

of red color and have the composition of syenites and granites. The latter are somewhat the older. The northeastern Adirondacks were the main scene of this igneous activity. The red dikes are practically confined to Clinton county. The black dikes are much more numerous and have a much wider range, but are vastly more abundant in Clinton and Essex counties than elsewhere.

Erosion still continuing after the close of the igneous activity, all vestiges of the surface volcanics disappeared, along with a thickness of rocks of considerable amount, but to be measured in hundreds, rather than in thousands of feet.

Early Paleozoic history

The long period as a land area finally came to an end, a movement of subsidence was initiated in the region and it became depressed, slowly passed beneath the level of the sea and began to receive deposit on the rather evenly worn surface, the valley bottoms necessarily passing beneath the sea before the low divides were overtopped. This subsidence began at the northeast and slowly progressed southwestward. As zone after zone came within reach of the cutting of the waves, they would tend to pare it away to a smooth surface, and in parts of the region this wave action may have been a considerable factor in evening it. As zone after zone passed beneath the sea, deposit would commence on the surface, and, as the subsidence began on the east and northeast and progressed westward and southwestward, deposits of progressively younger and younger age appear resting on the old land surface in passing from east to west, producing what is called overlap. Because of this, the earliest paleozoic deposits, those of Lower and Middle Cambrian age, do not appear about the Adirondack region at all, though found not many miles to the eastward, where they were deposited in a separate basin. Because of this, the Potsdam formation, or Upper Cambrian age, does not appear on the west and south of the Adirondack region, though in great force on the north and east.

Potsdam formation. This coarse, often pebbly, massive sandstone deposit was the first formation laid down on the old land