

*Wood creek valley.* The singular trench from Fort Edward to Fort Ann, alluded to on page 77, forming an extension of the Hudson river main trough has already been described. At its northern end it is continued by the valley of Wood creek into union with the Champlain valley at Whitehall. The drainage in both these swampy valleys is now northward into Lake Champlain.

Asa Fitch<sup>1</sup> ascertained, at the time of the construction of the Champlain canal through the Wood creek valley, a number of details concerning this swampy tract which are here stated in his words.

On excavating the Champlain canal, it was found that all along the valley of Wood creek, at about 6 feet below the surface was a layer made up of leaves, nuts, sticks, and logs, from whence springs of clear water were everywhere issuing. The nuts were plainly butternuts and beechnuts. Ash and other logs, quite sound, occurred, but no pine. Pine was originally abundant on the uplands each side of this stream, but none grew down in its valley. The trees, in most instances, it was plain to see, had their tops towards the south, that is, upstream. Below this layer of vegetable matter was a stratum of tough blue clay; above it was sand and loam, and in excavating for the bed of the canal lock 11 feet beneath the surface, the trunk of a black ashtree 2 feet in diameter, and somewhat decayed, was come upon.

A most important fact in this statement (continues Fitch) is that *these buried trees were mostly found with their tops towards the south, showing that when they were lodged here, the current was running in a direction the reverse of what it now does.*

One mile north of Fort Ann, Wood creek enters the highland region bounding the Fort Edward plains on the east, there plunging into a narrow gorge to pass into a constantly widening valley to Whitehall. This valley is of preglacial date at least with reference to the last ice advance but whether of Prepleistocene date in its restricted portion near Fort Ann is not now definitely known. Through it at Fort Ann the ice swept from the northeast as the striae south of Battle hill indicate.

Throughout the extent of this valley the clays which appear in Hartford and Argyle as well as in the low ground about

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<sup>1</sup>A Historical, Topographical and Agricultural Survey of the County of Washington. Assembly no. 175, 1850. p.879-80.