

of Ballston a stream escapes from this gorge by a narrow defile into the circular depression in the bottom of which lies Round lake, a body of water which in turn is drained by a narrow valley into the Hudson at Mechanicville. This system of channels antedates the last ice covering of the district, for portions of the region including the flats bordering Round lake are covered with glacial boulders. Singularly enough these depressions were not filled with the clays of the Mohawk delta stage probably because as will be shown later the ice sheet lay over the region while these clays were deposited on the east and south.

The Ballston rock channel is dependent, in part, on structure. The Hudson river slates, essentially flat on the east of this trough except for small overthrusts, are seen standing vertical within it north of Ballston lake. Erosion in Pleistocene time has excavated the channel along the vertical beds, which are evidently separated from the horizontal strata on the east wall of the valley by a fault. Ebenezer Emmons¹ recognized the existence of a fault extending southwestward from Saratoga towards Schenectady but he makes no mention of the Ballston rock channel.

Round lake channel. The large circular depression in the bottom of which lies Round lake [see pl.1] opens eastward through a narrow valley into the Hudson gorge at Mechanicville. Little or nothing is known concerning the real extent of the depression in the bed rocks of which this largely drift-masked cavity is a part. The Hudson river rocks rise on the west between Round lake and the Ballston channel and may be seen in the narrow defile cut by Anthony kill, a stream which now drains the Ballston channel from East Line to the divide south of Ballston lake. The plain between Round lake and Saratoga lake is at least in part a till-covered surface as about Malta. It seems probable that Round and Saratoga lakes are unfilled depressions marking the site of an old valley west of the present Hudson gorge. In the later development of the glacial lakes in the upper Hudson and Champlain valleys the various channels from Fish creek southward through the Ballston and Round lake channels probably will be found on further study to have served as temporary waterways at a time

¹Agric. N. Y. 1846. 1:135.