(40) Private Account of
A. F. McDonald
Permanent Guide of wind

January 1st 1891

Have been working all day on the narrow passage between The ~~chur~~ Church Steeple and the Camels Back. Discovered a fine Moss Agate crystal after second shot. and got a piece of it out too

January 2nd 1891

Worked on the narrow place between the Church Steeple and Camels Back in the forenoon and took a trip in the cave in the afternoon. At 12.30 P.M. I started for monument Hall with Alfred Matt of Hill City S. D. and Frank Lally of Chamberlain S. D. as followers after arriving at the room of the petrified swan, we tried the Volcanic chimney to the left and came unexpectedly on the rope. After leaving the White Elephants we determined to explore the Volcanic crevice leading N. W.. after a healthy climb we found the skeleton of a Mountain Rat and then discovered the first giant Coral I ever saw in the cave. after captureing a coupel of good pieces we returned to our

comrade who was sitting in the dark. From there we found a place near Lovers Retreat that needs exploring. after stopping a few minuets to examine it we plodded on to Monument Hall and returned Via, Sompsons Palace.

January 3rd 1897

Have been to Hot Spring to day. Sold a few specimens and had a pleasant chat with friends. started an Outlined map of Wind Cave this today evening

Sunday January 4th

It has been a dull day to day. With no Visitors except J. C. West, Will Jones and Boone Willard. I and Elmer took a trip in the cave at 7:15 P.M. and got out at 11:30 P.M. we discovered a lot of Black Diamond work on the Snow Ball Route to the right of the Camels Back and a good bit of Box work South East of the Fair Maids pathway. I brought a Big piece of Black Diamond work and will most likely keep it as it hard to get any more like it in size or shape.

It went in Mom's Collection good work

Monday Jan. 5th

I have been working out of doors today. I and Elmer started in the cave at 5.15 P.M. and returned to the entrance at 9.31 P.M. We put a shot in a small hole in the snow ball route, and after getting through I found a beautiful purple crystal. After bringing two pieces of it out, I traded the poorest one to Mary for a strange fossil, that father brought out and gave to her, that was worth a good deal more to me than the crystal. The fossil goes in my private collection

Tuesday Jan. 6th

I have been working near the Camels Back today and worked on the map this evening. Two visitors came just now but I do not know their names yet

Wednesday Jan. 7th

Started in the Cave this morning (main palace) at 6:30 AM and returned at 11:45 With E. Senechal of Chamberlain S.D. and J. J. Rafferty of Hill City as followers. I and Father fired two shots in the narrow passage between Spouting Valley and the Camels Back

But without much effect. I started in the cave at 8.40 P.M. and

Thursday Jan 8th

returned at 1:40 A.M. with R.B. Moss, Mrs R.B. Moss, Jessie Moss, Chas. Ostrum, J.L. Downs, W.S. Bisbee & Isaac Williams. Custer S.D. We all got as far as Moss' Palace and I found a place that needs exploring at the North East corner of Moss' palace. I went to bed at 5:30 A.M. and got up at 9:00 A.M. I and W.S. Bisbee started in the cave at 9:30 A.M and returned at 10:15 A.M after taking in the Crystal Palace Circuit. Moss' folks started home at 1:00 P.M and took Mary With them.

Friday Jan. 9th

I and Elmer put in four shots near the Comels Bluff with good effect and broke three drills in the action. Elmer Went over to Willards to Stayy to night

~~Friday~~ Saturday Jan 10th

I went to Hot Springs with Mr West this morning and will not return to the cave tonight. Father received a letter from Crawford A.T. today.

Sunday jan. 11th

I rode out from Hot Springs this morning with Melvin A. Moore. We started in the cave at 5:50 P.M and

Monday Jan 12th

returned at 12:15 A.M. We explored on the Sompson's Palace Route to the left of Wood Palace. The principal room we found was Mound Builders Rest. We explored about a half mile in three different chambers. The general formation is crystalization and geodes

Tuesday Jonuary 13th

Melvin A. Moore and I took a trip in the cave at 10.40 A.M. and returned at 2:00 P.M. We went to the old fort chambers on the cataract route. (yesterday)

Elmer and I worked on the camel Rock today but we have not broken it yet. I discovered a quartz crystal (native) this morning that has very much the appearance of a calsite pyramid crystal. I have come to the conclusion that the Camel's Rock is made of quartzite

Wednesday Jan 14th

I started to Hot Springs about 10:30 A.M.

and arrived at the Springs at 1:30 P.M
Put the horse in Mr. Browns stoble. (45)
I took Mrs Browns specimens to her and took
3.00 worth to Mr Sidey the specimen dealer
of hot Springs. He paid me two dollars and
promised me the rest. He gave me two tickets for
the Socials for which I was of course very much
obliged. I took supper at Mrs Brown's and
accompanied Miss Ada Brown to the social
and then started to the Soldiers home We got
there with both feet after encountering an
embonkment 12 or 15 feet high. We had a good
time at the Home and then returned with no
accident. Had a good time for nothing and stayed
at Moore's ~~at~~ ~~my~~ till morning.

Thursday Jan 15-th

I started out of town this morning at 9:30
and arrived at the cove at 1:00 PM Mr
Belfrige Kingbolt of Chadron Neb rode
out with me on the way to C.H. Roe's.
When I arrived Melvin A. Moore had just
got his team put in the barn. I and Melvin
took a trip in the Cataract Route tonight and
got a good load of frost and popcorn work.

Friday Jan. 16th

I and Melvin ~~Mel~~ A Moore fixed up
a load of tools and grub and went to Hot
Springs this afternoon. We are getting ~~ready~~
ready to start to the bad lands tomorrow.

Saturday Jan 17th

we got to the Bad lands at 10:00 A.M and
broke one axle before noon. It contained silver spar

in the afternoon we dug out one geode down the river from the camp that had yellow crystals in it. We rolled it down the bank and then went up the river and dug out another geode that had white crystals and then retired

Sunday Jan 18th

Melvin worked up a geode that had yellow crystals in it this forenoon while I prospected around through the hills. In the afternoon we put in a shot in the first gulch but found nothing. I dug out a geode across the gulch from it but found nothing.

Monday Jan 19th

Melvin found white crystals in the geode this morning that we dug out Saturday afternoon and took us all the forenoon. I worked out a geode this afternoon that had dark yellow crystals in it. We made up our mind about 2:30 P.M. to pull out, and we packed up and pulled out for Hot Springs. We reached the Springs at 4 o'clock P.M. So Ended our trip to the Bad Lands

Tuesday Jan 20th

I got up late this morning and I guess every body else did too because I went over to Mrs Brown's and they either washed up yet or locked the doors on

(I got there with both feet after while

me, I couldent get in any how.
I run my face for a Sack of four at Aldens this morning because Moss forgot to send us down any money. Mr Moore had the kindness to haul me and two boxes of specimens out to the cave this fore noon. We arrived about 2:00 P.M. J. A. McDonald told me that two visitors were here from Hill Town Sunday Jan 18th and got $2.50 out of them. Mr J C West came on a visit shortly after I arrived. I and Mr. Moore started in the cave at 7:15 P.M. and returned at 11:20 P.M. We went the Crystal route and by way of Crystal Palace. I brought out 6 geodes to fill John F. Sidey's order of the 16th good Night Lydia

Wednesday Jan 21st

Mr Moore left for Hot Springs about 11:00 A.M and took a good joke wrapped in about 1 pound of paper to my best friend Mrs. Brown.
We worked on the road this afternoon and took a trip in the cave this evening 5:00 P.M. to 11:20 P.M. 6 hrs. 20 min. We went the Sampson's Palace route to Mound Builders Rest. and got some fine geodes and crystalized Box Work

Thursday Jan. 22nd

I got up late this morning and prepared to Start to town (Hot Springs)

After packing Sidey's Specimens I got Started to Hot Springs at 11:15 A.M. I arrived at town at 6:30 P.m. and put the horse in a livery stoble in the lower town. I then went to Mrs. Brown's and had to acknowledge that she got the best of me on the joke I tried to play on her yesterday, because she kept the rock that I slipped so much paper around. After Starting a joke on Miss Ada Brown I got started home about 8:00 P.M. and arrived at 10:30 P.M.

~~[illegible]~~

Friday Apr 23rd

We got up late this morning and I started for the cave at 9:15 A.M. with W. Stirling of Hay Spring Neb. and Frank Stirling of Sault Ste. Marie Mich. as followers. We started for Mound Builders Rest and got there at 1:00 P.M. After looking around awhile we struck a passage leading to the left and went through a narrow passage for 200 feet before finding any thing of interest. We then found a flat room with four passages leading from it. We finaly chose the passage that lead South and then East. After following this passage for about a quarter of a mile through open rooms we found a place where there had been a heavy fall at some ancient period because the rocks are all stuck together with sediment of some kind. I found a geode with white crystals in at the bottom of the pile. After running out our string we returned to the flat room with the four passages leading

from it. I and Walter left Frank with the string so we couldent get lost and explored the other passages. I found nothing in the west passage and he found nothing in the East passage. Then we both went to N. E. passage and found a room of beautiful crystalized box, lattice and bracket work. together with some fine geodes. after loading up in good shape we started for the entrance and arrived at 6:30 P.M. after a 9 hr 15 minute trip. We were plenty tired when we got out and had a hearty supper. The folks went to bed and left me at 9:00 P.M. and I think I will get to bed at 10:00, P.M. have given up the idea of finding the end of Wind Cave. Good night

Saturday January 24th

I got up at 6:30 this morning and father went to Hot Springs with Mr. J. C. West, of Beaver Valley. I and Elmer worked on the road this fore noon. Levi Crum. come from the lime kiln about 11:00 A.M. with four pieces of log chain that he wanted welded together. C. M. Roe (the man that Roe's mine was named after) and Belfrige Kingbolt come about 11:30 A.M. and left about 12:00 M. father got home about 4:00 P.M. and brought an answer to the note I wrote to him this morning. Mrs. Brown said that She was'nt coming out to the cave tomorrow but I think she is getting off one of her jokes on me. I will try to keep even with her this time. Good night

Sunday January 25th 1891

Mrs. Brown did not come out today but plenty of others did. About 8:00 A.M. Mr Willard of Rapid creek and a friend come and started in the cave at 8:45 A.M. at 11:35 a.m. Mr Alden of Hot Springs come with his father and two friends also go in the cave. At 11:50 A.M. a crowd of 15 come from Hot Springs and started in the cave at 12:25 P.M.. At 12:30 P.M. I started in the cave with Mr Aldens crowd and returned at 3:50 P.M. (Was surprised to see M. A. Moore here when I got out.) We took the Crystal Palace Circle (via) Stalactite Route. M. A. Moore, Elmer, and I started in the cave at 6:30 P.M. and returned at 11:07 P.M. Went to the giant Coral of the monument Hall Route and were successful, considering circumstances. Good Night

Monday January 26th

I shouldered up a pick and shovel, and started for Beaver Creek at 9:00 o'clock this morning. I arrived at J. C. Wests place about 9:45 a.m. at 10:00 a.m. We started to prospect for mineral. Choosing a place about a quarter of a mile above Wests house. We began to dig without much encouragement. After an hours work we found a few pieces of Galina mixed through the quartz and Mica schist. The farther we dug the more mineral we seemed to find. By 4:00 P.M. we had developed the famous Lost Cabin Lode. I feel good over a days success which will probably bring riches some time good night Mary C.

Tuesday January 27th 1891

We were surprised to see 4 inches of snow on the ground when we got up this morning because there was a clear sky when we went to bed. Elmer started to Hot Springs at 8:00 a.m.. M. A. Moore and I started in the cave at 8:30 a.m. and returned at 1:00 P.M. 4hr. 30 min. trip. I found a pocket of crystalized Pop Corn work to the right of the second room on the Crystal Palace Circle as we were going in. We then started for the Stalactite room on the North West of the big circle of the Crystal Route. After we got about two thirds of the way there, we discovered that we had forgotten our extra candles, and then we had to hurry through a good bit faster than usual. We returned as soon as possible to Crystal Palace where I left Melvin and went after lights. After getting four candles I returned and then we filled a can of specimens in Crystal Palace. On the way out I filled my tin basket with crystalized pop corn work. When we got out of the cave we found 3 inches more snow on the ground. Making 7 inches in all. At 7:00 P.M. Melvin and I started for the old frost chambers on the Cataract Route. When we got to Snow Ball room we determined to get some quartz Crystals, which we got after four hours hard work. We discovered a pocket of black quartz crystals near the Fairys Palace. We loaded up and returned at 11:35 P.M. only to find more snow on the ground. Probaly 3 inches more. Making 10 inches of snow fall in 24 hours

Minnie T
Good night

Wednesday January 28th 91

M. A. Moore started home at 10:00 A.M. Elmer arrived home at 10:30 A.M. Elmer and I started in the cave at 1:00. P.M. to blast the camels back. We put in one 4 inch hole but did no good. We then put a 6 inch hole in the middle of the Camels Back & broke it all to pieces. While we were working it out father came in with Levi Crum to tell us that supper was ready. We got out at 5:00. P.M and were surprised to see J. L. Downs here I then got introduced to Mr. [illegible] a U.S. surveyer. Mr Downs, Mr. Palmer Palmer Elmer and I started in the cave at 7:45. P.M. and measured the distance we traveled with a surveyers chain. We named the first large room the other side of Mrs Palace "Monte Cristo's Palace". We arrived at Mound Builder's Rest at 12:00 o'clock.

Thursday January 29, 1891

We rested a while and then drained on to the fall that I found on the 23rd inst after looking around awhile we started back at 1:30. A.M. I loaded up a piece of Crystalized Box work at Mound Builder's Rest and a geode at Monte Cristo's Palace. We arrived at the entrance at 5:00. A.M. after 9 hr. 15 min trip and went straight way to bed. I got up at 10:00. A.M and Mr Downs and Mr Palmer left for Custer City at 10:30. A.M. we have been resting the most of the day because of our long trip in the cave last night. (good night minnie waight

Friday January 30th 1891

Stasted to town this morning and found the snow drifted plenty We got stuck in a snow drift near Mr Johnson's place and had to unhitch and dig the buggy out of the snow The horse was so tired when I got to town that I thought best to stay ater night

Saturday Jan 31st

Stasted from town at 11:30 this morning and came up Cold Brook Canon nearly all the way. Elmer and I started in the cave at 6:00 P.M, Elmer returned at 10:20 and I returned at 11:35 P.M. We discovered a fine quartz crystal in specimen route We got a load apiece of quartz crystals.

Monthly Reiser

Monument Hall	1	Trip
Crystal Palace	4	"
Giant Coral	2	"
Sampsons Palace	8	"
~~Mrs~~ Palace Scenaries of Wielow	7	"
Mound Builders Rest	3	"
Monte Cristo's Palace	~~4~~	"
Camels Back	15	"
Cataract route	2	"
Specimen Route	2	"
Stalobtite Route	2	"
		"
Total Number of trips in the cave	27	"
		"