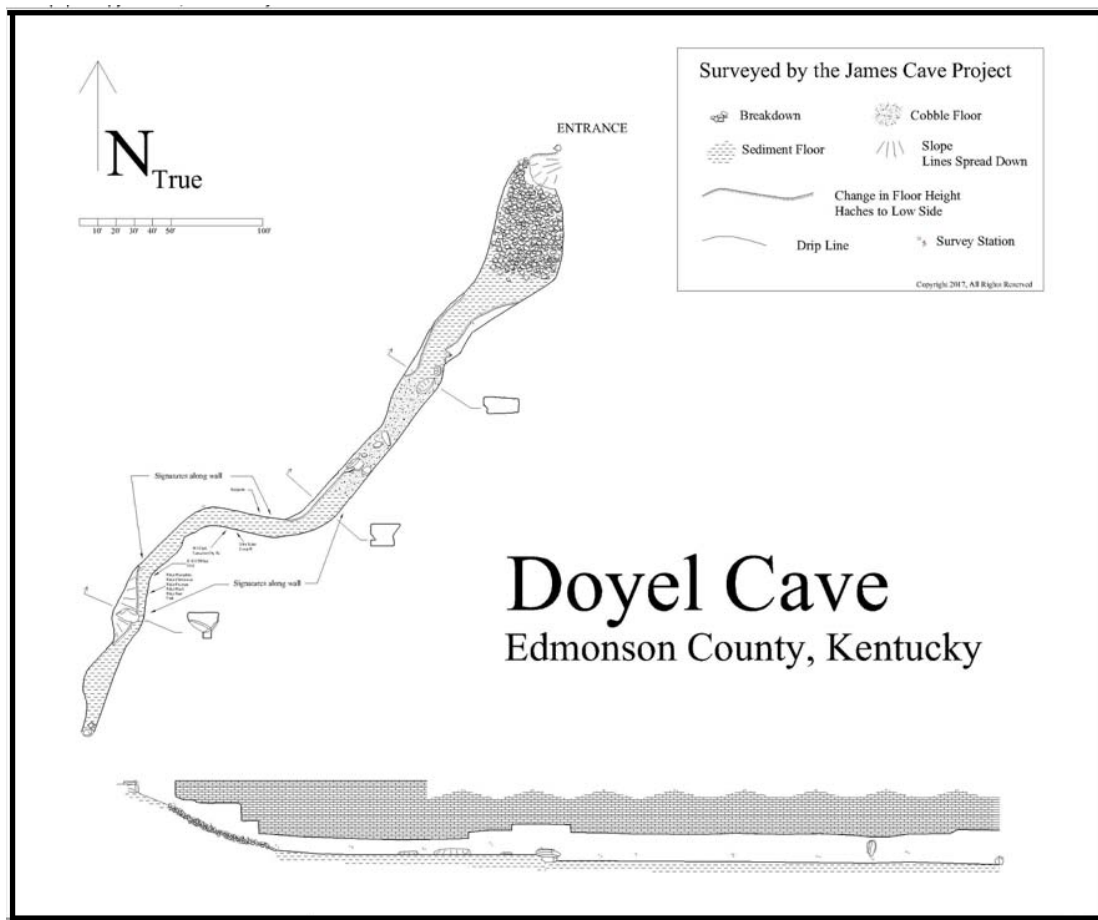
Elisha A. Peterson (May 3, 1839-February 6, 1871) was a son of Jacob S. and Charity H. Peterson of Springdale near Cincinnati, Ohio. He lived with his parents until his August 1862 enlistment as a private in Company D, 4th Ohio Cavalry, serving until June 24, 1865. For a long time he was part of the escort of Cavalry Chief General David S. Stanley’s headquarters. His horse fell on him at Chattanooga in September 1863 and in June-early July 1864 he was hospitalized at Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain. He was then “so weak that [he] cannot walk more than 8, eight or 10, ten rod at a time my bowels are very irregular & I cannot get them quiet.” Afterward, he claimed that his health was okay, but it is not known what malady he may have encountered during the final months of the war. Elisha returned to his family home where in 1870 the census taker commented that he was an “Invalid [and] Has Fits.” He filed for a pension July 7 that year and it was granted shortly before his death. His wartime letters are at Duke University.²⁵

Christian M. Gowing (c1843-1871), a son of Charles S. Gowing (1820-1909) and Sarah Jane Tharp (1823-1911), lived in Hancock and Crawford Counties Ohio, before the war. On October 19, 1861, he joined Company H, 64th Ohio Infantry, and successively was promoted corporal (April 22, 1863), sergeant (May 12, 1863), 1st lieutenant (November 3, 183, 1864), and captain (March 18, 1865), mustering out with his regiment December 3, 1865. On December 12, 1867, he married Rachel M. Billings (1849-1890) in Williams County Ohio and in 1870 lived with her and her parents in Goshen, Elkhart County, Indiana, where he was a railroad agent. The next year he died of unreported causes in Williams County, where his parents resided.²⁶



Jacob S. Melchior (1820-1864), a Pennsylvania-born carpenter, also lived in Crawford County, Ohio. In August 1849 he married Margaret A. Pensinger (1826-1886) and between December 1850 and March 1859 they had three boys, Charles H., Taylor S., and Jacob W. On October 23, 1861, he joined Company H, 64th Ohio Infantry as a private. After the capture of Atlanta, about September 7, 1864, when part of the Union Army was “falling back from Jonesboro,” Melchior, then “on extra duty as Co. cook, was given permission . . . to go a short distance from . . . regiment in order to procure forage for a ‘pack mule.’” He “never afterward returned” and was believed by his captain Samuel M. Wolff (1839-1883), that Private Melchior was “killed by the enemy.” However, his tombstone in Oakland Cemetery, Crawford County, Ohio states that he “Died at Andersonville Ga.”²⁷

William D. Wallace (c1833-August 8, 1863) was a farmer at Hillsboro in Fountain County, Indiana, before the war. He had a wife, Rhoda Ann, and three young children. He served as a private in Company E, 40th Indiana Infantry from December 10, 1861 until his death from an unnamed illness in Summer 1863. He is buried in the Nashville National Cemetery.²⁸



Another soldier, Cryus C. Hodge (1837-1923), a corporal in Company H, 30th Indiana Infantry, had a mishap in what very well could have been “Dripping Cave.” About February 18, 1862, while his regiment was camped in the vicinity of Bell’s Tavern, he “was sent to find water” and while doing so “fell down [a] cave” and “broke a leg.” When his company moved south he was left “in a partial shelter” before being taken to a Louisville hospital. The following July 16 he was discharged for disability.²⁹

Acknowledgements

Landon D. Medley of Bald Knob, Van Buren County, Tennessee, greatly enhanced the identifications of "Dripping Cave," soldiers, while Joy T. Odom of Dade County, Georgia tried to determine E.A. Peterson's true enlistment date. Ronnie Doyle of Park City, Kentucky first took the second author to Doyel Cave, secured permission for us to work on the site from the landowner, and let us park on his property. The James Cave Project Inc. kindly provided the Doyle Cave map.

Endnotes

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3. Henry M. Cist, *The Army of the Cumberland* (New York, 1882), 22-23; W. Stephen McBride, *The Union Occupation of Munfordville, Kentucky, 1861-1865: a Narrative Summary* (Munfordville, 1999), 9-13; *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (70 vols., in 128 books, Washington D.C., 1880-1901), Ser. 1, Vol. 7: 460.
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8. John H. Druckenmiller Diary, *ibid.*; Findagrave #161292681, 100328033; Sarah Nupp Hess, trans., *The Civil War Diaries of Franklin Nupp October 1861-October 1864* (n.p., 2010), Feb. 18, 1862.

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10. Johnston, *Soldier Boys Diary Book*, 11; "Quadm," Feb. 22, 1862, The civil war and northwest Wisconsin word press, p. 204; Findagrave #158436481; Henry Witmer Miller to his father, Feb. 22, 1862, Pennsylvania State Libraries Archives; Compiled Service Records, RG94 (M395, Roll 195), National Archives, Henry W. Miller File. Miller was a 2nd lieutenant in the Tennessee regiment and resigned July 9, 1863.
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12. Diary of Marion O. Smith Feb. 25, Mar. 9, and July 1, 2017.
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22. Findagrave #68541660 and 68541658; 1850 Census, Pa., Armstrong, Brady's Bend Twp., 70; (1860), Butler, Summit Twp., 44; (1870), Middlesex Twp., Glade Mills P.O., 5; (1880), Allegheny, Ross Twp., 84th Enum. Dist. 237A; Bates, *Pennsylvania Volunteers*, 2: 1064.

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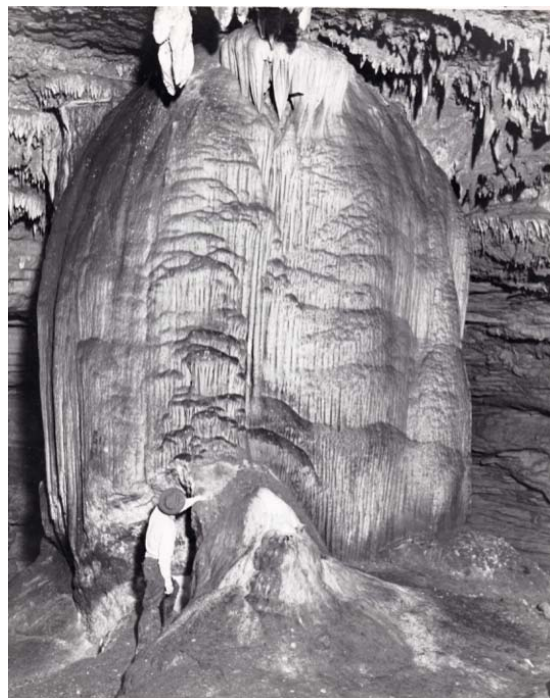
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PREHISTORIC ARTIFACTS MADE FROM ARAGONITE SOURCED FROM WYANDOTTE CAVE, INDIANA

John Benton

Ever wonder if anyone was caving in Indiana around 4000 years ago? The answer is YES! Archaeologists have shown that Wyandotte Cave in Crawford County was explored as early as 2000 BC. Then, prehistoric explorers and miners ventured into the cave at least 3000 feet from the entrance with hickory strip torches as their light source. It is believed they sought minerals and rocks in the cave to be used for medicinal or ceremonial purposes. Late Archaic peoples left torch fragments that have been carbon dated. During the Middle-Woodland Period (200 BC -500 AD), Wyandotte Cave was the source of repeated heavy mining and explorations, according to Munson and Munson, an Indiana University husband and wife team of researchers, during a study conducted in 1990.

Flint was mined for arrowheads, spears, and other stone tools, along with gypsum and epsom crystals (medicinal use?) and aragonite, which was mined and evidently greatly valued as the source of specialized ceremonial artifacts. Aragonite is a semi-translucent, banded flowstone made up of calcium carbonate that can be the mineral that forms stalactites and stalagmites in caves. Aragonite was quarried from the Pillar of Constitution, the massive stalagmite in the room called the Senate Chamber inside Wyandotte Cave. Much of the aragonite was destined to be carved into pipes, ceremonial gorgets and figures that have been found as far away (see map) as Ohio, Illinois, Iowas, and Tennessee as well as ceremonial sites in Indiana such as Arrowhead Arch (where a carved aragonite pipe was found and dated to 155 AD) in the Hoosier National Forest and Crib Mounds, along the Ohio River in Spencer County, Indiana. The “snowy owl man” figure was carved from Wyandotte aragonite and came from the Kincaid Mound site in southern Illinois, across the Ohio River from Paducah, Kentucky. It is thought the aragonite material was highly prized and traded to distant locations along trading routes (such as the Ohio River). The pair of snowy owls measure about eight inches high (see photo).



(Left) Map showing Wyandotte Cave (star) and location of artifacts (dots) made from Pillar of the Constitution aragonite. (From K.B. Tankersley and others) (Right) George Jackson's photograph of the Pillar of the Constitution in Wyandotte Cave.

Art Gerber, (now deceased) a well-known relic collector from Tell City, Indiana, had a few pieces of aragonite artifacts in his collection. The mineral make-up of the "snowy owl man" was first identified by Dr. Georg K. Neumann, a forensic anthropologist from Indian University. At the time, Dr. Neumann said that "snowy" was the first whole, unbroken artifact that he had seen made from aragonite. Studies by Pat and Cheryl Munson along with Kenneth Tankersley and others have extensively studied the chemical make-up of the mineralogy of the Wyandotte aragonite. Some characteristics of Wyandotte aragonite are distinctive and can serve therefore as "fingerprints." When these are found in artifacts, they are evidence that the source of the raw material was Wyandotte Cave, Indiana. Wyandotte aragonite, under a microscope, has a specific needle-like

arrangements of crystals and two directions of cleavage that are distinct. Therefore it can be compared to aragonite from other sources to determine its origin.

The largest aragonite formation in Wyandotte Cave is the Pillar of Constitution. Some of the stalagmites on top of Monument Mountain are also composed of aragonite. There is a large cavity (see photo) over six feet high in the north face of the Pillar that shows obvious signs of mining and numerous fragments of aragonite litter the floor and cavity. Collett (1879) observed battered cobbles near the cavity that he identified as prehistoric hammers used for quarrying. Hovey (1880) and Mercer (1895) made additional observations on quarrying activities at the Pillar and Monument Mountain. In 1896 Blatchley conducted extensive excavations in the spoil pile near the Pillar and found hammerstones, deer antler tines, charcoal, and ashes. It is believed fires were built to convey heat to the aragonite to fracture the stone, and pry it apart with the antler tines. No further archaeological studies were done until 1974 when Patty Jo Watson conducted studies in Wyandotte along with her research at Mammoth Cave National Park. It is thought the caves were visited about the same time periods by prehistoric peoples. On a side note, the Wyandotte Indians, for whom the cave is named, probably never ventured far into the cave at all. For some reason over a few hundred years the cave was not used as a source of minerals or exploration. Can you imagine what it would have been to be a caver a few hundred to a few thousand years ago? Were those people “special” to their societies?

Art Gerber died unexpectedly in August 2017, age 79. He never married and had no children. As of this writing, February, 2021, there have been three auctions of his collections, conducted by Cowan Auctions in Cincinnati, Ohio. The snowy owl figures have gone to auction, along with numerous items from his collection. They sold February 5, 2021, for \$20,400 to an unknown bidder.

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The wonderful "Snowy Owl" figure is composed of Wyandotte Cave aragonite.