

great Labrador ice sheet for a long time. From analogy with other regions it may be inferred that there was more than one advance and retreat of ice sheets over the district, but how many and how extensive are purely conjectural matters for the immediate region. The last ice advance destroyed, for the most part, the traces of the presence of its predecessors.

Coming down on the region from the north and northeast, the Labrador ice sheet had its advance opposed by the elevated mass of the Adirondacks and was forced aside by it into two great ice streams which worked their way around the region. The one advanced up the St Lawrence valley and turned south along the west side of the Adirondacks, and thus reached and entered the Mohawk valley from the west; the other moved south through the Champlain valley, reaching the Mohawk at the east end. As the ice increased in thickness, it encroached more and more on the flanks of the region till finally it overswept the whole, and persisted in this condition for a long time. While the basal currents of the ice continued to be controlled by the topography, the main mass swept over the region in a general southwesterly direction. Ultimately changing conditions brought about recession. The thickness was least over the highlands, and the ice would first disappear there, leaving the two great currents sweeping round the region, as they did during the advance. These slowly dwindled and disappeared northerly.

The final disappearance of the ice left the topography modified both by glacial wear and glacial deposit, but with its larger features little changed. Ridge slopes were smoothed, summits rounded, valleys clogged with deposit, lakes produced either by inequality of deposit or by local excessive downward erosion, stream courses more or less modified, a host of minor changes much altering the appearance of the region.

Postglacial history

During the continuance of glaciation changes in altitude took place, and at the time of final melting away of the ice from the St Lawrence valley the elevation was much less than at the beginning of glaciation, was in fact sufficiently low to enable the