

## Squire Boone Caverns

In 1790, Squire Boone and his brother, Daniel Boone, ventured up the Buck Creek valley only a few miles north of the Ohio River. Near the head of a side valley of Buck Creek they discovered a large spring issuing from a cave. A few years went by, but the picturesque valley and roaring water inspired Squire Boone to return. He settled in the valley with his family in 1804 and built a grist mill powered by water from the cave. Boone lived in the valley where he and his mill prospered until his death in 1815. In the 1920s, the mill burned and, in the years following, the cave was visited only occasionally by hardy cave explorers. Poor roads made the cave and mill site barely accessible to even the hardest visitor.

In the early 1970s, an effort was made to open the cave for visitors. A new road was built to the site. Then, for the comfort of visitors to the cave, two entrances were excavated and bridges installed to span the stream. To show the cave and its majestic formations in a dramatic manner, electric lighting was installed along the tour route. Today's visitors need only to don a light jacket and follow the guide into scenic passageways along a babbling stream. The highlight of the cave tour is the Rock of Ages column that is surrounded by beautiful draperies of stone. Visitors are also treated to many gleaming stalactites and stalagmites everywhere along the tour route. The trail also passes beside a rimstone dam that is more than 4 feet high and retains a pool of crystal clear water.

Outside the cave are the restored mill and a replica pioneer village. In 1980, the mill was restored to its original function of grinding grain. Water from the cave turns the mill wheel just as it did in the early 1800s. Squire Boone Caverns and mill are located just off State Highway 135, a few miles south of the historic town of Corydon.

