

Shawangunk grit and conglomerate

The lowest member of the Ontaric section in eastern New York is the Shawangunk grit. This designation was first applied to the formation by Mather,¹ the term being derived from the mountain area of that name, which extends from near High Falls in Ulster county southwest through Orange county and beyond the limits of the State. The Shawangunk grit, wherever the contact has been observed, is seen to rest unconformably on the Lower Siluric shales. The Shawangunk grit is generally correlated with the Oneida conglomerate, the latter term often being applied to it. Of these two formations the Shawangunk grit has the greater development, the thickness varying from less than 50 feet in parts of Ulster county and gradually increasing in thickness to more than 200 feet within a few miles. The Oneida conglomerate in its type section has a thickness of from 15 to 20 feet and in its western extension it gradually grades into a sandstone known as the Oswego sandstone, which in Oswego county has a thickness of more than 100 feet. Both the Oneida conglomerate and the Oswego sandstone are transitional into the Medina sandstone above.

It will thus appear that while we may consider the Medina as directly following and transitional from the Oneida in central New York, the sequence of events following the deposition of the Shawangunk grit in eastern New York has never been satisfactorily established. While for many years the red shales lying above the Shawangunk grit in Ulster county and further south have been generally correlated with the Medina of central New York, no proof has ever been set forth to establish their identity with any degree of certainty. Mather² in the final report of the first district, the western limit of which was as far west as Herkimer county, did not definitely correlate these red shales, though he was inclined to refer them to the Medina. He says, "The observations made do not render it certain whether these red rocks are equivalent to the Onondaga salt group or the Medina

¹ Geol. N. Y. 1st Dist. 1843. p. 355.

² Geol. N. Y. 1st Dist. 1843. p. 355, 363.