

The first of these segments, including the source of the river, embraces the course of the Hudson within the Adirondack region, which part, for convenience of description, will be called the Adirondack-Hudson river. It is a region of the most ancient rocks in the State and of the highest relief. With this stream, this report is only incidentally concerned.

The second segment includes the river from its point of emergence from the southeastern base of the Adirondack mountains to the northern portal of the Highlands in Dutchess and Ulster counties. It is a lowland region of ancient Paleozoic strata. It is divisible into two segments for convenience of treatment, an Upper and Middle Hudson valley. In this report the Upper Hudson is meant to include the valley from the head of tide and the

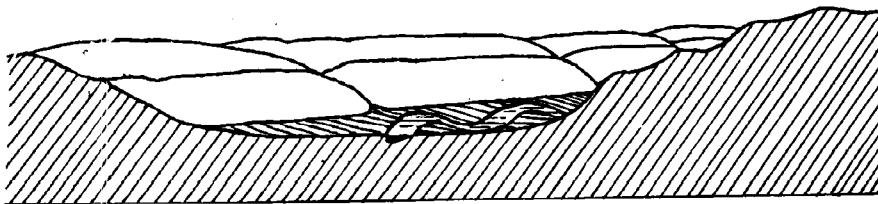


Fig. 1. Early Cenozoic stage of the Hudson valley. The river is at or near base level; it has widened out the rock bottom of its valley to form a narrow plain 2 to 3 miles wide. The stream is probably meandering and more or less alluvium sheets over the bed rock.

recent delta of the river near Troy to the base of the Adirondack mountains. The term Middle Hudson applies to the valley from the head of tide to the northern edge of the Highlands.

From the point of view of the Pleistocene deposits which the Upper and Middle Hudson valleys exhibit the region may be divided into (1) the Fort Edward district on the north, in which the history has several features in common with the Champlain valley on the north; (2) the large tract in which both banks of the river are bordered by the newer brick clays from immediately south of Fort Edward to probably the vicinity of Rhinebeck; (3) the Poughkeepsie district, in which the latest clays are wanting, extending from somewhere north of Staatsburg and the southern limits of the Albany clay district as far south as the mouth of Wappinger creek and the northern part of Newburg, where older clays begin to be heavily developed; (4) the Newburg district, extending from the last southward to the Highlands.