

NEW CAVE NEAR VERSAILLES.

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It is known as the cave of Dr. Jim Sale of Dillsboro. It is situated one mile northeast of Versailles. It is located near the top of a high hill overlooking Laughery valley. The view from this position is most picturesque. The lover of nature is enchanted by the richness of the scenery. The climb up the hill from the Fallen Timber creek to the mouth of the cave is most exhilarating.

The entrance is guarded by an iron gate. Excavations have been made and walls built, so as to open a passage to the cave proper, thus making it convenient for the visitor. A stream of water had been passing through the cave. Now a pipe carries off the water. About thirty feet from the mouth of the cave is the main room, which is very beautiful because of the numerous pillars, stalactites and stalagmites. The ceiling is high enough for the tallest man to walk in freely, and in some places could not touch the ceiling with outstretched arms. Some of the pillars are four to five feet in height. The ceiling is decorated artistically with stalactites in great numbers and in various sizes, with many corresponding stalagmites. Passing to the right there is a smaller room also covered with typical cave formations. A passage extends about thirty feet beyond in the clay and limestone rocks with only a few stalactites. Extending from the main room is a narrow passage about seventy feet long where there is a spring from which flows a moderate stream in rainy weather. The ceiling and crevices above are likewise decorated with the stalactites. Undoubtedly there must be other rooms, but they have been naturally filled up with dirt and stone. Even outcropping on the side of the hill are large formations of stalactites and stalagmites. It is certainly a very interesting place.

The region round about Versailles has many caves, but this is the only one that has the cave formations. While it is not a large cave like the Marengo and Wyandotte, yet its geological structures are just as typical and interesting as in the larger caves. It is instructive, for it is near the margin of the cave region of southern Indiana and northern Kentucky. Geologically speaking, it is in the lower Silurian or Ordovician formation. It will be instructive for the schools to visit the cave so as to get some accurate information of cave structures. The entire region is most fascinating.

