

GREAT CAVE IN ADIRONDACKS.

Explorer Penetrates It 1,000 Feet and
Thinks It Rivals Mammoth Cave.

Special to The New York Times.

SARANAC LAKE, N. Y., March 9.—In one of the most secluded parts of the Adirondacks, on the summit of a mountain little frequented by sightseers or sportsmen, Capt. E. E. Thomas of Saranac Lake has discovered an opening to a great cavern. He went inside for about a thousand feet, and there seemed no end to the distance he could penetrate with proper equipment.

Capt. Thomas, who is an old-time woodsman, stumbled upon the mouth of the cave, which is on "W" Mountain, several miles from Standish, some time ago, but kept the matter quiet until he should have a chance to investigate.

"I thought at the time that it seemed rather larger than the usual run of caves in the Adirondacks," he said to-day, "but I never dreamed of its being as large as it really is. The mouth is about 50 feet wide. The first room is 50 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 30 feet high. It swarmed with bats, which lined the walls and seemed scarcely able to move. There was a decided smell of sulphur.

"In the next room, which was about 40 by 15 by 25 feet, we found passages branching in many directions and were unable to explore all of them. With only the feeble rays of a lantern to guide us, we several times narrowly escaped falling into pits. You can imagine how deep some of these were when I say that we had time to count 15 and 20 before rocks we dropped into them were heard to strike—and we didn't count rapidly.

"An elk's horn was found by us far inside the cave. After going a short distance from the mouth there was no vegetation. There is no opening at the base of the mountain and there are no streams in the cave so far as we have yet discovered. I think it will turn out to be a second Mammoth Cave like that in Kentucky."

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