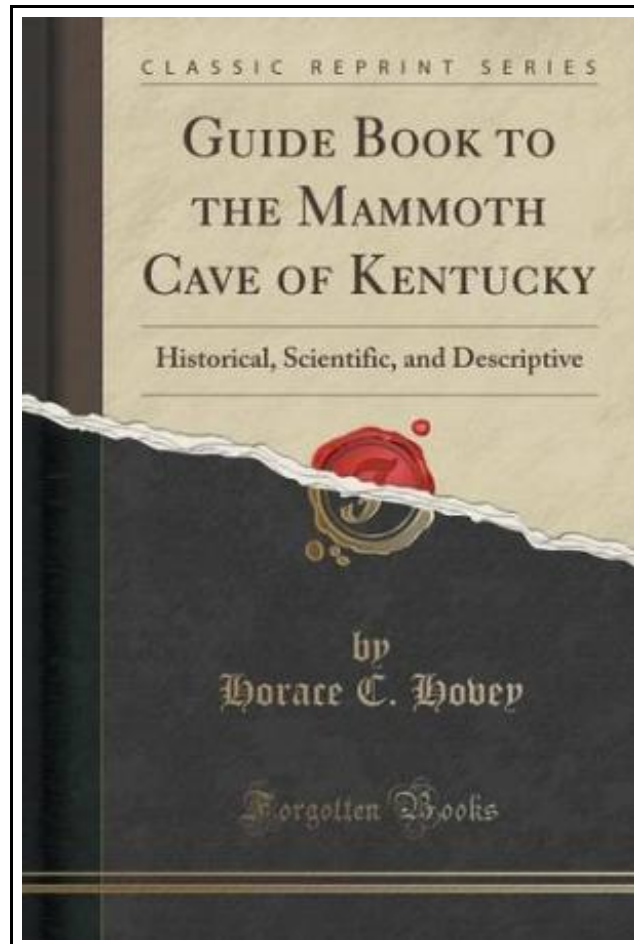


## Guide Book to the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky: Historical, Scientific, and Descriptive (Classic Reprint)



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## GUIDE BOOK TO THE MAMMOTH CAVE OF KENTUCKY: HISTORICAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND DESCRIPTIVE (CLASSIC REPRINT)



Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Excerpt from Guide Book to the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky: Historical, Scientific, and Descriptive Pioneer Patriots - Saltpeter Miners - Discovery of Mammoth Cave - War of 1812 - Change of Owners - The Croghan Heirs - The Guides - Early Literature of this Cavern - Its Geological Survey - Its Fauna - Map-making under Difficulties. The pioneers who followed in the wake of Daniel Boone, a century ago, were thrown on their own resources in all respects. Gunpowder was one of the necessities of life for men in daily peril from wild beasts and more savage Indians; but its importation was attended with expense and difficulty. Hence they sent out such strolling chemists as happened to be among them, to hunt for niter beds. These were found in considerable quantities under the shelter of ledges at the heads of ravines. The jutting crags reminded them of Gothic cathedrals and the ruins of baronial castles (as one of them expressed himself in writing to his friends), and therefore they called the smaller ones Rock Houses, and the larger ones Rock Castles. The soil and sand-banks, thus protected from the rains, proved to be richly impregnated with the coveted saltpeter, and solid masses were sometimes found weighing from 100 to 1,600 pounds. Usually, however, three men would not obtain more than from 50 to 100 pounds a day at the works. The tools and methods used were of the most primitive kind, and the workmen were readily induced to forsake a niter-bed as soon as its yield grew scanty, and were continually searching for masses of pure niter, and hoping to find veins of precious ores. This led...



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