

# History of Cleversburg Sink

In the Pennsylvania Geologic Survey, dated 1932, the reference is that the cave was discovered by E.M. Craighead, while hunting in the area. He was hunting with another man by the name of Frank Masland of Carlisle. Mr. Craighead was from Harrisburg.

The first recorded trip into the cave was in 1931 when the water level had dropped an estimated twenty five feet or so, and allowed access to the Giants Hall. Length of the cave at that time was estimated to be about four hundred feet. In the N.S.S. publication dated 1953, the length of the cave was listed as five hundred feet. That book in reference is bulletin fifteen, Caves of Pennsylvania by Ralph W. Stone.

The next reference is in Bulletin #4 of the Mid-Appalachian Region (MAR) series dated November 1958. Map and survey dated 1950, 1954 and 1957 by McKenna, B. Hivner, and B. Smeltzer listed the cave as nearly three thousand feet.

The owner as of 1991 was Kenneth Goshorn who was also, at that time, a Southampton Township supervisor. It was in 1991 that the FCG closed the main entrance with large tree trunks and rocks and debris that was lying around the sink. At that time, the FCG also installed the bat-friendly gate and kiosk. The township purchased the cave and surrounding ground in 1996 or 1997.

The FCG met with township officials at the time of their purchase and agreed upon a continued management of the cave and gate. In September 2005, the FCG in cooperation with Southampton Township returned to the original entrance to remove the trees, rocks, and debris previously filling the entrance, and replaced that with steel beams, concrete, and heavy gauge mesh overlain with rocks, concrete, and gravel.

In 2006, the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy entered into an agreement with Southampton Township, where it would manage the cave in coordination with Franklin County Grotto.