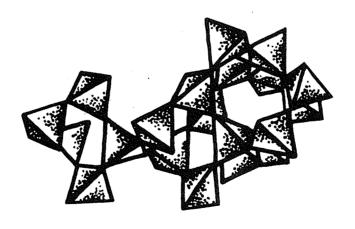


NEW YORK STATE GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

GUIDEBOOK



S. U. N. Y. BROCKPORT and MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Guidebook to Field Trips

45th Annual Meeting - September 28-30, 1973

Rochester, N.Y. Area

Co-hosts: State University of New York College at Brockport -Monroe Community College

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PREFACE

In preparing this guidebook the basic premises accepted were that simplicity was to be primary and maximum flexibility of style and opinion would be maintained.

Therefore, the editor made no attempt to alter any author's style or opinion. In this way, of course, the editor's task became easier. All that remained was to do the usual proofing, make minor changes and prepare the parts as a whole. Even this task was simple since each field trip is a whole unit and the guidebook merely a collection of field trip descriptions.

If the trips and the meeting are successful it is because of the efforts of many people; the contributors, my patient faculty and students, my secretary and many others including Mrs. Marion Cassie who designed the cover. My thanks go to them and most particularly to Thomas X. Grasso of Monroe Community College who is my co-host.

We hope you will enjoy the trips and the many different styles in this book.

Philip C. Hewitt Editor

INTRODUCTION

The geology of the Rochester area involves some intriguing problems. These are primarily based in the fields of paleontology and stratigraphy, glacial geology and geomorphology, mineralogy and other related subfields. A simple way to describe the geology as a whole is that it involves Lower Paleozoic (Ordovician to Devonian) sedimentary rocks veneered by dissected glacial deposits.

Although a few minor folds appear and the area displays a small number of faults, this is not the easiest place in which to observe structural geologic features. Nor will one find igneous or metamorphic rocks in place here. Rather they can only be seen as erratics from glacial deposition. It is obvious therefore, that the field trips selected for our area involve the type of geology which is so plentiful and well exposed here.

The emphasis for each trip is to teach. The method or style used by the field trip leaders may differ but the intent is the same. In every case the student is the person for whom the trips were planned and for whom the papers were written. The only assumption that is made is that the student has had at least a few courses in geology and will be able to follow the basic concepts involved.

The oldest rocks exposed in this area are of the late Ordovician and are found in the "Rochester Gorge" of the Genesee River Valley. Most of the rocks exposed at the surface in the northern part of the area (south of Lake Ontario) are Silurian in age. Knowing that the strata dip generally to the south it is obvious that younger strata will appear in the southern part of the region. Therefore, Devonian beds are exposed south of Rochester. Erosion by streams and ice and subsequent deposition by glacial action represent the most obvious later events following post-Paleozoic uplift. Yet weathering and erosion continue to leave their mark — erosion by humans shows strongly.

All field trips have been designed to add to the brief outline above. The mineralogic visit to the Penfield Quarry is placed in context with the stratigraphy and general geology of the Rochester area. At Hamlin Beach recent sedimentation will be observed — though no precise details can be given in this guidebook for that locality. Recent water levels and strong wave action have altered the entire picture there. No one can predict what conditions will be like at the time of the trip. We shall have to wait and see.

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