

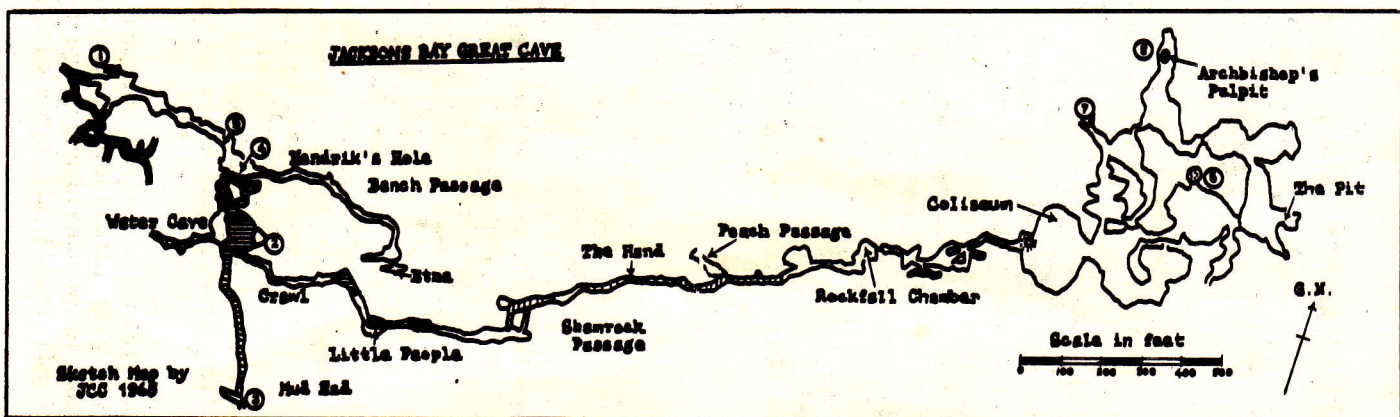
# Jackson's Bay Great Cave

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Since its formation in 1958, the Jamaica Caving Club has explored numerous caves and sinkholes. The basic techniques used have been described by R.C. Read in an earlier issue of *Information* (Vol. 4, pp.21-28).

Many of the caves investigated have been of little significance but occasionally major discoveries have been made. For instance, cavers exploring Chesterfield Cave near the village of Higgentown in St. Ann found a beautiful new lower chamber. In the same parish, a pitch at Noisy Water was descended and the underground course of what is probably the Cave River followed for half-a-mile. In Trelawny, the fine grottoes of Dromilly Cave were re-discovered. Near Richmond in St. Mary, a labyrinthine system was investigated with the help of the 1962 Leeds Hydrological Expedition. This system, now called Rock Spring Caverns, can be entered by ladder descent of sink-holes up to 200 feet deep, or by swimming through a spring emerging at the foot of a cliff. In the drought conditions prevailing in April of this year (1965) it became possible to extend the known length of Riverhead Grand Cave in St. Catherine by nearly a mile.

However, this article is concerned only with the latest, and perhaps the most exciting, discovery of the Club - the Great Cave at Jackson's Bay in the Vere district of Clarendon. Our attention was first drawn to the possibility of caves worth exploring in this area by a letter in Astley Clerk's scrapbook, "Caves of Jamaica", available at the West India Reference Library. In the letter dated 23rd September 1929, R.S. Tynedale-Biscoe recorded a visit to Olive Park Cave; he wrote that he had never seen any cave in England or Jamaica to compare with this one in interest or beauty! It is surprising that members of the Club remained unaware of the existence of this cave for so long, as it has been learnt since reading Biscoe's account that one part of the system, Water Cave, had been visited several times previously. The earliest intruder to penetrate the dark zone appears to have been T. Mostyn, who left his name and date, 1791; Biscoe refers to this inscription but it is now illegible. Historians and surveyors had visited



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