THE BLUE LICK WALKWAY

A Thesis

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by

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"The Blue Lick Walkway" is an audio documentary presented as a creative thesis to the Department of Communications at Morehead State University.

The story of the walkway revolves around what was, at the time, thought to be a pavement designed by an ancient race at Blue Lick Springs, Kentucky. The project traces the history of the area, and explores the discovery of the walkway.

Research for the project included interviews, articles from books, and newspaper clippings. The manuscript for the project was the result of over nine months of investigation at libraries and museums across the region.
From this information, a manuscript was formed. The project presented the information gathered, and allowed the listeners to decide for themselves whether the walkway was real or not.

The manuscript was adapted to script form. Using a combination of actors and audio tape recordings of interviews, an audio documentary was organized and edited. The result was a 24-minute audio documentary.

The Blue Lick walkway project required extensive research, as well as the use of many facets of audio production. This project contains a complete manuscript compiled from the research, the script adapted from the manuscript, and the completed audio documentary.

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Table of Contents

Introduction ............................................. 2
Chapter 1 .............................................. 3
Chapter 2 ............................................. 11
Chapter 3 ............................................. 15
Bibliography ........................................... 33
Conclusion ............................................. 37
Appendix 1 ............................................ 38
Appendix 2 ............................................ 59
Appendix 3 ............................................ 60
Introduction

This project, titled "The Blue Lick Walkway," is a creative project presented to the Department of Communications of Morehead State University.

The project is an audio documentary that explores what could be the proof of the existence of an ancient civilization in Robertson County, Kentucky. Using audio recordings of people involved with the walkway, along with actors portraying people in Blue Lick's past, the audio documentary traces the history of Blue Licks through present day.

This project includes a manuscript of the documentary, a completed script for the audio documentary, and the audio documentary itself.
Chapter 1

This chapter will explore the process of gathering information for the audio documentary, "The Blue Lick Walkway." This chapter will show the development of the research, including the gathering of data and recordings for the project.

At the turn of the century a Kentucky man found what might be evidence of the existence of an ancient civilization existing in Kentucky long before the first known settlers.

The discovery of a walkway of smooth stones, found underneath a mastodon's skeleton rocked the area, causing people to speculate on who the architects of the walkway might be. People through the years, both professional and amateur, have drawn conclusions as to whether the walkway was authentic, and if it was, if it was man-made or natural.

Today the Blue Lick walkway is virtually forgotten. But with the influx of television programs such as "Unsolved Mysteries," and books such as the Time-Life series on mysteries, this type of research seems to be
timely, helping to satisfy an audience's appetite for the unknown. A person's inherent curiosity will make the walkway an interesting study into the beliefs of Kentuckians at the turn of the century, as well as possibly satisfying a historical question—did an ancient race construct a stone walk at Blue Lick Springs? This project can raise some legitimate questions as to who really were the first humans in Kentucky. Couple that with the local flavor of the piece, and it proves to be an ideal study into an interesting subject.

The story of the walkway could not have been better if it had been created by a writer of fiction. A prosperous resort, known for the curative qualities of its sulphur springs, is threatened when the springs dry up. In the ensuing search for the water, a local man instead finds a mastodon skeleton, and beneath it, a smooth stone walkway with curious markings on the stones. Journalists hail the discovery as proof of an ancient civilization. The local man keeps the stones, but while he is away one day, the stones are accidentally destroyed. Thus, the proof of the walkway as a work of the ancients is lost. Future construction makes searches for more stones impossible. The walkway can be neither proved nor disproved. These elements make for a great story, and one that will
intrigue, as well as inform listeners.

A subject like this lends itself well to radio because of the nature of the story. While a videographer could tell the story with pictures, it would not have the same impact as a radio program. The Blue Lick walkway is a romantic story, one to capture the imagination of listeners. Images of a grizzled man digging for water in order to get a $500 reward are more vivid in the mind's eye. His finding of the bones, and then the walkway, and the public's reaction to the find could be shown on video, but it would not be as dramatic.

The topic for this project was selected as the result of information received from June Hughes Roe. Roe is well versed in the history and lore of the Springs. Roe has in her possession a copy of a 1965 report filed by students of Professor Charles H. Hapgood of Keene State College in New Hampshire. The report discusses the walkway, using letters solicited from local people as a base of information.

The story is fascinating, and raises the question of why such a potentially important find has been, for the most part, ignored over the years.

The problem with selecting such an obscure subject is finding enough information to support the project.
But research revealed that at the turn of the century, the stone pavement was big news.

Using the Hapgood report as an information base, it was possible to collect the names of the local people who contributed to the report. In order to avoid replicating the 1965 report, the Hapgood paper was used to get leads for interviews only.

Research for the project was divided into three sections. One section focused on the history of the area. The second concerned the walkway itself. And the third involved the people who were a part of the Blue Lick story.

Joan Weissinger Conley, head of the Nicholas County Historical Society, edited a 1976 book tracing the history of Nicholas County which mentions the Blue Lick walkway. Conley provided the names of two people who could possibly aid in research for the project.

One of the people Conley mentioned was Mrs. Thelma Standiford, grand-daughter to Thomas Hunter, the man who discovered the walkway. The other person Conley suggested was Charles Goldstein, an amateur historian who was refurbishing the Old Stone Tavern, located outside of Blue Licks. According to rumor, one of the stones
from the walkway was in the entryway of the tavern.

According to the Hapgood report, there was supposedly a walkway similar to the Blue Lick pavement near Collbran, Colorado. Inquiries to the Colorado State Museum were fruitless, as were conversations with the University of Colorado Museum, and Colorado archaeologist Harley Armstrong. None had heard of a walkway near Collbran. This practically eliminated the chances of finding an archaeologist to provide information on the Colorado walkway.

The next step was to contact the Collbran, Colorado Town Building. As luck would have it, the person who answered the phone was the wife of the man who owned the property that the walkway was on. According to Mrs. Don Nichols, her husband had dug up the pavement and re-covered it a couple of times, and was preparing to unearth it again. However, Mrs. Nichols said the pavement was more of a floor than a walkway.

It was essential to build a history of both Blue Licks and the discovery of the walkway. With a capsulized history of Blue Licks, one would get a better understanding of the area and the people who might have been responsible for the walkway—if it was authentic.

Who's Who and other biographical publications provided background on the people quoted in the project.
Because the topic would lend itself easily to exaggeration it was important to establish the credibility of the sources of the information.

Research was conducted at libraries around the Blue Licks area, including Maysville, Cynthiana, Morehead, Mount Olivet, Fleming County, and the University of Kentucky.

The microfilm files of the Maysville-Mason County Museum produced a small, one-paragraph mention of the walkway from the 1897 edition of the Maysville Evening Bulletin. While the article did not provide a lot of information, it did give a time frame to focus the research around. Further research at the libraries provided articles from newspapers ranging from the Carlisle Mercury to the Lexington Morning Herald to the Louisville Courier-Journal, each with eyewitness accounts of the existence of the walkway.

Blue Lick Battlefield State Park manager Sam Devine provided access to papers not on display at the park museum. Among the papers was the original copy of "My Visit to Blue Licks and What I Saw," a paper featured in the Hapgood report.

In a taped interview, Thelma Standiford,
grand-daughter of the man who discovered the walkway, related in great detail her grandfather's find. Being a relative of Thomas Hunter, her story would prove to be an integral part of the project.

During the interview with Mrs. Standiford, she received a visitor. It was her friend, Bernice McClanahan. McClanahan was host to Professor Hapgood while he was at Blue Licks. During a taped interview, McClanahan provided insight into Hapgood's opinions on the walkway, and what progress he made in his search.

Having collected audio recordings of individuals who were directly connected to the people involved with the Blue Lick walkway, the next step was to get a professional's view of the story. Archaeologist Dr. Barbara Thiel at Northern Kentucky University suggested contacting the Kentucky Historical Society. That led to a taped interview with Dr. Ken Tankersly, a research archaeologist at the Illinois State Museum. Coincidentally, Dr. Tankersly had done extensive research in Nicholas County, and was able to provide an archaeological history of the area. Tankersly also was the first "negative" interview, saying that the walkway was on a par with flying saucers. This interview provided a "natural" viewpoint of the walkway, to
balance the "man-made" responses that were already on tape.

There was still another aspect of the walkway to explore. If the walkway was, indeed, authentic, then who were the architects? It had been suggested by a member of the Maysville-Mason County Museum that the Madocs were a prime candidate. According to the legend of the Madoc, a race of white Indians lived in Kentucky at one time. A taped interview with history professor John Klee at Maysville Community College provided an indepth look at the story of the white Indian. From Klee's description of the legend, it fit perfectly with the Blue Lick walkway. If the walkway was man-made, the Madoc were a good choice for possible architects.

The study of the Madoc concluded the research for the project. The information gathered included taped interviews with individuals connected to the people involved with the walkway, as well as professional's viewpoints on the walkway. A complete history of the area had been gathered, as well as extensive discussions on the walkway in various newspapers of the time. The next chapter will focus on the process of correlating this information, producing a script, and the actual audio documentary on the Blue Lick walkway.
This chapter will discuss the process of turning raw information into a coherent script, and then the procedure of turning the script into an audio documentary.

The previous chapter focused on the information gathering process. This process produced newspaper articles, audio tape, and historical accounts of the events at Blue Lick Springs.

The information for the project was first written in manuscript form, to make it easier to spot problems with the structure of the text. The text was divided into three sections. After an introduction, a history of the Blue Lick area was given. Second, the discovery of the walkway was discussed. Finally, debate over whether the walkway was authentic or man-made was discussed. This format allowed a logical progression from the beginnings of Blue Licks to the finding of the walk to present day.

The introduction included a brief synopsis of the Blue Lick walkway, and what would be discussed during the course of the paper. The next section delved into
the history of the area, focusing on historical highlights such as the Battle of Blue Licks, Daniel Drake's visit to Blue Licks, the prosperity of the Springs, followed by the drying up of the Springs. This set the stage for Hunter's discovery of the bones and the walkway, and for the rest of the project.

For the purpose of structuring the story, the next section of the project was divided into two parts. One consisted of stories about Blue Licks and newspaper accounts. The second section consisted of interviews. For the first section actors were used to recreate the text of the newspaper accounts of the walkway, to provide more variety for the presentation. The second section consisted of interviews. Dividing the story of the walk into two sections helped prevent any confusion between who were actors and who were the interviewees.

The next section presented possibilities regarding the walkway, whether it be natural or man-made. No conclusions were drawn as to the authenticity of the walk. With a subject of this nature, it seemed better to present the facts and let the listener decide as to their validity.

This concluded the construction of the text for
the project. A script was fashioned from the manuscript. Staff members from WFTM radio in Maysville provided voices for the characters portrayed in the "history of Blue Licks" section of the project. Their passages were recorded at the studios of WFTM, using an Optimus SCT-87 cassette deck, and an Electrovoice 635A microphone.

The author, serving as narrator, also recorded at the WFTM studios. The voice of June Hughes Roe was recorded at the home of the author.

Thelma Standiford, Bernice McClanahan and John Klee were recorded using a portable Panasonic Slim-Line cassette recorder. Dr. Ken Tankersly was recorded by phone through the facilities of WFTM, using a Realistic SCT-35 cassette deck.

Once the actors, interviews and narrative was on cassette tape, the passages needed for the audio documentary were transferred to reel-to-reel, using a Shure Broadcast Mixer to transfer the audio from the SCT-87 cassette deck to the RCA reel-to-reel machine.

Using a Crown 800 Series reel-to-reel machine, the tape was edited, deleting glitches, and "uh's" from the tape. Long pauses were also edited in order to aid the smooth flow of the narrative.

For background music, two separate approaches were
taken. For the actors, a music background was provided from a pair of music production libraries. No music background was provided for the interviewees. This was done to further separate the actors from the interviewees to avoid any confusion. For the narrative, a single theme music was used, in order to serve as a musical "anchor" for the project.

The completed project was transferred to audio cassette for presentation to the Morehead State University Department of Communications thesis committee for consideration.

The next chapter contains the complete manuscript of the Blue Lick walkway. This is the final form of the paper, the one that a script was fashioned from.
Chapter 3

This chapter will focus on the research collected for the production of the radio documentary. The information in this chapter will be used to formulate a script. This chapter is presented in manuscript form. A scripted form of the data is presented in Appendix one.

It was the turn of the century. And a famous resort that had attracted people from all over the world was in danger of losing its lifeblood. A local man was determined to find the source of the problem. Instead, he found something else.

1897 was not a very good year for Blue Lick Spring water. For years, Blue Lick Springs, Kentucky was a resort of international renown, attracting clientelle from the states and abroad, eager to imbibe in the therapeutic waters of the spring. Business was booming, as was evidenced by the advertisements of the time:

Genuine Blue Lick water, for indigestion, constipation, liver and kidney trouble, has no equal. An ounce of prevention in every pint of Blue Lick. (Unknown, 1905)

This well known watering place is celebrated for its superior and valuable properties of its
water. It's delightful. And they can promise from their long experience in catering to the taste and comfort of the public, that the house shall be kept in a style inferior to no hotel in the West. (Tureman, Hughes, 1856)

But the owners of the Springs soon found that the water was going elsewhere. Afraid of losing their source of revenue, they offered Thomas W. Hunter five hundred dollars to find where the water was going. Instead of finding the springs, however, he found the bones of prehistoric animals. Digging further, he came upon a smooth stone walkway, leading to a set of steps. (Robinson, 1965)

The stones Hunter found had curious markings on them, which were at the time compared to Roman numerals. (Sampson, 1965)

Newspapers from the surrounding area, including Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio, trumpeted the discovery, calling it proof of the existence of a prehistoric civilization. (Jillson, 1949:11)

The question is, is there an ancient walkway at Blue Lick Springs, Kentucky? Or, as some people have suggested, are the stones found by Hunter just a natural phenomenon? And, if the pavement is man-made, who were the architects?

A look at Blue Lick's past reveals the area's rich history. Colonel Christopher Gist was one of the first
visitors to the Blue Licks, traveling in 1751 down what he called the "Great Buffalo Road," (Jillson, 1949:5)
a path carved out by the animals that roamed freely throughout the region. John Filson describes the buffalo trace in his history of Kentucky:

The amazing herds of buffalo which resort thither, by their size and number, fill the traveler with amazement and terror, especially when he beholds the prodigious roads they have made from all quarters, as if leading to some populous city; the vast space of land around these springs desolated as if by a ravaging enemy, and the hills reduced to plains; for the land near those springs are chiefly hilly. These are truly curiosities, and the eye can scarcely be satisfied with admiring them. (Filson, 1784:32)

Gist was soon followed by hunters, explorers and pioneers. Pioneer Daniel Boone came to Blue Licks in 1770. (Jillson, 1949:6) Simon Kenton arrived at the Licks three years later. In his account of the travels of Simon Kenton, John M'Clung described Kenton's trip:

Kenton, with two companions, set out from Cabin creek, a few miles from Maysville...to explore the neighboring country. In a short time they reached the neighborhood of May's Lick, and for the first time were struck with the uncommon beauty of the country and fertility of the soil. Here they fell in with the great buffalo trace, which, in a few hours, brought them to the Lower Blue Lick. The flats upon each side of the river were crowded with immense herds of buffalo, than had come down from the interior for the sake of the salt; they crossed the Licking...when, falling in with another buffalo trace, it conducted them to the Upper Blue Lick, where they again beheld elk and buffalo in immense numbers. (M'Clung, 1847:86)
Nine years after Simon Kenton's arrival at Blue Licks, on August 19, 1782, Blue Licks help sustain Kentucky's reputation as "The Dark and Bloody Ground" by playing host to the last battle of the American Revolution. It was here that Major Hugh McGary plunged into the Licking River with the battle cry, "All who are not cowards, follow me!" (Unknown, 1989)

The Indians, waiting in ambush, decimated the troops. Daniel Boone, one of the commanders of the Kentucky militia, escaped. Boone recounted the battle to the governor of Virginia:

> From the manner in which we had formed, it fell to my lot to bring on the attack. This was done with a very heavy fire on both sides, and extended back of the line to Colonel Trigg; where the enemy was so strong that they rushed up and broke the right wing at the first fire. Thus the enemy got in our rear; and we were compelled to retreat with the loss of seventy-seven of our men and twelve wounded.

> Afterwards we were reinforced by Colonel Logan, which made our force four hundred and sixty men. We marched again to the battleground; but finding the enemy had gone, we proceeded to bury the dead. (Collins, 1874:660)

Boone's son Israel was killed in battle. (Unknown, 1989)

Ten years later, on June 1, 1792, Kentucky entered the Union as the fifteenth member of the United States of America. (Flatt, 1984:435)

Daniel Drake, the founder of the first teaching
hospital west of the Alleghenies (Mobley, 1985:xvii) was one of the first people to discover the prehistoric significance of Blue Lick Springs. In his memoirs, Drake fondly recalls a childhood visit to the Springs with his father in 1796, when he was eleven years old:

The distant water-mill of which I have spoken, was two miles above the Blue Licks, so noted in latter years as a watering place. It was then famous for salt. The trip was instructive and deeply interesting. We passed through a zone of oakland, and when three miles from the springs, we came to an open country, the surface of which presented nothing but moss-covered rocks, interspersed with red cedar. Not a single house, or any work of art, broke the solemn grandeur of the scene; and the impression it made was indelible. I had tasted the salt-water, seen the rude evaporating furnaces, and smelt the salt and sulphurous vapor which arose in columns from them. I had learned that immense herds of buffalo had, before the settlement of the country, frequented this spot, destroyed the shrubs and herbage around, trodden up the ground, and prepared it for being washed away by the rain, till the rocks were left bare. Finally I was told that around the licks, sunk in the mud, there had been found the bones of animals much larger than the buffalo, or any then known in the country. These sights and others, which I now and then saw, gave, I believe, a decided impulse to the love of nature implanted in the heart of every child.
(Mansfield, 1855:25)

The 1800's saw Blue Lick Springs reach a new popularity for the water's curative powers. Blue Lick proprietors boasted that the spring water "had an extensive fame and are not surpassed in curative qualities by any on the continent." (Coleman, 1955:41)

The English traveler Cuming visited Blue Lick Springs
During the summer of 1807 and noted that "they are frequented by people from different parts of the state, as both a cure and antidote for every disorder incident to the human frame." (Coleman, 1955:25)

During the 1830's the Springs were moderately successful. But, in the forties, the resort underwent a change which greatly affected business. A three-story frame hotel was built, six hundred and seventy feet in length, with 1500 feet of "large and airy galleries." Included was a spacious dining room, together with a large ballroom, and three elegantly furnished parlours. Since the Springs were located on the principal stage coach mail route through Kentucky, they were easily accessible to vacationists and travelers. During the height of it's watering season, from four to six hundred guests frequently registered at the fashionable resort. (Coleman, 1942:15)

During the cholera epidemic of 1849, great crowds of panic-stricken citizens fled the cities and towns and flocked to watering-places like Blue Licks. In 1851, a Mr. Talbutt boasted that Blue Licks was "one of the very few places that has entirely escaped the cholera in the last two years." (Coleman, 1955:65)

Then the Springs suffered a number of reversals.
On April 7, 1862, during the beginnings of the Civil War, the three-story hotel at Blue Lick Springs was destroyed by fire, the work of arsonists. On August 17, 1889, the Arlington Hotel burned. The old LaRue House, or Pavilion Hotel, was left, but the veins of the springs began to dry up in the fall of 1896. (Coleman, 1955:81,94)

The Blue Lick Springs Company, in an effort to find a new vein of mineral water, hired Thomas W. Hunter to search for the water. Hunter searched for the Springs during the dry autumn months, and on October 30, 1897, he made a discovery - although not the one he had expected.

At a depth of eight feet, Hunter made the same discovery that Daniel Drake and others had before him. He found the bones of buffalo, deer, and elk. But he also found the prehistoric bones of a mastodon. He found enough bones to fill up two farm wagons. Intrigued, but still determined to find the Blue Lick Spring water, Hunter dug on. And while he still did not find the missing mineral water, Hunter made a discovery that made headlines.

G.R. Keller, the publisher of the Carlisle Mercury, visited Blue Lick Springs to get a first-hand look at Hunter's find:
The editors and publisher of the Mercury went to Blue Licks last Sunday to see the bones of prehistoric animals recently unearthed by Thomas W. Hunter. The facts in regard to these bones are almost too much to believe, but as we have seen the curiosities with our own eyes we know the wonders are there. Mr. Hunter has dug evidences that there lived a race of men who had laid a stone walk to the springs after the same manner as the walks of this day are laid. The smooth worn rocks are there as proof of this. Several feet below where rested these prehistoric bones are sure evidences of the work of the hands of man. (Keller and Keller, 1897:1)

Long before the white man sat foot on this historic ground, 'there were others,' and of these it is only for us to speculate. The stones were laid in perfect order and were worn as smooth as the old stone pavements of a city, showing plainly the work and use of man before the deposit of the bones of these huge animals. (Keller, 1897:1)

Dr. M.G. Buckner and Reverend Benjamin Herr visited the Blue Lick site on behalf of the Kentucky University museum, and described their findings to the Lexington Morning Herald and the Louisville Courier-Journal:

The most interesting fact connected with the discovery, and one which is likely to prove of the most value, was the finding beneath the stratum of gravel of the ruins of what seems to originally been intended for a pavement or roadway. The pavement is made of large slabs of limestone, closely laid in a workmanlike manner. The discovery of this remnant of an ancient civilization of this section will prove an interesting item to the student of ethnology. (Herald, 1897:5) (Courier, 1897:5)

Other publications make mention of the walk as well, including A.B. Lipscomb's Commercial History of Southern States which describes a "well-laid and much worn stone pavement." (Lipscomb, 1903:101)
A paper entitled "My Visit to Blue Licks and What I Saw," in the possession of the Blue Lick State Park Museum, tells of one person's trip to the Springs, and an examination of the stones:

Mr. Hunter excavated a neatly arranged pavement, a much more prehistoric discovery than the bones of animals. The stones were regularly placed side by side, about four foot wide. On some of the pavement stones are seemingly letters, which look like the letter "N" of our English alphabet. The rocks number about 20 and vary in size are of a gray-blue color, very hard and smooth as an old hearthrock. Some one suggested that the animals had licked them smooth, but Mr. Hunter said, "No, did animals place them in a row to lick them?" We all laughed at the suggestion where the reason was applied. (Unknown:6)

According to Thomas Hunter's daughter, Hattie, the pavement stones her father excavated were at a depth of approximately 20 feet, about four feet below the depth of the bones. Hattie Hunter says the markings were similar to those in the English alphabet, also dots and dashes such as L, X, V, II, C, curves, inverted V's, plus marks, and other characters. (Hunter)

The walkway received a lot of interest from professional and amateur archaeologists. In a letter to Thomas Hunter dated June 18, 1900, M.C. Lamprey, a high school principal, wrote:

The perfectly laid walk of well worn stones interests me even more than the relics. Nothing I have read interests me more that is in this line.
It is not uncommon to find flint implements with the remains of the mastodons, but I have never read of a stone walk before. (Lamprey, 1900)

For his trouble, the proprietors of Blue Licks gave Hunter the bones he had found, as well as the pavement stones. (Price, 1976) Hunter took the bones to local fairs as a scientific curiosity. The pavement stones were placed in his basement.

There was a lapse of over four decades before there was renewed interest in the Blue Lick Springs. And in that time, the stones Thomas Hunter had removed from the "walkway" he found were destroyed. It seems that one day while Hunter was away lecturing with the prehistoric bones he had found, his sons, Hugh and Ed Hunter, ground the stones up for their driveway. When Hunter returned home, he was understandably upset. (Standiford, 1991)

In the fall of 1945, well-known amateur naturalist Victor K. Dodge conducted an archaeological dig at Blue Lick Springs. (Jillson, 1968:53) Dodge invited former state geologist Willard Rouse Jillson to be present at the dig. In addition to fifty books, Jillson had written over 200 reports, papers, and pamphlets, and over 100 articles on historical, biographical, and scientific subjects. (Southard, 1936:215)

Jillson wrote of the findings during the dig. And
while many fossils were found, including bones from the mastodon, there was no mention of a walkway.

Dodge returned to the Springs in September of 1946 to continue his dig. Mastodon bones were again found, but again, the walkway was not mentioned.

The next dig at Blue Licks was not until 1954, when Willard Rouse Jillson, at the request of Thomas Hunter's sons, Hugh and Ed, joined them for a fossil hunt. The men found jaw teeth, measuring four to eight inches at the crown, and covered with gold. Unfortunately, the gold was actually iron pyrite, or "Fool's Gold," which had formed on the teeth. (Craig, 1954:9)

During the dig, the men collected 165 separate specimens from poor to good condition. Jillson estimated that during the digs at Blue Licks between 1785 and 1954, 750 specimens of various vertebrate fossils had been found. (Jillson, 1968:64) But, again, there was no mention of a walkway.

Interest in Blue Lick Springs seemed to wane. That is, until 1965, when a trio of students from Keene State College in New Hampshire decided to use the Blue Lick walkway as the subject of a term paper. The students had discovered the existence of the pavement after reading an article by W.L. Valette titled "Is America the Birthplace of Man?" In the article, Valette mentions
the Blue Lick walkway, along with a tile floor found on Kenny Ranch near Collbran, Colorado. (Hapgood, 1965:1)

The article makes a correlation between the Blue Lick walk and the one in Colorado. Valette says:

A similar paving was found several years back, even further underground (than the Kenny Ranch). Twelve feet beneath the surface the bones of a mastodon were discovered at Blue Lick Springs, Kentucky, of carefully quarried and dressed slabs. If the gravel was of glacial deposit, as it seemed to be, the pavement certainly was there before the glacier had deposited it, and would date back far into the Pleistocene, if not to the Pliocene. (Hapgood, 1965:2)

To gather more information, the students sent out letters to newspapers around Kentucky, requesting any information on the pavement. The response was generous.

The letters differed in some small details, but all were in agreement that there was a pavement found at Blue Licks. What they did not agree on, however, was whether the walk was natural or man-made.

The idea of an ancient walkway intrigued the student's professor. That man was Charles H. Hapgood, a Harvard graduate and author of several books and articles on the wonders of the earth. (Kinsman, 1976)

Hapgood made the decision to visit the Blue Licks site to see the walk for himself. Bernice McClanahan played host to Professor Hapgood while he was at Blue Licks:
He talked a lot about this pavement. He was very interested in because he knew of one already of the same type of floor, pavement, or whatever ceremonial area in the west. And he wanted to compare what was here. He knew, or he thought he knew, that the same civilization that was here was there at that period in time.

He brought two boys with him from his class. They stayed in the old store at Blue Lick and they dug and explored but, it came a terrible, rainy time, and he had to give it up because his period of leave was over. And so, we still don't know. (McClanahan, 1991)

Although Hapgood was unable to find anything, the information he gathered from the residents of Blue Licks was enough to convince him that Thomas Hunter had found something underneath the mastodon bones at the turn of the century.

Since Charles Hapgood left Blue Lick Springs in 1965, empty-handed, the story of the Blue Lick walkway has been virtually forgotten. The Blue Lick Battlefield State Park attracts many visitors each year, and the museum exhibits the bones found by Thomas Hunter at the close of the 1800's. But there are still those who remember the walkway. Thelma Standiford is the granddaughter of Thomas W. Hunter, and she remembers the story of the walkway well:

They were digging by hand with a pick and a shovel. And he dug down and he found these stones. They were very slick on the top and they had this, what I called hieroglyphics from his explanation of them, and they look like they'd been used on
top. But when you turned one of those stones over, it was rough, just like a normal rock should be. So, he took some of those up. I think they said he had about thirty, now, that's what he had at one time. And they had all these figures or whatever they were on these stones and they never found out what they belong to. (Standiford, 1991)

If the Blue Lick walkway is, indeed, authentic, who did they belong to? The Maysville Evening Bulletin ventured a guess. According to the Bulletin of Wednesday, November 3, 1897, since it was below the bones of the mastodon it must be a work of the mound builders. (Bulletin, 1897:5)

Practically every society has their own claim to the civilization of America. As Oscar Wilde said, "America had often been discovered before, but it had always been hushed up."

Depending on who you ask, you might be told that America was discovered by black Africans in 1500 B.C. Or, the Phoenicians in 600 B.C. Or the Romans in A.D. 64. Perhaps it was St. Brendan in the 6th century. Or Bjarni Herjolfsson in 986. Then again, it might have been Leif Ericson in 1001. Or Niccolo and Antonio Zeno in 1400. It could have been a mysterious Pole in 1476. Or Bristol fishermen in the 1480's. Or the Portuguese in the 1480's. It might even have been discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492. (Boorstin, 1991:57-59)
Everybody wants to claim the discovery of America. The Mongolian theory states that the first American visitors were Chinese or Scythians who arrived here by way of the Bering Straits in 499. Then there is the logic that since certain Aztec decorations and designs are similar to Egyptian motifs, the Egyptians must be the first settlers. Unless, of course, you think the early Indians were part of the ten lost tribes of Israel. (Funkhouser, Webb, 1928:48)

One of the more interesting theories, and one that has some possible basis in Kentucky history, is the story of the Madoc, or white Indian. This story is handed down by the Indians themselves. The Indian chiefs "Tobacco" and "Cornstalk" told General G.R. Clark, Colonel McKee and Colonel James Moore that before the red man came to Kentucky, a white race existed. (Purcell, 1915:12)

John Klee, professor of history at Maysville Community College, relates the story of the white Indians:

The legend goes, this Prince Madoc, I believe, in the 12th century, took nine or twelve boats, left Wales and was never heard of again. There were persistent stories, and it even found its way into some of the earlier newspapers. And one story that I believe Clift relates is that there was a present Welshman, and we're talking here probably in the 1700's, who was in Louisville. He was talking in Welsh, and one of the Indians understood him. And the theory goes that some of these white Indians had connections with the red Indians, and had learned part of the language.
There's another piece of physical evidence, and this is where you've got to worry about the rumors and legend part of it, supposedly a breast plate of armor that had coats of arms on it was discovered.

Perhaps one of the pieces of physical evidence that we do know really exists, and is still in existence, is the bear's tooth. And another piece of jewelry that Indians drew that has a Maltese cross on it.

The thinking goes, the settlement, as our archaeologists have dated it, pre-dates the present Indians. So, the Maltese cross couldn't have been discovered or wouldn't have been. If the date is true, that the fortifications pre-date the present Indians, who are the only ones we know who had contact with the whiter people, then where did the cross come from? How did the Indians know how to draw it? Because that's a European thing. Now, the only other explanation is just coincidence, that the symbol was there. Of course, that stretches credibility. The legend goes that there was a battle between the white Indians and the red Indians, and the white Indians were eliminated. (Klee, 1991)

The white Indian legend was so prevalent at the time, that Thomas Jefferson told Lewis and Clark to keep an eye peeled for those Welsh Indians when he sent the explorers out in 1804. Meriwether Lewis later reported that he had found the tribe. The flatheads in the Rockies, it seems, spoke with "a brougue or bur on their tongue."

According to Lewis, "They are the honestest savages we have ever seen. We take these Indians, therefore, to be the Welsh Indians." (Boorstin, 1991:57)

Could these Madocs, or "white Indians" have been the architects of the Blue Lick walkway? Or could the walkway be man-made, but not as old as was thought? It
is suggested in *The History of Nicholas County* that the walkway was man-made, though not of Indian origin. The article's authors think the walkway was laid by David Tanner, who was at Blue Licks making salt in 1784.

According to the book, Tanner would dig pits to gain access to the spring. (Conley, 1976:14) But while the explanation seems logical on the surface, it does not take into account the mastodon skeleton found on top of the walkway.

The Blue Lick walkway is not the only pavement found in the Blue Lick area. According to Collin's *History of Kentucky*, on top of a ridge near the Upper Blue Lick Springs, there is a pavement over 100 feet square of smooth, large flat stones. Collins says the marks of the tools used in dressing the stones were still visible. Collins went on to suggest that the area was designed for sacrificial or ceremonial purposes by a race preceding the Indians of the 18th century. (Collins, 1874:654)

There is still another possibility to consider. The walk could just be a work of nature. Dr. Ken Tankersly, research archaeologist at the Illinois State Museum, believes this to be the case:

> What you have is as the limestone weathers, it weathers along bedding planes and joints. Just imagine an ice tray. And, let's for a moment imagine
that the thing between the ice cube is made of a compound metal, say mercury, which melts faster than the ice itself. Well, that's essentially their planes of weakness. That's what's going on in limestone across the area. It's actually a by-product of weathering. If you excavate a karstic area, or even a place where you got middle or division limestone, remove the sediment. What you will find is the bedrock surface. And the stones laid in a nice sequence.

You've got to be able to rule out mother nature. What you have to do is, go get the stones themselves. If they're not available, the other thing would be to excavate the site and look for more of it. Otherwise it becomes an interesting historical footnote. (Tankersly, 1991)

The Blue Lick Springs walkway - a product of nature or proof of an ancient civilization? The site of Thomas Hunter's original dig is now underneath the pavement of U-S Highway 68, making excavation impossible.

So, that's how it ends. Without excavating, there is no way to verify or dispute the Blue Lick walkway. Or, as Dr. Tankersly put it, it becomes an interesting historical footnote. As for whether it was natural or man-made, we may never know.
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Conclusion

The Blue Lick walkway audio documentary is the culmination of over 9 months of research, audio compilation and production. The final product is a production that will inform and hopefully, entertain.

Work on the project has provided the author insight into the work involved in producing an audio documentary. The obscurity of the topic demanded extensive research, and the production required the use of many facets of audio production. The appendices include the completed script for the project, production and music credits, and the finished audio documentary.
Appendix 1

MUSIC: (UP FULL THEN UNDER) MUSIC 1

NARRATOR: It was the turn of the century. And a famous resort that had attracted people from all over the world was in danger of losing its lifeblood. A local man was determined to find the source of the problem. Instead, he found something else. (PAUSE) 1897 was not a very good year for Blue Lick Spring water. For years, Blue Lick Springs, Kentucky was a resort of international renown, attracting clientelle from the states and abroad, eager to imbibe in the therapeutic waters of the spring. Business was booming, as was evidenced by the advertisements of the time.

MUSIC: (QUIETLY UNDER) MUSIC 2

SALES MAN: Genuine Blue Lick water, for indigestion, constipation, liver and kidney problems, has no equal. An ounce of prevention in every pint of Blue Lick water. This well known watering place is celebrated for its superior and valuable properties of its water. It's delightful. And they can promise from their long experience in the catering to the taste and comfort of the public, that the house shall be kept in a style inferior to no hotel in the west.
NARRATOR: But, the owners of the springs soon found that the water was going elsewhere. Afraid of losing their source of revenue, they offered Thomas W. Hunter five hundred dollars to find where the water was going. Instead of finding the springs, however, he found the bones of prehistoric animals. Digging further, he came upon a smooth stone walkway, leading to a set of steps. The stones Hunter found had curious markings on them, which were at the time compared to Roman numerals. Newspapers from the surrounding area, including Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio, trumpeted the discovery, calling it proof of the existence of a prehistoric civilization. The question is, is there an ancient walkway at Blue Lick Springs, Kentucky? Or, as some people have suggested, are the stones found by Hunter just a natural phenomenon? And, if the pavement is man-made, who were the architects? A look at Blue Lick's past reveals the area's rich history. Colonel Christopher Gist was one of the first visitors to the Blue Licks, traveling in 1751 down what he called the "Great Buffalo Road," a path carved out by the animals that roamed freely throughout the region. John Filson describes the Buffalo Trace in his history of Kentucky.
The amazing herds of buffalo which resort thither, by their size and number, fill the traveler with amazement and terror, especially when he beholds the prodigious roads they have made from all quarters, as if leading to some populous city. The vast space of land around these springs desolated as if by a ravaging enemy, and hills reduced to plains, for the land near those springs are chiefly hilly. These are truly curiosities, and the eye can scarcely be satisfied with admiring them.

Gist was soon followed by hunters, explorers, and pioneers. Pioneer Daniel Boone came to Blue Licks in 1770. Simon Kenton arrived at the Licks three years later. In his account of the travels of Simon Kenton, John M'Clung described Kenton's trip.

Kenton, with two companions, set out from Cabin Creek, a few miles from Maysville, to explore the neighboring country. In a short time they reached the neighborhood of May's Lick, and for the first time were struck with the uncommon beauty of the country and fertility of the soil. Here they fell in with the Great Buffalo Trace, which, in a few hours, brought them to the Lower Blue Lick. The flats upon each side of the river were crowded
with immense herds of buffalo, that had come from the interior for the sake of the salt. They crossed the Licking, when, falling in with another buffalo trace, it conducted them to the Upper Blue Lick, where they again beheld elk and buffalo in immense numbers.

MUSIC: (QUIETLY UNDER) MUSIC 1

NARRATOR: Nine years after Simon Kenton's arrival at Blue Licks, on August 19, 1782, Blue Licks helped sustain Kentucky's reputation as "The Dark and Bloody Ground" by playing host to the last battle of the American Revolution. It was here that Major Hugh McGary plunged into the Licking River with the battle cry...

MUSIC: (MODERATE UNDER) MUSIC 5

McGARY: (WITH GUSTO) Let all who are not cowards, follow me!

MUSIC: (QUIETLY UNDER) MUSIC 1

NARRATOR: The Indians, waiting in ambush, decimated the troops. Daniel Boone, one of the commanders of the Kentucky militia, escaped. Boone recounted the battle to the Governor of Virginia.

MUSIC: (QUIETLY UNDER) MUSIC 5

BOONE: (DESPOndENT) From the manner in which we had formed, it fell to my lot to bring on the attack. This was done with a very heavy fire on both sides, and extended back of the line to Colonel Trigg, where the enemy was so strong that they rushed up and broke the right wing at
the first fire. Thus the enemy got in our rear, and we were compelled to retreat with the loss of seventy-seven of our men and twelve wounded. Afterwards we were reinforced by Colonel Logan, which made our force four hundred and sixty men. We marched again to the battleground, but finding the enemy had gone, we proceeded to bury the dead.

MUSIC: (QUIETLY UNDER) MUSIC 1

NARRATOR: Boone's son was killed in battle. Ten years later, on June 1, 1792, Kentucky entered the Union as the fifteenth member of the United States of America. Daniel Drake, the founder of the first teaching hospital west of the Alleghenies was one of the first people to discover the prehistoric significance of Blue Lick Springs. In his memoirs, Drake fondly recalls a childhood visit to the springs with his father in 1796, when he was eleven years old.

MUSIC: (QUIETLY UNDER) MUSIC 6

DRAKE: The distant waterfalls of which I have spoken was two miles above the Blue Licks, so noted in latter years as a watering place. It was then famous for salt. The trip was instructive and deeply interesting. We passed through a zone of oakland, and when three miles from the springs, we came to an open country, the surface of which presented nothing but moss-covered rocks,
interspersed with cedar. Not a single house, or any work of art, broke the solemn grandeur of the scene. And the impression it made was indelible. I had tasted the salt-water, seen the rude evaporating furnaces, and smelt the salt and sulphurous vapor which arose in columns from them. I had learned that immense herds of buffalo had, before the settlement of the country, frequented this spot, destroyed the shrubs and herbage around, trodden up the ground, and prepared it for being washed away by the rain, till the rocks were left bare. Finally, I was told that around the Licks, sunk in the mud, there had been found the bones of animals much larger than the buffalo, or any then known in the country. These sights and others, which I now and then saw, gave, I believe, a decided impulse to the love of nature implanted in the heart of every child.

MUSIC: (QUIETLY UNDER) MUSIC

NARRATOR: The 1800's saw Blue Lick Springs reach a new popularity for the water's curative powers. Blue Lick proprietors boasted that the spring water "had an extensive fame and was not surpassed in curative qualities by any on the continent." The English traveler Cuming visited Blue Lick Springs during the summer of 1807, and noted that they were frequented by people from different parts
of the state, as both a cure and antidote for every disorder incident to the human frame. During the 1830's the Springs were moderately successful. But, in the forties, the resort underwent a change which greatly affected business. A three-story frame hotel was built, six hundred and seventy feet in length, with fifteen hundred feet of large and airy galleries. Included was a spacious dining room, together with a large ballroom, and three elegantly furnished parlours. Since the springs were located on the principal stage-coach mail route through Kentucky, they were easily accessible to vacationists and travelers. During the height of its watering season, from four to six hundred guests frequently registered at the fashionable resort. During the cholera epidemic of 1849, great crowds of panic-stricken citizens fled the cities and towns and flocked to watering-places like Blue Licks. In 1851, a Mr. Talbut boasted that Blue Licks was one of the very few places that had entirely escaped the cholera in the last two years. Then, the springs suffered a number of reversals. On April 7, 1862, during the beginnings of the Civil War, the three-story hotel at Blue Lick Springs was destroyed by fire, the work of arsonists. On August 17, 1889, the Arlington Hotel burned. The old LaRue House or Pavilion
Hotel, was left, but the veins of the springs began to dry up in the fall of 1896. The Blue Lick Springs Company, in an effort to find a new vein of mineral water, hired Thomas W. Hunter to search for the water. Hunter searched for the springs during the dry autumn months, and on October 30, 1897, he made a discovery, although not the one he had expected. At a depth of eight feet, Hunter made the same discovery that Daniel Drake and others had before him. He found the bones of buffalo, deer, and elk. But he also found the prehistoric bones of a mastodon. He found enough bones to fill up two farm wagons. Intrigued, but still determined to find the Blue Lick Spring water, Hunter dug on. And while he still did not find the missing mineral water, Hunter made a discovery that made headlines. G.R. Keller, the publisher of the Carlisle Mercury, visited Blue Lick Springs to get a first-hand look at Hunter's find.

MUSIC: (OUT)

KELLER: The editors and publisher of the Mercury went to Blue Licks last Sunday to see the bones of prehistoric animals recently unearthed by Mr. Thomas W. Hunter. The facts in regard to these bones are almost too much to believe, but as we have seen the curiosities with our own eyes we know the wonders are there. Mr. Hunter has dug
evidences that there lived a race of men who had laid a stone walk to the springs after the same manner as the walks of this day are laid. The smooth worn rocks are there as proof of this. Below where rested these prehistoric bones are sure evidences of the work of the hands of man. Long before the white man sat foot on this historic ground, there were others, and of these it is only for us to speculate. The stones were laid in perfect order and were worn as smooth as the old stone pavements of a city, showing plainly the work and use of man before the deposit of the bones of these huge animals.

MUSIC: (QUIETLY UNDER) MUSIC 1

NARRATOR: Dr. M.G. Buckner and Reverend Benjamin Herr visited the Blue Lick site on behalf of the Kentucky University Museum, and described their findings to the Lexington Morning Herald and the Louisville Courier-Journal.

MUSIC: (OUT)

BUCKNER: The most interesting fact connected with the discovery, and one which is likely to prove of the most value, was the finding beneath the stratum of gravel of the ruins of what seems to originally been intended for a pavement or roadway. The pavement is made of large slabs of limestone, closely laid in a workmanlike manner. The discovery of this remnant of an ancient civilization of this section will prove an interesting item to the student of ethnology.
MUSIC: (QUIETLY UNDER) MUSIC 1

NARRATOR: Other publications make mention of the walk as well, including A.B. Lipscomb's Commercial History of Southern States, which describes a well-laid and much worn stone pavement. A paper entitled "My Visit to Blue Licks and What I Saw," in the possession of the Blue Lick State Park Museum, tells of one person's trip to the springs, and an examination of the stones.

MUSIC: (OUT)

HUNTER: Mr. Hunter excavated a neatly arranged pavement, a much more prehistoric discovery than the bones of animals. The stones were regularly placed side by side, about four foot wide. On some of the pavement stones are seemingly letters, which look like the letter "N" of our English alphabet. The rocks number about 20 and vary in size are of a gray-blue color, very hard and smooth as an old hearthrock. Some one suggested that the animals had licked them smooth, but Mr. Hunter said, "No, did animals place them in a row to lick them?" We all laughed at the suggestion where the reason was applied.

MUSIC: (QUIETLY UNDER) MUSIC 1

NARRATOR: According to Thomas Hunter's daughter, Hattie, the pavement stones her father excavated were at a depth of approximately 20 feet, about four feet below the depth of the bones. Hattie Hunter says the markings were similar
to those in the English alphabet, also dots and dashes such as L, X, V, II, C, curves, inverted V's, plus marks, and other characters. The walkway received a lot of interest from professional and amateur archaeologists.

In a letter to Thomas Hunter dated June 18, 1900, M.C. Lamprey, a high school principal, wrote...

MUSIC: (OUT)

LAMPREY: The perfectly laid walk of well worn stones interests me even more than the relics. Nothing I have read interests me more that is in this line. It is not uncommon to find flint implements with the remains of the mastodons, but I have never read of a stone walk before.

MUSIC: (QUIETLY UNDER) MUSIC 1

NARRATOR: For his trouble, the proprietors of Blue Licks gave Hunter the bones he found, as well as the pavement stones. Hunter took the bones to local fairs as a scientific curiosity. The pavement stones were placed in his basement. There was a lapse of over four decades before there was renewed interest in the Blue Lick Springs. And in that time, the stones Thomas Hunter had removed from the walkway he found were destroyed. It seems that one day while Hunter was away lecturing with the prehistoric bones he had found, his sons, Hugh and Ed Hunter, ground the stones up for their driveway. When
Hunter returned home, he was understandably upset. In the fall of 1945, well-known amateur naturalist Victor K. Dodge conducted an archaeological dig at Blue Lick Springs. Dodge invited former state geologist Willard Rouse Jillson to be present at the dig. In addition to fifty books, Jillson had written over 200 reports, papers, and pamphlets, and over 100 articles on historical, biographical, and scientific subjects. Jillson wrote of the findings during the dig. And while many fossils were found, including bones from the mastodon, there was no mention of a walkway. Dodge returned to the Springs in September of 1946 to continue his dig. Mastodon bones were again found, but again, the walkway was not mentioned. The next dig at Blue Licks was not until 1954, when Willard Rouse Jillson, at the request of Thomas Hunter's sons, Hugh and Ed, joined them for a fossil hunt. The men found jaw teeth, measuring four to eight inches at the crown, and covered with gold. Unfortunately, the gold was actually iron pyrite, or "Fool's Gold," which had formed on the teeth. During the dig, the men collected 165 separate specimens from poor to good condition. Jillson estimated that during the digs at Blue Licks between 1785 and 1954, 750 specimens of various vertebrate fossils had been found. But, again, there was no mention of a walkway. Interest in Blue Lick Springs seemed to wane. That is, until 1965, when a trio of
students from Keene State College in New Hampshire decided to use the Blue Lick walkway as the subject of a term paper. The students had discovered the existence of the pavement after reading an article by W.L. Valette titled "Is America the Birthplace of Man?" In the article, Valette mentions the Blue Lick walkway, along with a tile floor found on Kenny Ranch near Collbran, Colorado. The article makes a correlation between the Blue Lick walk and the one in Colorado. Valette says "A similar paving was found several years back, even further underground than the Kenny Ranch. Several feet beneath the surface the bones of a mastodon were discovered at Blue Lick Springs, Kentucky, of carefully quarried and dressed slabs. If the gravel was of glacial deposit, as it seemed to be, the pavement certainly was there before the glacier had deposited it, and would date back far into the Pleistocene, if not to the Pliocene." To gather more information, the students sent out letters to newspapers around Kentucky, requesting any information on the pavement. The response was generous. The letters differed in some small details, but all were in agreement that there was a pavement found at Blue Licks. What they did not agree on, however, was whether the walk was natural or man-made. The idea of an ancient walkway
intrigued the student's professor. That man was Charles H. Hapgood, a Harvard graduate and author of several books and articles on the wonders of the earth. Hapgood made the decision to visit the Blue Licks site to see the walk for himself. Bernice McClanahan played host to Professor Hapgood while he was Blue Licks.

MUSIC: (OUT)

McCLANAHAN: HE TALKED A LOT ABOUT THIS PAVEMENT. HE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN BECAUSE HE KNEW OF ONE ALREADY OF THE SAME TYPE OF FLOOR, OR PAVEMENT, OR WHATEVER CEREMONIAL AREA IT WAS IN THE WEST. AND HE WANTED TO COMPARE WHAT WAS HERE. HE KNEW, OR HE THOUGHT HE KNEW, HE WAS PRACTICALLY POSITIVE THAT THE SAME CIVILIZATION THAT WAS HERE WAS THERE AT THAT PERIOD IN TIME. HE BROUGHT TWO BOYS WITH HIM FROM HIS CLASS. THEY STAYED IN THE OLD STORE AT BLUE LICK AND THEY DUG AND EXPLORED BUT, IT CAME A TERRIBLE, RAINY TIME, AND HE HAD TO GIVE IT UP BECAUSE HIS PERIOD OF LEAVE WAS OVER. AND SO, WE STILL DON'T KNOW.

MUSIC: (QUIETLY UNDER) MUSIC 1

NARRATOR: Although Hapgood was unable to find anything, the information he gathered from the residents of Blue Licks was enough to convince him that Thomas Hunter had found something underneath the mastodon bones at the turn of the century. (PAUSE) Since Charles Hapgood left Blue
Lick Springs in 1965, empty-handed, the story of the Blue Lick walkway has been virtually forgotten. The Blue Lick Battlefield State Park attracts many visitors each year, and the museum exhibits the bones found by Thomas Hunter at the close of the 1800's. But there are still those who remember the walkway. Thelma Standiford is the grand-daughter of Thomas Hunter, and she remembers the story of the walkway well.

STANDIFORD: THEY WERE DIGGING BY HAND WITH A PICK AND A SHOVEL. AND HE DUG DOWN AND HE FOUND THESE STONES. THEY WERE VERY SLICK ON THE TOP AND THEY HAD THIS, WHAT I CALLED HEIROGLYPHICS FROM HIS EXPLANATION OF THEM, AND THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'D BEEN USED ON TOP. BUT WHEN YOU TURNED ONE OF THOSE STONES OVER, IT WAS ROUGH. OH, JUST LIKE A NORMAL ROCK SHOULD BE. SO, HE TOOK SOME OF THOSE UP. I THINK THEY SAID HE HAD ABOUT THIRTY, NOW, THAT'S WHAT HE HAD AT ONE TIME. AND THEY HAD ALL THESE FIGURES OR WHATEVER THEY WERE ON THEM. THEY FOUND THESE DESIGNS OR WHATEVER THEY WERE ON THESE STONES AND THEY NEVER HAVE FOUND OUT WHAT THEY BELONG TO.

NARRATOR: Who did they belong to? If the Blue Lick walkway is, indeed, man-made. The Maysville Evening Bulletin ventured a guess. According to the Bulletin of Wednesday, November
3, 1897, since it was below the bones of the mastodon it must be a work of the mound builders. Practically every society has their own claim to the civilization of America. As Oscar Wilde said, America had often been discovered before, but it had always been hushed up. Depending on who you ask, you might be told that America was discovered by black Africans in 1500 B.C. Or the Phoenicians in 600 B.C. Or the Romans in A.D. 64. Perhaps it was St. Brendan in the 6th century. Then again, it might have been Leif Ericson in 1001. Or Niccolo and Antonio Zeno in 1400. It could have been a mysterious Pole in 1476. Or Bristol fishermen in the 1480's. Or the Portuguese in the 1480's. Or, it could have been discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492. Everybody wants to claim the discovery of America. The Mongolian theory states that the first American visitors were Chinese or Scythians who arrived here by way of the Bering Straits in 499. Then there is the logic that since certain Aztec decorations and designs are similar to Egyptian motifs, the Egyptians must be the first settlers. Unless, of course, you think the early Indians were part of the ten lost tribes of Israel. (PAUSE) One of the more interesting theories, and one that has some possible basis in Kentucky history, is the story of the Madoc,
or white Indian. This story is handed down by the Indians themselves. The Indian chiefs "Tobacco" and "Cornstalk" told General G.R. Clark, Colonel McKee and Colonel James Moore that before the red man came to Kentucky, a white race existed. John Klee, professor of history at Maysville Community College, relates the story of the white Indians.

MUSIC: (OUT)

KLEE: THE LEGEND GOES, THIS PRINCE MADOC, I BELIEVE IN THE 12TH CENTURY, TOOK NINE OR TWELVE BOATS, AND LEFT WALES AND WAS NEVER HEARD OF AGAIN. THERE WERE PERSISTENT STORIES, AND IT EVEN FOUND IT'S WAY INTO SOME OF THE EARLIER NEWSPAPERS. AND ONE STORY I BELIEVE CLIFT RELATES IS THAT THERE WAS A WELSHMAN, YOU KNOW, A PRESENT WELSHMAN, AND WE'RE TALKING HERE PROBABLY IN THE 1700's, WHO WAS IN LOUISVILLE. HE WAS TALKING IN WELSH, AND ONE OF THE INDIANS UNDERSTOOD HIM. AND THE THEORY GOES THAT SOME OF THESE WHITE INDIANS HAD CONNECTIONS WITH THE RED INDIANS, AND HAD LEARNED PART OF THE LANGUAGE. THERE'S ANOTHER PIECE OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE, AND THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE GOT TO WORRY ABOUT THE RUMORS AND LEGEND PART OF IT, SUPPOSEDLY A BREAST-PLATE OF ARMOR THAT HAD COATS OF ARMS ON IT WAS DISCOVERED. NOW, WHERE THAT EXISTS NOW, WHERE IT'S AT, YOU SEE, BUT THAT'S RECORDED AGAIN IN FUNKHOUSER AND CLIFT'S. THEY GOT THAT FROM A NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT THAT A SUIT OF ARMOR HAD BEEN FOUND. PERHAPS
ONE OF THE PIECES OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE THAT WE DO KNOW
REALLY EXISTS, AND IS STILL IN EXISTENCE, IS THE BEAR'S
TOOTH. AND, ANOTHER PIECE OF JEWELRY THAT THE INDIANS
DREW THAT HAS A MALTESE CROSS ON IT. AND THE THINKING
GOES, THE SETTLEMENT, AS OUR ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE DATED
IT, PRE-DATES THE PRESENT INDIANS. SO, THE MALTESE CROSS
WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED. THE PRESENT-DAY INDIANS,
AS OPPOSED TO THE PREHISTORIC INDIANS, THE INDIANS THAT
LIVED WHEN OUR PIONEERS CAME, THE 17-1800's. THAT
FORTIFICATION PRE-DATES THOSE GROUPS. SO IF THE MALTESE
CROSS IS ON A BEAR'S TOOTH, AND IT IS, YOU KNOW, THERE'S
A PICTURE OF IT IN FUNKHouser'S BOOK, AND THIS OTHER
LITTLE TRINKET, WHICH ALSO HAS THIS CROSS ON IT. IF THE
DATE IS TRUE, THAT THE FORTIFICATIONS PRE-DATE THE PRESENT
INDIANS, WHO ARE THE ONLY ONES WE KNOW THAT HAD CONTACT
WITH THE WHITER PEOPLE, THEN WHERE DID THE CROSS COME
FROM? HOW DID THE INDIANS KNOW HOW TO DRAW IT? BECAUSE
THAT'S A EUROPEAN THING. NOW, THE ONLY OTHER EXPLANATION
IS JUST COINCIDENCE, THAT THE SYMBOL WAS THERE. OF COURSE,
THAT STRETCHES CREDIBILITY. SO, THIS WHOLE IDEA IS AROUND.
NOW, I DON'T KNOW HOW THE REST OF THE LEGEND CAME ABOUT,
BUT THE LEGEND GOES THAT THERE WAS A BATTLE BETWEEN THE
WHITE INDIANS AND THE RED INDIANS, AND THE WHITE INDIANS
WERE ELIMINATED.
MUSIC: (QUIETLY UNDER) MUSIC

NARRATOR: Could these Madocs, or white Indians, have been the architects of the Blue Lick walkway? Or could the walkway be man-made, but not as old as was thought? It is suggested in the History of Nicholas County that the walkway was man-made, though not of Indian origin. The article's authors think the walkway was laid by David Tanner, who was at Blue Licks making salt in 1784. According to the book, Tanner would dig pits to gain access to the spring. But while the explanation seems logical on the surface, it does not take into account the mastodon skeleton found on top of the walkway. (PAUSE)

The Blue Lick walkway is not the only pavement found in the Blue Lick area. According to Collin's History of Kentucky, on top of a ridge near the Upper Blue Lick Springs, there is a pavement over 100 feet square of smooth, large flat stones. Collins says the marks of the tools used in dressing the stones were still visible. Collins went on to suggest that the area was designed for sacrificial or ceremonial purposes by a race preceding the Indians of the 18th century. There is still another possibility to consider. The walk could just be a work of nature. Dr. Ken Tankersly, research archaeologist at the Illinois State Museum, believes this to be the case.
TANKERSLY: WHAT YOU HAVE IS, AS THE LIMESTONE WEATHERS, IT WEATHERS ALONG BEDDING PLANES AND JOINTS. AND WHAT HAPPENS IS, JUST IMAGINE AN ICE TRAY. AND LET'S FOR A MOMENT IMAGINE THAT THE THING BETWEEN THE ICE CUBE IS MADE OF A COMPOUND METAL, SAY MERCURY, WHICH MELTS FASTER THAN THE ICE ITSELF. WELL, THAT'S ESSENTIALLY THEIR PLANES OF WEAKNESS. THAT'S WHAT GOES ON IN LIMESTONE ACROSS THE AREA. IT'S ACTUALLY A BY-PRODUCT OF WEATHERING. IF YOU EXCAVATE A CARSTIC AREA, OR EVEN A PLACE WHERE YOU GOT MIDDLE OR DIVISION LIMESTONE, REMOVE THE SEDIMENT. WHAT YOU WILL FIND IS THE BEDROCK SURFACE; AND THE STONES LAID IN A NICE SEQUENCE. YOU'VE GOT TO BE ABLE TO RULE OUT MOTHER NATURE. AND, ACTUALLY, WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO IS, YOU HAVE TO HAVE, ONE, EITHER GO GET THE STONES THEMSELVES. IF THEY'RE NOT AVAILABLE, THE OTHER THING WOULD BE TO DO, EXCAVATE THE SITE AND LOOK FOR MORE OF IT.

MUSIC: (QUIETLY UNDER) MUSIC 1

NARRATOR: The Blue Lick Springs walkway...a product of nature or proof of an ancient civilization? The site of Thomas Hunter's original dig is now underneath the pavement of U-S highway 68, making excavation impossible. So,
that's how it ends. Without excavating, there is no way to verify or dispute the Blue Lick walkway. Or, as Dr. Tankersly put it, it becomes an interesting historical footnote. As for whether it was natural or man-made, we may never know.

MUSIC: (UP THEN FADE OUT)
Appendix 2

Production Credits

Producer ............ Robert Roe
Editor .............. Robert Roe
Script .............. Robert Roe
Narrator ............ Robert Roe
Salesman ............ Gary Devaughn
Filson .............. Doug McGill
M'Clung ............. Sean Allen
McGary .............. Mike Flora
Boone .............. Mike Flora
Drake .............. Danny Weddle
Keller .............. William Stewart
Buckner ............ Bud Boyd
Hunter .............. June Hughes Roe
Lamprey ............ Mike Mahaffey

Interviews...
Thelma Standiford (Granddaughter of Thomas Hunter)
Bernice McClanahan (Host to Professor Charles Hapgood)
John Klee (History Professor, Maysville Community College)
Dr. Ken Tankersly (Archaeologist, Illinois State Museum)

Produced at the studio facilities of WFTM radio, Maysville, Kentucky.
Appendix 3

Music Credits


Music 3. The Production Garden, Volume 5, Side A, Cut 146.

