

# DESCRIPTION OF THE ANN ARBOR QUADRANGLE.

By I. C. Russell and Frank Leverett.\*

## GEOGRAPHY.

### CIVIC RELATIONS.

The Ann Arbor quadrangle, embracing an area of 884.85 square miles, is in the southeastern part of the Southern Peninsula of Michigan, the city of Ann Arbor being near its geographic center. It is bounded by parallels 42° and 42° 30' north latitude and meridians 83° 30' and 84° west longitude, and comprises a large part of Washtenaw County and small adjacent portions of Livingston, Oakland, Wayne, Monroe, and Lenawee counties.

The first settlement within this quadrangle was made in 1809 by French traders, who established a post on the site of the present city of Ypsilanti, that being a point at which the Indian trails from a wide extent of country intersected. In 1811 about 2500 acres were patented to these traders in accordance with an act of Congress, and the survey of these claims antedated the rectangular land survey begun in 1816, a fact that accounts for peculiarities of boundary lines and absence of section lines in Ypsilanti and the district immediately south and west of that city. By the treaties of 1819 and 1821 all the lands in this region were thrown open to settlement, and in 1823 a number of English-speaking families built houses on the banks of the Huron immediately below Ypsilanti. During the following year a settlement was started at Ann Arbor. Within this quadrangle there are now two cities, Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, and seven incorporated villages, Pinckney, South Lyon, Dexter, Saline, Milan, Clinton, and Tecumseh. In addition to these there are over 40 smaller villages and hamlets.

According to the census of 1900 the quadrangle had then a population of about 57,000, of which 14,509 were in Ann Arbor and 7378 in Ypsilanti, while the seven incorporated villages comprised a population of 7220, leaving nearly half the inhabitants in the rural districts and in villages and hamlets not separately enumerated.

The cities and nearly all the villages are on the banks of streams. These streams are not navigable, but the location of the early settlements on them was determined by the water power they afforded for gristmills and sawmills—power which has been utilized later for other manufacturing establishments. Within the past few years the scenic attractions and recreation afforded by the lakes in the northern part of the quadrangle have become factors in peopling that region.

### TOPOGRAPHY.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT.

The topography of the present surface is strikingly different from that of the surface of the bed rock. It is the product of glacial deposition, repeated several times, supplemented to a slight degree by the action of lakes, streams, and the wind. The latest and perhaps some of the earlier glaciation resulted from a westward movement of ice from the basin of Lake Erie and the southern end of Lake Huron. This glacial mass covered the entire quadrangle except its extreme northwestern corner, which was occupied by ice moving southward from the Saginaw basin. These two ice lobes are known as the Huron-Erie and the Saginaw lobes. The glacial deposits produced by them are very thick and are so massed that even the salient features of the underlying preglacial surface are completely concealed.

### RELIEF.

*Conspicuous features.*—The glacial features that give variety to the surface—such as moraines,

\*The general geology, mineral waters, and marl deposits are described by I. C. Russell; the topography and drainage, Quaternary geology, and water resources by Frank Leverett; the peat deposits by Charles A. Davis; the Paleozoic history by E. M. Kindle. The Michigan State Geological Survey has freely given its records and assistance, which have been of great service, particularly in connection with the account of the peat deposits.

kames, eskers, outwash aprons, basins, till plains, gravel plains—are noted and described in the discussion of the glacial geology, and therefore attention is here directed only to certain strongly marked topographic belts. These belts, named in order from east to west, are (1) the lake plain; (2) the morainic system on the western border of the lake plain; (3) the intermorainic strips with nearly plane surfaces; (4) the interlobate moraine, with its included gravel plains, lying between the Saginaw and Huron-Erie ice lobes.

*The lake plain.*—The lake plain embraces the southeastern part of the quadrangle. It extends as far northwest as the 800-foot contour, which follows approximately the highest beach of a large glacial lake, discussed below. This plain occupies parts of several counties in southeastern Michigan and a still larger area in northwestern Ohio, bordering Lake Erie, toward which it gradually slopes. The sandy portion of its bed is characterized by low dunes, 5 to 20 feet high, but the clayey portion is remarkably smooth. Beaches occur at various levels, their altitudes corresponding to those of several outlets opened for the discharge of the lakes by the withdrawal of the ice sheet. Although these are inconspicuous ridges, at few places reaching a height of more than 15 feet, yet their form and continuity attract attention, and from the earliest days of settlement they have been recognized as old lake shores. These beaches were mapped in part by the First Geological Survey of Michigan, prior to 1840.

*Morainic ridges.*—Immediately back of the lake plain lies a system of morainic ridges running from the northeast to the southwest corner of the quadrangle and occupying a belt 8 to 12 miles wide. Valley-like depressions between the ridges serve as convenient courses for streams, which have in consequence assumed a trellis-like arrangement.

Three more or less distinct moraines appear in this system, of which the westernmost is far more prominent than the others. This moraine includes the highest points within the quadrangle, one exceeding and several approaching 1100 feet in altitude—indeed, much of the land that stands above 1000 feet. In the southwestern part of the quadrangle this high moraine constitutes the divide between the tributaries of the Huron and the Raisin, while in the northeastern part it separates the waters of the Rouge from those of the Huron. The Huron and Raisin find passage southeastward through deep gaps in this ridge, and farther along in their courses pass through similar gaps in the lower ridges, to continue southeastward to the lake plain and thence to Lake Erie. The most prevalent type of morainic topography in this system is the swell and sag, in which there is a gradual rise from sag to swell and very little sharp undulation. At certain points, however, there are knobs and basins with steep slopes. Most of the sharpest knobs are gravelly hills known as kames.

*The intermorainic strip.*—Outside the belt of moraines just described, in the interval between it and the interlobate system of moraines and gravel plains, lies a long area that is rather difficult to describe because of the great variety of its features. Parts of it are flat surfaced, or nearly free from knolls or ridges, while other parts present sharp undulations, as strongly marked as the knolls and ridges of the moraines though not so systematically related. This area contains also a large number of marshy depressions, which break up the continuity of the plainlike tracts in which they lie. Some of these are one-fourth to one-half mile wide and several miles long and many of them lie in the courses of streams and form parts of river systems. A chain of gravel ridges known as the Lima esker and several kames appear in this strip. The topography of this district apparently owes its irregularity to variations in rate of deposition and in drainage at the margin of the Huron-Erie ice lobe during its recession from the interlobate

moraine to the first well-defined moraine south-east of it. In addition to the features mentioned, this district is traversed by several lines of glacial drainage that lead northwestward into the interlobate belt. These are much broader than the depressions just noted, being in some places more than a mile wide, and are filled with flat-surfaced deposits of sand and gravel left by the streams that formed them.

*The interlobate moraine and included gravel plains.*—A conspicuous system of moraines appears in the northwestern part of the quadrangle, north of a line from South Lyon, passing Whitmore Lake, to Fourmile Lake. The surface of this morainic system is much more irregular than that of the system just considered, sharp knolls 100 to 200 feet in height being here closely associated with basins, some of which, now occupied by lakes, exceed 100 feet in depth. This morainic system is traversed by sandy plains that mark lines of glacial drainage and with its included lakes and streams it forms part of a great interlobate tract developed along the junction of the Saginaw and Huron-Erie ice lobes. Its northwestern border is beyond the limits of the quadrangle.

### DRAINAGE.

*Streams.*—The streams of this quadrangle flow either directly or indirectly to the western end of Lake Erie. A large part of the quadrangle is drained by Huron River and the remainder chiefly by Raisin River and its tributaries.

Huron River, a stream about 150 miles in length, flows southward from its source in Big Lake, Oakland County, to the northern edge of the quadrangle, and then makes a curve southwestward, southward, and southeastward through the quadrangle, and continues in a southeastward course to its mouth at the extreme head of Lake Erie. Nearly all the tributaries of Huron River are small, the most important lying within the limits of this quadrangle.

Raisin River, a stream perhaps 160 miles in length, drains, with its tributaries, much of the southern end of the quadrangle, though the main stream traverses only its southwestern corner. From the source near Jerome, in northern Hillsdale County, it flows north of east into Washtenaw County, a distance of 40 to 45 miles. Near the western limits of the Ann Arbor quadrangle it swings around to a southward course across the southwest corner of the quadrangle and continues nearly to the Ohio State line, where it again takes an eastward course, flowing into Lake Erie.

Saline River, the most important tributary of Raisin River within this quadrangle, has its principal source in Columbia Lake a few miles west of the village of Saline, and its mouth just outside the southern limits of the quadrangle. The stream is about 45 miles long and in its entire course descends about 230 feet, the altitude of Columbia Lake being 864 feet and that of the river's mouth being about 634 feet.

Macon River embraces a widely branching drainage system which gathers the waters from a district west of Saline River, in the southwestern part of the quadrangle, and joins Raisin River within a mile above the mouth of Saline River. The sources of the several headwater branches are at altitudes of 800 to 850 feet, so that the stream makes a descent of nearly 200 feet in reaching Raisin River. Both the streams meander considerably, the distance from source to mouth probably exceeding 30 miles.

Swan Creek, Sandy Creek, and Stony Creek (with its tributaries Paint Creek and Sugar Creek) drain a small area in the southeastern part of the quadrangle, and flow directly into the western end of Lake Erie through a district lying between Huron and Raisin rivers.

Rouge River, a stream entering Detroit River near the southern limits of the city of Detroit and

draining a large part of Wayne County, also drains a narrow area along the eastern border of the northern half of the Ann Arbor quadrangle.

*Lakes.*—Within the limits of the quadrangle there are nearly 150 small bodies of standing water which occupy basins of sufficient depth to be debarred from ready drainage. Some of these bodies are without outlet; others discharge to streams through bordering swamps with no definite channel of outflow; but, as may be seen by the topographic map, most of them have definite outlets, and a few stand in the course of streams. Nearly all of these are termed lakes, and more than 50 of them have received names. These do not include the bodies of water held in by artificial dams and called mill ponds, nor those which have become extinct, for several marshes mark the site of old water bodies whose basins have become so nearly filled with peat, marl, and sediment that they are no longer mapped as lakes.

Of the lakes indicated on the Ann Arbor topographic sheet 134 lie within the area drained by Huron River, and only 11 in the portion drained by the Raisin and its tributaries, Saline and Macon rivers; while none occur in the portion drained by Rouge River, Stony Creek, Swan Creek, and Sandy Creek. Most of them are found in the northwestern part of the quadrangle and there are none on the plain in the southeastern part, though that plain, as already indicated, was for a long time covered by the waters of great glacial lakes. The lakes abound in the part of the quadrangle where the irregularities of surface are greatest, and the flatness or regularity of the surface in the southeastern part accounts for their absence there. Few of the lakes cover an area of a square mile, and most of them cover less than one-fourth of a square mile. Several of those which are named fall within the limits of a 40-acre lot; those without names have ordinarily an area of but 5 to 10 acres, though some cover 40 acres or more. Few of the lakes have been systematically sounded to determine maximum depths, but enough soundings have been made to show that even some of the smaller lakes are 50 to 60 feet deep, and that a few have depths of more than 100 feet. Nearly all the lakes are so deep that they are not only protected from extinction by artificial drainage but also from early filling by sediments and organic growths and precipitates. They will therefore continue to be attractive features in the scenery of this region for hundreds and probably thousands of years.

### GEOLOGY.

#### BED-ROCK SURFACE.

*General statement.*—The bed-rock surface of the Ann Arbor quadrangle was completely covered by glacial deposits and is now exposed only at a quarry in the southeast corner, where the rock is reached by stripping off a thin sheet of drift. Numerous wells, however, distributed widely over the quadrangle, furnish sufficient information in reference to the bed-rock surface to warrant a general statement concerning its topography. The altitudes of the bed-rock surface at points reached by wells are shown in fig. 1.

*The Erie lowland.*—In the southeastern part of the quadrangle the rock surface stands not far from 600 feet above sea level and is composed of several rock formations of dissimilar composition, the Monroe, Dundee, Traverse, Antrim, Berea, and Coldwater. (See the generalized section, fig. 2, p. 2.) These several formations appear to have been sufficiently beveled off at their outcrops to form a peneplain—an extensive lowland bordering Lake Erie, covering several counties in southeastern Michigan and northwestern Ohio, and extending westward across northern Indiana into Illinois—which may appropriately be termed the Erie lowland. The northwestern edge of this lowland, as indicated by altitudes of bed-rock surface given in fig. 1, crosses the Ann Arbor quadrangle near a

















above the sea. With the uplift of the region above sea level began a period of erosion and topographic development which continued until the beginning of the glacial period. This preglacial topography is now completely concealed by the drift, but well records indicate that it was very similar to that of southern Indiana. The Marshall sandstone forms an escarpment similar to that formed by the "Knobstone" north of New Albany.

#### CENOZOIC ERA.

##### QUATERNARY PERIOD.

##### PLEISTOCENE OR GLACIAL HISTORY.

##### PRE-WISCONSIN STAGES OF GLACIATION AND DEGLACIATION.

Inasmuch as this quadrangle was in the path of the Labrador ice field when it extended farthest southwestward during the Illinoian stage of glaciation, much of the pre-Wisconsin drift has been referred to that stage. Whether the Kansan and pre-Kansan glaciations, which were operative in the upper Mississippi Valley and regions farther north, were also operative here can not be positively stated. The amount of pre-Wisconsin drift, as indicated in the description of the surficial geology, probably exceeds that of the Wisconsin.

On the withdrawal of the Labrador ice field, in the Illinoian stage of glaciation, glacial lakes were probably formed, and the drainage systems doubtless became complex, resembling those that prevailed on the withdrawal of the ice in the later Wisconsin time. Certain deposits of gravel and sand buried beneath the Wisconsin drift are thought to be products of glacial lakes of Illinoian age, but positive statements can not yet be made concerning such features.

##### WISCONSIN STAGE OF GLACIATION.

The earlier Wisconsin history in this district is somewhat obscure. Whether the Labrador ice field, after its culmination in earlier Wisconsin time, melted back beyond the Ann Arbor quadrangle and permitted glacial lakes to occupy its southeastern portion, as in later Wisconsin time, is not known. There is no doubt, however, that this quadrangle was glaciated in earlier Wisconsin as well as in later Wisconsin time.

The cross striation at the Woolmuth quarry and at several points in southeastern Michigan outside of this quadrangle has been interpreted by Sherzer (Jour. Geol. vol. 10, 1903, pp. 194-216) as the work not only of the earlier and the later Wisconsin ice movements but also of pre-Wisconsin movements. This interpretation seems plausible, but in view of complexities of glacial and interglacial conditions, there can hardly be certainty concerning striation produced in pre-Wisconsin stages.

The complex lake history and the drainage development connected with the recession of the Labrador ice sheet in later Wisconsin time are treated at length under the next heading.

##### DRAINAGE DEVELOPMENT.

##### Relation of Drainage to Topography.

During and after the retreat of the ice sheet the land was again exposed to rainfall, and the ordinary processes of drainage began again, by which the waters were collected and carried off to the ocean.

Different portions of the drainage systems of this quadrangle and neighboring parts of Michigan exhibit striking contrasts, which are largely the result of topographic conditions produced by the glaciation. The northwestern part of the quadrangle contains fewer streams and more swampy or ill-drained land for a given area than the region along the great Huron-Erie moraine system, which crosses the quadrangle from its northeast to its southwest corner. The scarcity of drainage lines in the northwestern part is due to some extent to its greater proportion of gravelly or loose-textured drift, which readily absorbs rain water and carries it away underground. It appears, however, that the topography has controlled the drainage fully as much as has the texture of the deposits. The moraine hills of the northwestern part, though some of them are about as high as the principal ridge of the moraine system to the southeast, stand in a broad, shallow trough whose slopes are not only very gradual, but are so interrupted by depressions that development of a drainage line in this section is necessarily slow and difficult. The moraine system southeast of it, on the other hand, comprises

ridges with slopes sufficiently steep and regular to favor the rapid development of drainage lines. As a result, numerous small lines of drainage lead down these slopes into valley-like troughs that lie between the ridges. The outer slopes of these ridges is generally more abrupt than the inner or iceward slopes, and the streams leading down them are correspondingly shorter. Furthermore their gradients are so steep that the run-off is rapid, and their beds may become dry soon after a rain. The streams on the inner slope maintain a much longer flow, and some are never dry. On reaching the sags between morainic ridges the streams run along them until they find gaps through which they may pass eastward to the lower country. The combination of the portions of the drainage lines along these sags with their small tributary feeders from the neighboring ridges give to the drainage lines a trellised appearance which is a marked feature throughout this great moraine system.

In the lake plain generally a smooth slope was offered for the development of drainage as soon as the lake waters disappeared, and numerous shallow stream channels were soon formed, which took the direction of steepest slope. The Maumee beaches have caused slight divergences and the Whittlesey beach has deflected drainage lines into courses parallel with the beaches and at a right angle with the general course of the streams that flow directly down the slopes. Several of these deflected streams along the Whittlesey beach are about 2 miles long and in conjunction with the direct-flowing streams produce a trellised appearance similar to that produced by the moraine ridges. The course of the deflected portions of these streams is along the landward side of the beaches; or where a beach presents a double ridge or where one ridge laps past another, a stream may flow along the sag between the ridges. Many small streams rise on the lakeward side of each of the beaches and if this fact and the deflections of streams on the landward side are kept in mind the probable position of a beach may be determined from a good drainage map.

A possible effect of delta accumulations on the courses of drainage lines may be seen along Huron River in the eastern part of the quadrangle, and also along Saline River near Milan. The southern tributaries of lower Rouge River have their sources in the sandy districts bordering the Huron east of Ypsilanti and lead directly away from the Huron like the distributaries of a delta, of which they are perhaps an inheritance. This disposition of drainage occurs both above and below the Belmore beach and thus applies to the delta in Lake Maumee and Lake Arkona as well as to that in Lake Whittlesey. The headwaters of Swan Creek, south of the Huron, lead directly away from the river, starting from the large Arkona delta. The scattering of drainage lines in the vicinity of Milan also takes place from the Arkona delta of Saline River.

The drainage of the lake plain bears witness to the recency of its development, for the streams still maintain parallel independent courses for long distances. Streams on the most recent parts of the lake plain, near Detroit River and Lake Erie, show even more marked parallelism than those farther back. The tendency to gather into dendritic systems is just beginning to manifest itself in the higher and older parts of the lake plain.

The drainage development of the lake plain seems, however, to be more largely controlled by the character of the soil than by the topography, development being fuller where a clay soil prevails than it is on a sandy tract. Areas of several square miles in the sandy tracts are traversed by no drainage lines.

##### Drainage Shifting.

The drainage of this quadrangle has undergone a remarkable series of shiftings in the course of its development, only an outline of which can be given here. By the aid of the sketch maps (figs. 6 to 13), however, the reader may gather the leading elements of the history. These maps serve also to set forth the development of several lines of drainage which lie outside the limits of the quadrangle but to which no reference is here made.

*South Bend outlet.*—When the Saginaw and Huron-Erie ice lobes were still coalescent over the headwater portion of Huron River a glacial stream that emerged from between the ice lobes near Hamburg made its way westward past Pinckney along

a line indicated in fig. 6. This leads through the Portage Swamp to Grand River, thence down the river to Eaton Rapids, thence westward through a channel now occupied by a swamp to Battle Creek at Charlotte, thence down the creek to Kalamazoo River, and thence down the river past the site of Kalamazoo to a narrow lake (the glacial Lake Dowagiac) held in front of the Lake Michigan ice lobe. This lake is one of a chain that extended from the Kalamazoo southward through a strip of lowland now drained by Pawpaw, Dowagiac, and

There it turned southward and led past Gun Lake and through Gun River Marsh to Kalamazoo River. The relations there are not entirely clear, though the stream appears for a time to have turned southward from the Kalamazoo at Otsego and followed Pawpaw River down to Hartford, where it entered a glacial lake bordering the ice edge and representing an early stage of Lake Chicago, shown in fig. 7. This glacial lake discharged through the Chicago outlet from the southwestern edge of the Lake Michigan basin,

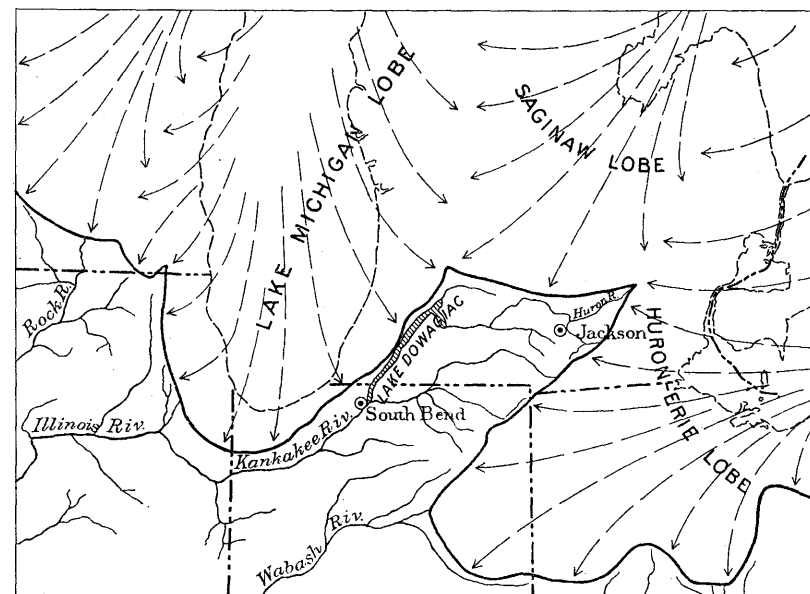


FIG. 6.—First course of drainage from the Ann Arbor quadrangle after the withdrawal of the ice from its western portion, and the position of the glacial lobes. Drainage is through Lake Dowagiac and Kankakee River to Illinois River.

St. Joseph rivers, to South Bend, Ind., where discharge was made into the head of the Kankakee. The drainage then followed the course of that stream to the Illinois and thence to the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. The headwater portion of Raisin River, together with a glacial stream heading in western Washtenaw County, at that time took a northwestward course through eastern Jackson County to Grand River at Jackson, beyond which it soon joined the stream coming in from the Huron Valley through the Portage Swamp and followed the course outlined above.

*The Chicago outlet.*—When by a recession of the ice, the point of junction of the Saginaw and

to the Desplaines and thence to the Illinois, the Mississippi, and the Gulf of Mexico.

*The Fort Wayne outlet.*—When the Huron-Erie ice lobe had shrunk to about the inner border of the great moraine system that leads across the Ann Arbor quadrangle from its northeast to its southwest corner, Huron and Raisin rivers abandoned their westward lines of discharge and took a southward course to Lake Maumee and thence past Fort Wayne to Wabash River, as indicated in fig. 8. Huron River at that time turned southward at Ann Arbor and joined Raisin River in western Bridgewater Township, a portion of its course being through lakelike pools. The terrace

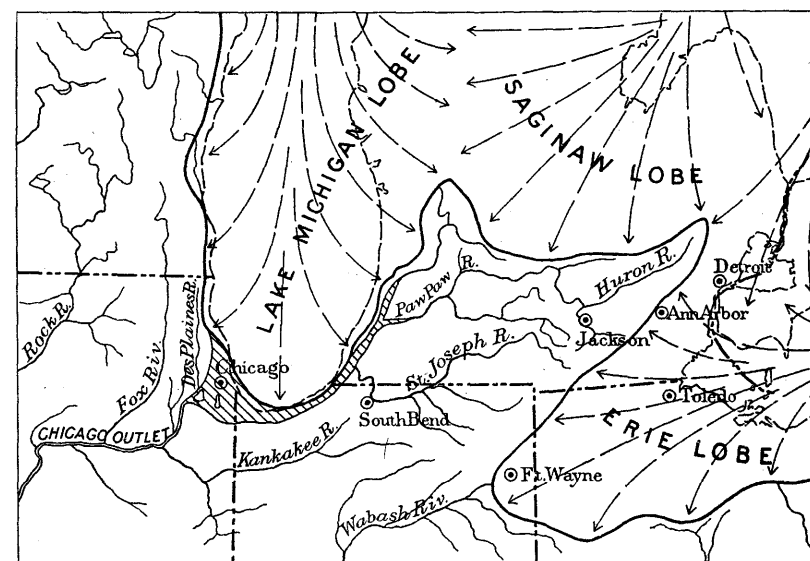


FIG. 7.—Drainage from Ann Arbor quadrangle past Chicago, and the extent of the glacial lobes. Shaded area represents the beginning of glacial Lake Chicago.

Huron-Erie lobes stood near the head of Huron River, the drainage of Huron and Raisin rivers followed the courses indicated in fig. 7. It coincides with the course previously outlined only to Eaton Rapids, whence, with the northward shrinking of the Saginaw ice lobe, the stream continued northward down the present course of Grand River nearly to Lansing, and thence westward to Thornapple River, the course of which it followed to the bend near Middleville.

at Ann Arbor marking this level of the river is a little more than 840 feet above sea level, or about 80 feet higher than the present river. Much of the headwater portion of Saline River was then embraced in a lakelike pool through which the Huron discharged to the Raisin.

*Lake Maumee and the Imlay-Grand outlet.*—With the enlargement of Lake Maumee by the withdrawal of the ice sheet came the exposure of the Imlay outlet (see fig. 9), and through that a

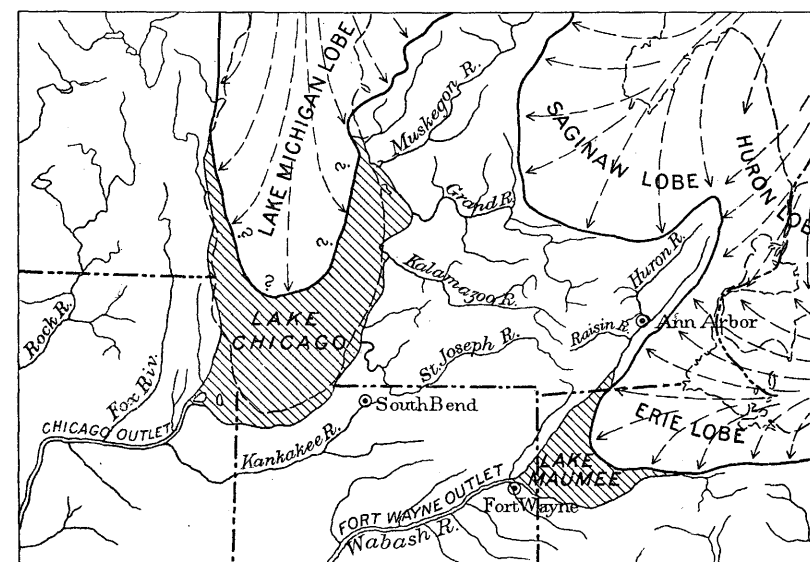


FIG. 8.—Drainage from Ann Arbor quadrangle to Lake Maumee and the Fort Wayne outlet, and the position of the glacial lobes. Shaded areas represent glacial lakes.

slight lowering of the lake level. Lake Maumee then extended up to Ann Arbor, so that Huron River formed a delta at the highest lake level in the northern part of the city, west of Broadway. The delta deposits now comprise horizontal topset beds of coarse material resting on foreset beds of finer material with considerable cross-bedding and a decided dip downstream. Numerous exposures of topset and foreset beds along the bluff west of Broadway show that the growth of the delta began a little farther upstream, perhaps one-eighth of a mile. A terrace that extends down the river to this delta is a marked feature. The terrace and top of the delta stand about 812 feet above sea level, or 30 feet lower than the terrace back of it, which was formed when the river led from Ann Arbor southwestward to Raisin River, as indicated above.

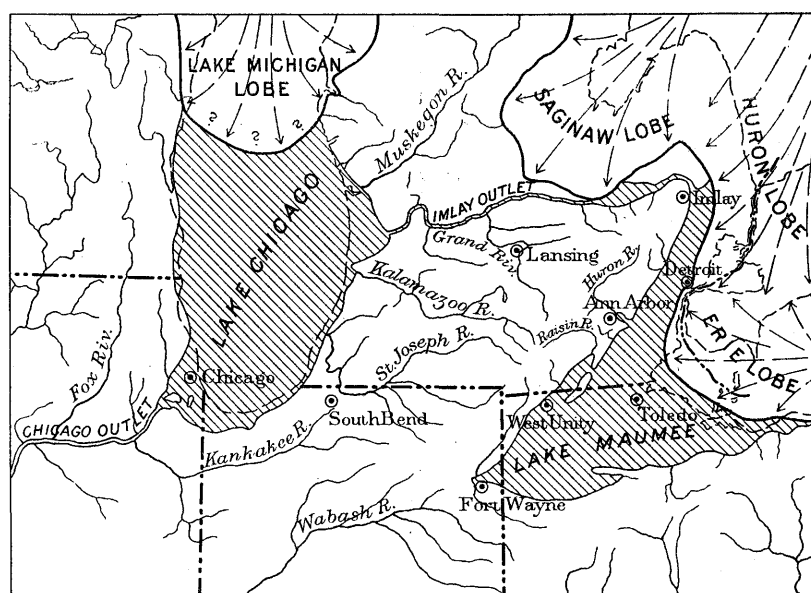


FIG. 9.—Drainage from Ann Arbor quadrangle through Lake Maumee and the Grand-Imlay outlet to Lake Chicago, and the position of the glacial lobes. Shaded areas represent glacial lakes.

At the lowering of Lake Maumee to the level of its second beach Huron River formed a delta at a correspondingly lower level, in the northeastern part of Ann Arbor. This delta is cut into by the Michigan Central Railroad east of the overhead bridge on Fuller street, the cut exposing topset beds of coarse gravel and cobble. When the surface of the lake was lowered to the level of its third beach an extensive delta was formed just east of Ypsilanti.

Raisin River reached slack water at the highest stage of Lake Maumee near Tecumseh. A bed of surface clay that appears in the eastern part of Tecumseh, near the waterworks pumping station, may be a deposit in this slack water.

Saline River at that time entered a bay of Lake Maumee opposite the village of Saline, for at its highest stage Lake Maumee extended over nearly all the territory traversed by the southeastward-flowing portion of the stream.

The middle branch of Rouge River entered Lake Maumee at Northville, just east of the eastern edge of the quadrangle.

*Lake Arkona and the Grand River outlet.*—With the recession of the ice border northward across the point between Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay commonly known as the Thumb, a passage into the Saginaw basin was opened, and this being much lower than the Imlay outlet the lake level

From the Saginaw basin it discharged through the Grand River outlet to Lake Chicago.

*Lake Whittlesey and the Ubyly outlet.*—By a readvance of the ice border southward the passage into Saginaw Bay was closed and the lake level raised sufficiently to discharge past Ubyly into the head of Cass River through what is termed the Ubyly outlet. The lake level thus established, called Lake Whittlesey, formed a beach, which stands at 735 to 740 feet in the Ann Arbor quadrangle. Its line of discharge is shown in fig. 10. Huron River then extended 2 or 3 miles below Ypsilanti, and its bed was at that time at the level of the terrace on which the high school and much of the business portion of the city is built. The middle branch of Rouge River entered the lake at Plymouth; Saline River entered at York, and Raisin River several miles south of Tecumseh.

*Lake Warren and the Grand River outlet.*—With a later recession of the ice the glacial lake in the Huron-Erie basin again became confluent with one in the Saginaw basin, as at the time of Lake Arkona, and formed the largest lake of the series, Lake Warren, which discharged directly through

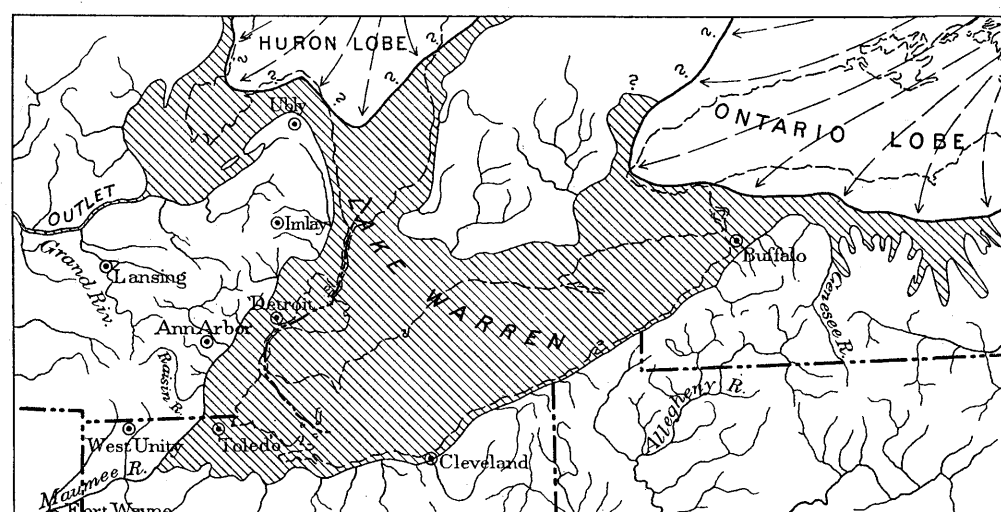


FIG. 11.—Drainage from Ann Arbor quadrangle to Lake Warren and thence westward through Grand River outlet. Also the position of the ice border. Lake area is shaded.

Grand River to Lake Chicago, in the southern part of the Lake Michigan basin, as indicated in fig. 11. In the description of the beaches of Lake Warren it is noted that the upper Warren or Forest beach stands about 680 feet above sea level in this quadrangle and the lower Warren beach about 20 feet

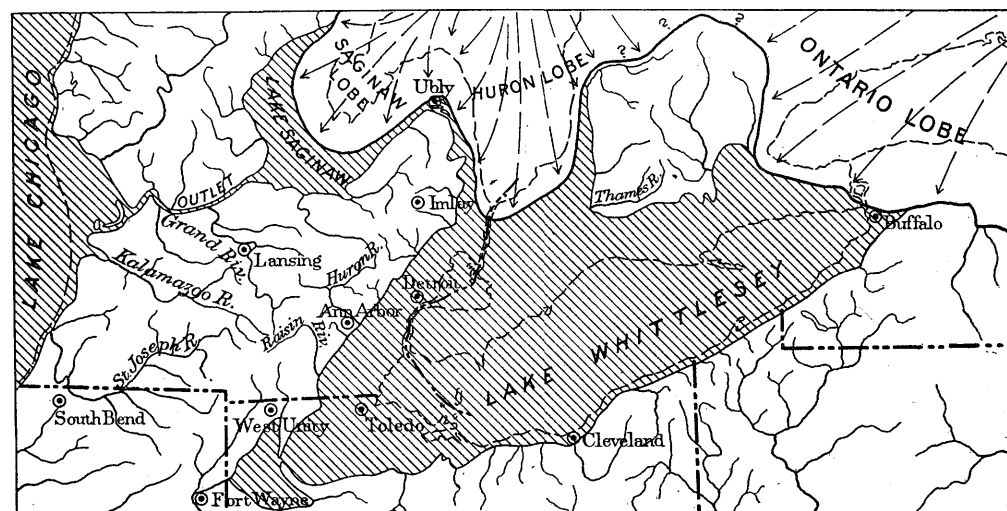


FIG. 10.—Drainage from Ann Arbor quadrangle to Lake Whittlesey and thence by Ubyly outlet to Lake Saginaw and by Grand River outlet to Lake Chicago. Also the extent of the glacial lobes. Shaded areas represent glacial lakes.

dropped correspondingly and formed the series of ridges known as the Arkona beaches. In the Ann Arbor quadrangle these beaches stand between 695 and 710 feet above sea level. The lake or lake level that formed them preceded a higher lake level, which will next be considered. The extent of Lake Arkona is not known, for the ice sheet subsequently encroached upon part of its bed.

Ann Arbor.

lower, also that the fragmentary and washed-down appearance of the lower beach suggests that it may have been formed before the upper beach. If the lower beach is the older the lake that formed it probably found outlet eastward past Syracuse, N.Y., to the Mohawk. A closing of this eastward outlet by a readvance of the ice in the Mohawk Valley and a consequent rise of 20 feet in the lake, to the

level of the upper beach, would have caused the outlet to shift to the western end of the lake. The propriety of attaching the name Lake Warren to both these lake levels is questioned, but the introduction of another name for one stage should be deferred till after the clearing away of present uncertainties.

Huron River formed a conspicuous terrace in the eastern part of the quadrangle in harmony with the upper Warren beach. A terrace formed by it in connection with the lower Warren beach is not so conspicuous, a fact which may perhaps aid

a readvance of the ice, by which the lake may for a time have overflowed at the westward outlet. Its beaches are weak, apparently marking stages of short duration. Their weakness may, however, in some places at least, be due to their partial effacement by waves in a later submergence. In southeastern Michigan sandy strips, between the lower Warren beach and the shore of Lake Erie, one of which is termed the Grassmere and another the Elkton beach, were probably formed when the water found outlet near Syracuse.

The discharge through the Syracuse channels

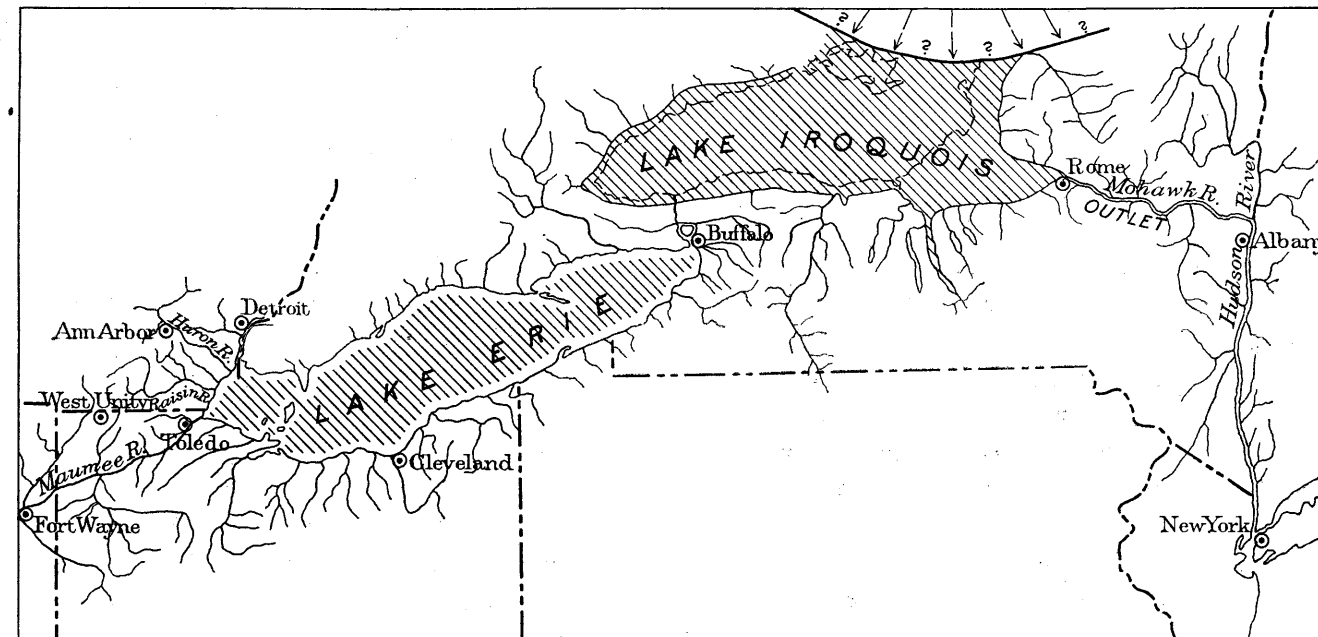


FIG. 12.—Drainage from Ann Arbor quadrangle eastward through Lakes Erie and Iroquois to Mohawk River and thence to Hudson River and the Atlantic Ocean. Shaded area represents glacial lakes. Lake Erie was then smaller than at present but its exact limits are not known.

in interpreting the point in question. At the upper stage the mouth of Saline River was just below Milan and that of the Macon was 2 miles above Azalia, while the Raisin and South Macon, as well as most of the streams in the northeastern part of the quadrangle, were lengthened in districts outside the limits of this quadrangle.

*Later stream development.*—Concerning later stream development, consequent on the lowering of the glacial lakes by outlets near Syracuse, N. Y., it seems necessary to say a word, although the

was followed by a long-continued discharge past Rome, N. Y., from a lake in the Ontario basin, known as Lake Iroquois, whose extent is shown in fig. 12. Lake Erie then discharged into Lake Iroquois over Niagara Falls as it does now into Lake Ontario. At first it appears to have been much smaller than it is now, being, perhaps, confined to the deep eastern end of the basin. Under these conditions, drainage lines like Huron and Raisin rivers, which enter it from the west, were much longer than the present streams. The lake appears now to be enlarging as the result of an uplift which is raising the outlet of the lake at Buffalo. The uplift now going on may prove to be a continuation of one that was in progress while Lake Iroquois was in existence or it may be a later and independent movement. In either case it will be difficult to outline a shore for Lake Erie that is fully in harmony with Lake Iroquois, for it was the shore of an expanding body of water. For these reasons the map forming fig. 12 does not show a fixed border of Lake Erie at the Lake Iroquois stage.

Soon after the disappearance of the ice sheet from the valley of the St. Lawrence the present system of drainage was established, though the sea for a time extended into the Lake Ontario basin from the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The western part of the present system is shown in fig. 13.

From the sketch of drainage development just presented it appears that the waters of this quadrangle, after traversing successively several lines leading to the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico, were transferred to the Atlantic, first by way of

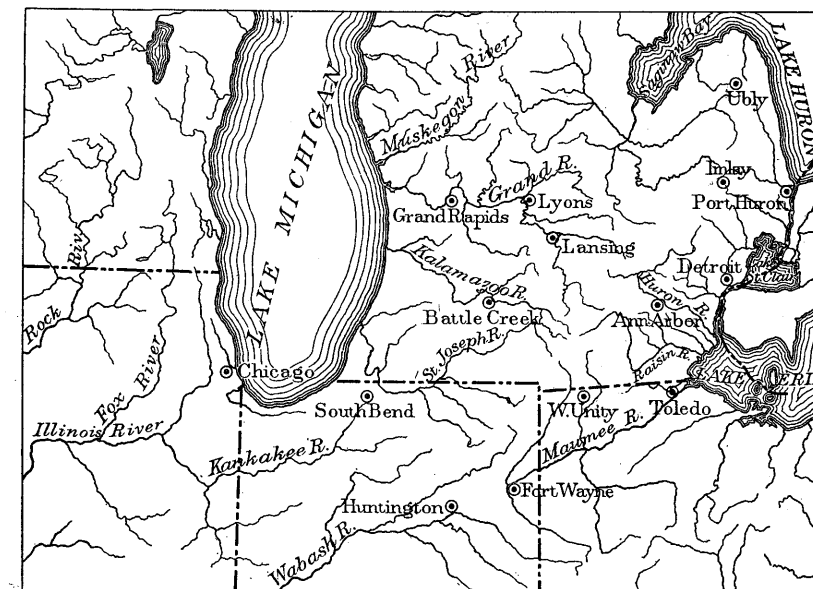


FIG. 13.—Present drainage of southern Michigan and portions of neighboring districts, showing relation to the Great Lakes, which discharge into the Atlantic by way of St. Lawrence River.

eastward, so that its waters, which had before been carried to the Gulf of Mexico, were carried to the Atlantic through the Mohawk and Hudson valleys. The level of the water was not lowered at once, but by stages and, as suggested above, there may have been an interruption in its lowering occasioned by

Hudson River and later through the Gulf of St. Lawrence. These remarkable shiftings, if analyzed and classified in scientific terms, will illustrate chiefly the first stage of stream development—namely, that of consequent drainage. The several courses taken in turn by the streams were conse-







