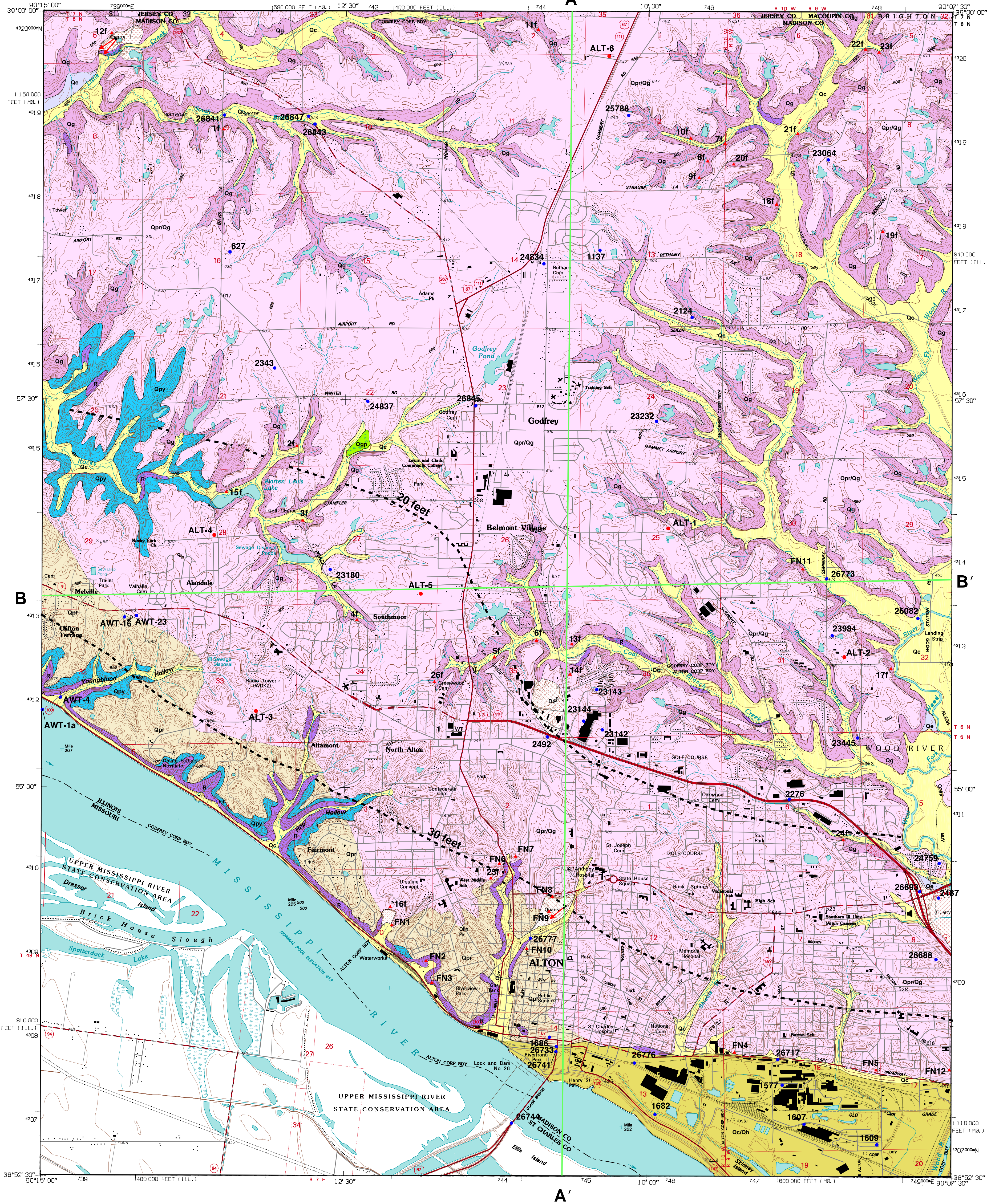


David A. Grimley



DISCLAIMER: This map is based on interpretations of available data obtained from a variety of sources. This map was prepared as part of a project for geologic mapping, resource evaluation, and regional planning, and does not replace the need for detailed site-specific studies.

Scale 1:24,000
0 0 2 kilometers
0 0 2 miles
Contour interval 10 feet

Base map compiled at the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) from digital data (1994) provided by the U.S. Geological Survey and the ISGS 1927 North American Datum

1	2	3
4	5	
6	7	8

1 Jerseyville South
2 Brighton
3 Springfield
4 Eliah
5 Beahm
6 Pleasant
7 Columbia Bottom
8 Wood River

ADJOINING 7.5-MINUTE QUADRANGLES

Acknowledgments

Discussions in the field with E. D. McKay, J.A. Devera and B.F. Denry assisted considerably with this mapping project. H.D. Glass studied the clay mineralogy of till samples. Areas of near-surface bedrock were modified based upon additional field observations by J.A. Devera and B.F. Denry. J. Schenck assisted greatly with digitization and comparison of the geologic data to J.M. Masters for his comments on the sand and gravel resources in the area. Henry Bush, a local water well owner, was also very generous with his time, and discussions with him were extremely useful for correlation of his many well log descriptions to our new data. This project was funded by the STATEMAP quadrangle mapping program, a cooperative agreement between the State of Illinois and the U.S. Geological Survey (contract no. 1434-HQ-97-AG-01943).

Data Point Type

11* stratigraphic test holes
outcrops examined

FN1* ISGS field note descriptions
water wells and engineering borings
county numbers indicated

more reliable border
less reliable border

less contours (indicates typical thickness of loess deposits on undisturbed upland areas; includes Peoria and Roxana Silt; loess does not occur over areas mapped as Cahokia Formation); contour interval 10 feet

stiation directions (arrow points in direction of ice advance)

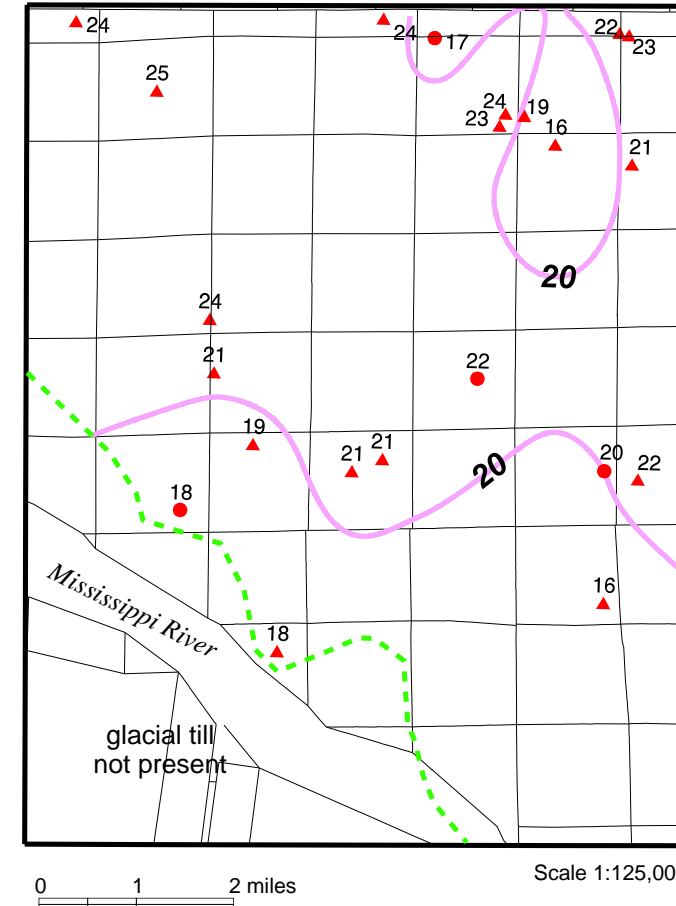


Figure 1 Clay content of Glasford Formation till.
Shown are weight percentages of < .004 mm particles in the < 2 mm fraction of calicheous C and D horizon till from the Glasford Formation, deposited during the Illinois Episode. Data are from hydrometer analyses. (Additional information on grain size data in Grimley 1999b)

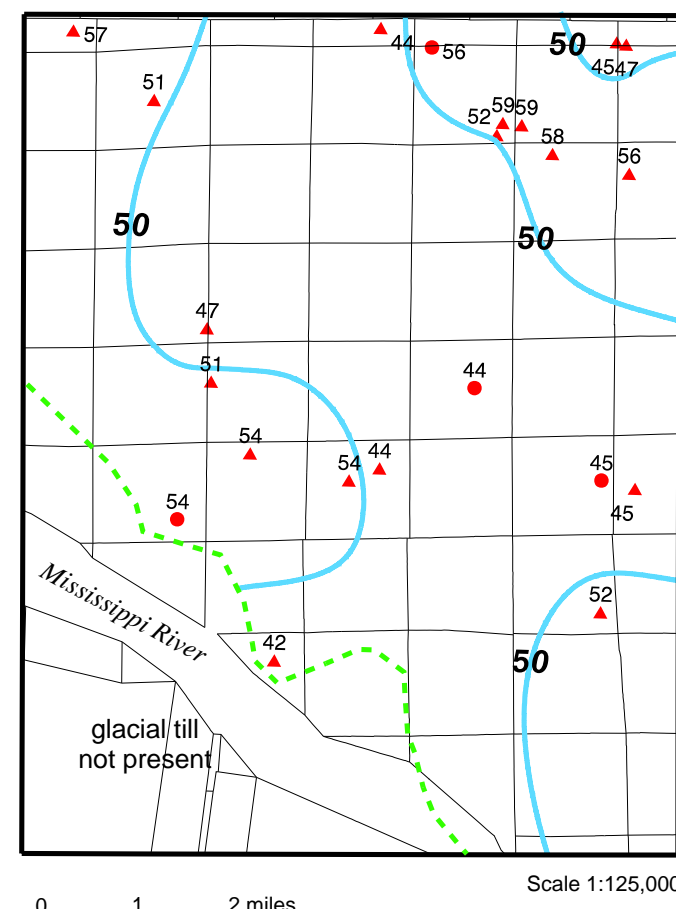


Figure 2 Percent illite in clay mineral fraction of Glasford Formation till.
Samples are calicheous C or D horizon glacial till (Illinois Episode). Illite percentages were calculated from X-ray diffraction patterns from glycolated oriented slides of clay-size fractions. Samples were analyzed by H. D. Glass. (Additional information on clay mineralogy in Grimley 1999b)

Material Descriptions

Quarries, spoil piles, landfills, artificial levees, and major roadway fill; significant manmade forms of earth material or removed earth material.

Stratified silt, sand, and gravel; up to 20 feet thick in West Fork, Wood River Valley; overlying older silt, clay, diamicton, or bedrock.

Stratified silt, sand, and gravel; approximately 15 to 50 feet thick; generally, the upper 5 to 30 feet of silt and clay and lower portions are mostly silt; underlain by thick sand and gravel.

Peat, muck, and marl; dominantly organic-rich silts; estimated thickness of 5 to 10 feet.

Pebbly silt, sand, and/or pebbly clay; yellow-brown to reddish-brown; 5 to 15 feet thick.

Stratified to massive silty clay, silt and clay; often grey to yellow grey; estimated maximum thickness of 40 feet; overlying younger sand and silt (alluvium) or by 3 to 5 feet of silt (loess).

Sand and gravel; 50 to 90 feet thick underneath the broad Mississippi Valley in the southeast portion of the quadrangle, thinner towards valleys edges; overlain by 15 to 50 feet of silts and sands.

Massive silt to silt loam; loose, low density and soft; in unweathered areas, the upper two-thirds is yellow-brown to grey and lower one-third is pinkish-brown to grey-brown; total thickness of 15 to 50 feet; thickest in unweathered upland areas near the bluffs; underlain by clay and/or bedrock.

Pebbly loam diamicton containing some minor sand and silt beds; overlain by 5 to 45 feet of massive, soft silt. The upper 2 to 10 feet of the diamicton is more oxidized (yellow-brown), less compact, softer, sandier, and often contains interbeds of sorted sediment. The lower portion and typically major thickness of the diamicton is commonly unoxidized (grey to slightly greenish-blue), and is uniform and dense. Local limestone, dolomite, and shale pebbles as well as spruce wood fragments are common in the unoxidized diamicton. Illite composes more than 50% of clay minerals in the unoxidized till.

Pebbly loam diamicton within about 5 feet of ground surface with < 5 feet of overlying silt. Otherwise the description is same as above.

Clay loam to silty clay diamicton, brown to brown grey, often with orange stained fractures; underlain by bedrock and overlain by any number of younger units. This unit is up to 10 feet thick where observed, but could thicken into bedrock valleys. The diamicton contains more expensable clay minerals in the clay fraction than Illinois Episode tills (McKay, 1979). This unit occurs primarily in grey-brown, but is exposed in bedrock lows, such as at outcrops 12f (Sec. 6, T6N, R10W) and 15f (Sec. 28, T6N, R10W).

Near-surface limestone, dolomite, shale, siltstone, or coal; in some cases bedrock may be at depths slightly greater than 5 feet; includes some talus-covered bedrock slopes at the bluffs of the Mississippi Valley; for more information, see Devera, *Bedrock Geology Map of the Alton Quadrangle*, in progress.

Water Bodies

QUATERNARY DEPOSITS

Hudson Episode (postglacial; 0-10,000 years before present (B.P.))

Disturbed Ground

Cahokia Formation overlying Equality Formation or till or bedrock
This alluvium is silty where derived from loess, generally in the headwaters of creeks. Silty sand and sandy silt alluvium, derived from till and loess, occurs in most middle and lower reaches of creek valleys. Coarser sand and sometimes gravels alluvium occurs where bedrock is near-surface, such as in Hop and Youngblood Hollows, near the Mississippi River Valley bluffs. The Cahokia Formation normally overlies either Equality, Glasford, or Banner Formations or bedrock (see cross-sections).

Cahokia Formation overlying Henry Formation
Postglacial Mississippi Valley alluvium is underlain by Henry Formation sand and gravel outwash. The total thickness of both units ranges from 40 to 120 feet.

Grayslake Peat
These peaty deposits occur in one swampy depression in the headwater region of Rocky Fork Creek.

Peyton Formation
Colluvium in the Alton Quadrangle is a relatively unsorted mixture of loess, residuum, and bedrock, deposited by mass wasting processes. This colluvium is mostly redeposited less mixed with deeply eroded loess and contains small fragments of local rock. Peyton Formation is commonly found on steep slopes or footslopes, especially near Rocky Fork Creek, Youngblood and Hop Hollows. Some colluvium began during the glacial episodes, prior to or concurrent with loess deposition.

Wisconsin Episode (about 10,000-75,000 years B.P.)

Equality Formation
Slackwater lake deposits occur below about 475 feet elevation in broad sections of the West Fork, Wood River Valley; overlies the siltstone of the Sangamon Geosol. The upper 5 to 10 feet of Glasford Formation is generally melt-out till and the lower and thicker portion is dense, subglacial till. The till indicates the sediment was primarily derived from Paleozoic shales and carbonates with a large amount of local input. Bedrock striations indicate ice advance from the northeast.

Henry Formation (in cross-sections only)
Outwash deposited in the Mississippi River Valley, related to advances of upper midwestern glaciers that did not reach the study area, is overlain by 15 to 50 feet of postglacial alluvium (Cahokia Formation).

Peoria and Roxana Silt (mapped as a separate unit where no till is present)
Loess deposits (windblown silt) are underlain by this residuum and/or bedrock. Loess was derived primarily by deflation of sediment from the Mississippi-Missouri River Valleys. The upper yellow-brown to grey Peoria Silt is about twice as thick as the pinkish-brown to grey-brown Roxana Silt in unweathered areas. The thinnest thickness (indicated lines on map) indicate maximum thickness in unweathered upland bluffs proximal to the Mississippi River Valley. The modern silt is contained in the upper 3 to 4 feet of Peoria Silt.

Illinois Episode (about 200,000-130,000 years B.P.)

Fort Russell Member, Glasford Formation (overlain by 5 to 45 feet of loess)
Till and clay marginal sediment are overlain by 5 to 45 feet of Roxana and Peoria Silt. The upper 4 to 7 feet of the Glasford Formation contains the siltstone of the Sangamon Geosol. The upper 5 to 10 feet of Glasford Formation is generally melt-out till and the lower and thicker portion is dense, subglacial till. The till indicates the sediment was primarily derived from Paleozoic shales and carbonates with a large amount of local input. Bedrock striations indicate ice advance from the northeast.

Fort Russell Member, Glasford Formation (< 5 feet of loess cover)
Till within about 5 feet of ground surface with < 5 feet of a loess or weathered loess cover. Otherwise same as above. The thick loess cover was largely eroded during either its deposition in the Wisconsin Episode or during postglacial times along steep ravines.

Pre-Illinois Episode (deposition between about 500,000 and 450,000 years B.P.?)

Omphigment Member, Banner Formation (in cross-sections only)
This unit is mainly till that is preserved in bedrock depressions and valleys where the Illinois Episode glacial advance was unable to completely erode the till. The Banner Formation is difficult to delineate in this quadrangle because evidence of Yarmouth Geosol development is rarely found separating it from the Glasford Formation. Omphigment till occurs at outcrops 12f and 15f below Glasford Formation and Cahokia Formation, respectively.

Pennsylvanian and Mississippian Bedrock (R)

Pennsylvanian and Mississippian Bedrock
Bedrock exposures or bedrock within about 5 feet of land surface. Bedrock is predominantly Mississippian limestone in southwestern parts of the quadrangle and Pennsylvanian shales, siltstone, coal and carbonate rock in central and northeastern portions of the quadrangle. Mississippian rocks dip gently (< two degrees) to the east. Pennsylvanian rocks unconformably overlie Mississippian rocks, also dip gently, and thicken to the east and northeast.

Lithostratigraphic Units and Interpretations

Quaternary Deposits

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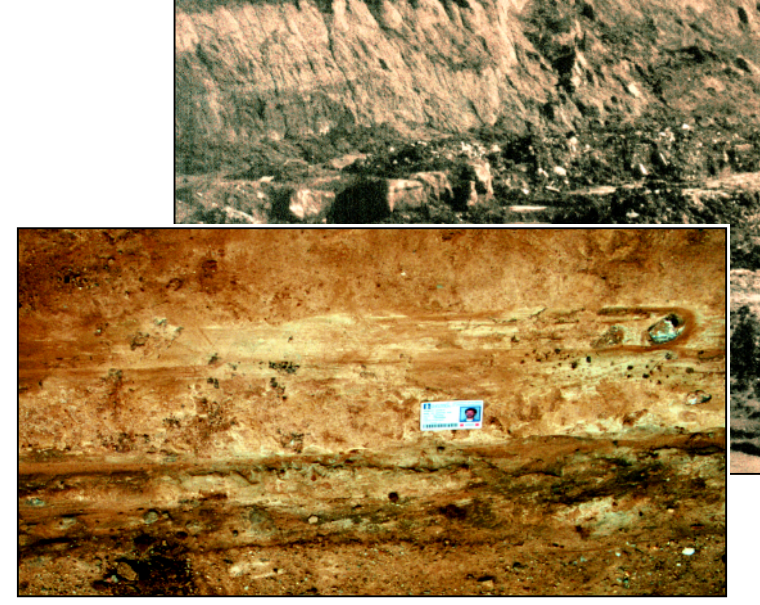
Quaternary Geology

This area is near the margin of pre-Illinois and Illinois Episode ice advances, both of which originated from the east to northeast (Wilman and Frye 1970, McKay 1979), but which thinned to their terminus several miles to the west of the Alton area (Grimley 1999a). During the Wisconsin Episode, glacial ice terminated more than 60 miles to the northeast of this quadrangle; however, thick fluvial (outwash), lacustrine (lake sediment), and eolian (loess) deposits are associated with Wisconsin Episode glaciation in the Upper Mississippi River drainage basin.

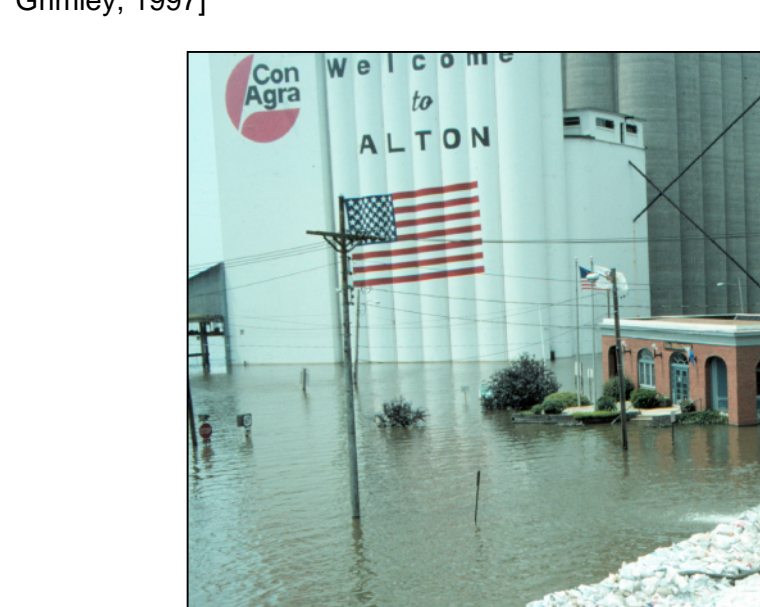
Pre-Illinois Episode deposits are scarce in this area, but scattered occurrences of an old till unit indicate an early advance of glacial ice from the east-northeast. The Omphigment Member of the Banner Formation (McKay 1979) is preserved primarily in bedrock lowlands and depressions, where erosion of earlier Quaternary deposits by Illinois Episode ice was limited. Omphigment till, a brown to grey silty clay loam diamicton with frequent local bedrock clasts, has only been found at thicknesses of less than 10 feet and stripped of the Yarmouth Geosol solum (a well developed interglacial soil). However, oxidation or jointing related to a stripped Yarmouth Geosol are often present below unaltered Fort Russell till (Illinois Episode). Bedrock, thin residuum and weathered silt underlies Omphigment till. The till has a clay content ranging from 25% to 35% (< 4 mm clay) and an illite content ranging from 33% to 45% of total clay minerals. Omphigment till is generally finer grained (more clay and less sand) and less silty than Fort Russell till. Higher clay content and more smectite in Omphigment till is perhaps due to incorporation of old Thebesian and residual bedrock soils, as this would have been the first ice advance across an unglaciated terrain in southwestern Illinois.

The main Illinois Episode unit in this quadrangle is the Fort Russell Member of the Glasford Formation. This unit is a uniform, grey to grey-green, dolomitic, illitic, pebbly loam diamicton, which oxidizes yellow-brown. Carbonate pebbles in the till are common as are clasts of Pennsylvanian shale and spruce wood within unweathered portions of the till unit. Some sandy stratified sediments are also included in the upper portion of the Fort Russell Member. The Fort Russell Member is as much as 60 feet thick, but thins to the southwest because Mississippian limestone bedrock to vermiculite in many samples, which causes illite values to increase slightly in altered tills (H.D. Glass, personal communication). Furthermore, after the Mississippi River's base level dropped from its glacial aggradational high, fluvial and colluvial erosion cut deeply into sediments near the bluffs. The Fort Russell Member often contains the Sangamon Geosol (the last interglacial soil) preserved in its upper 4 to 7 feet, where weathering and strong soil development have caused clay increases, increased soil structure, carbonate leaching, and sometimes color mottling of red-brown to green-grey. The Fort Russell Member and Sangamon Geosol are overlain by Wisconsin Episode loess, except where creeks have eroded through the silt during the Hudson Episode. A typical exposure of the Fort Russell Member, containing the Sangamon Geosol and overlain by loess, can be viewed at Lohr Quarry (site 12f) in the northwestern part of the quadrangle (see photo).

At some localities (e.g., 16f, 17f), up to 15 feet of Petersburg Silt (Illinois Episode loess or lake deposit) underlies Fort Russell till. This silt unit occurs primarily in bedrock valleys or tributaries where slackwater lake sediments, perhaps backed up from the Mississippi River Valley, were deposited and sometimes mixed with washed-in loess. Where ice incorporation of Petersburg Silt would have been considerable (mainly within 2 miles of the Mississippi Valley), the texture of Fort Russell till is silty, having < 20% clay (fig. 1). Clay contents (< .004mm in the < 2 mm fraction) of calcareous Fort Russell till range from 16% to 24% in the Alton Quad-range based on data from 21 localities.

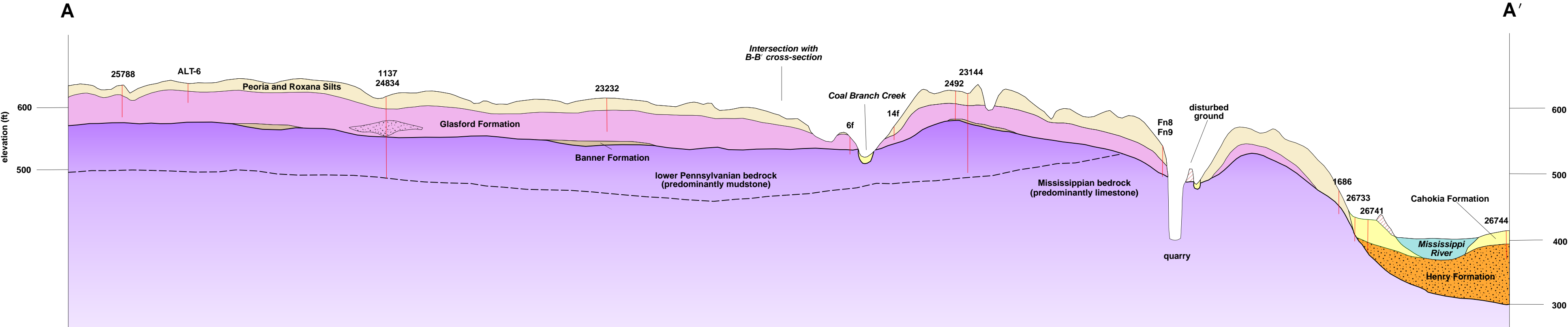


The surficial deposits at Lohr Quarry (site 12f in SE, Sec. 5, T6N, R10W). Here, about 11 feet of windblown silt (Peoria and Roxana Silt) overlies Fort Russell Member till as well as some sorted sediments deposited during the Illinois Episode. The Sangamon Geosol (last interglacial soil) is strongly developed in the upper few feet of Fort Russell Member till, sand and shales. Patchy pre-Illinois Episode till occurs in a bedrock low in the northern portion of the quarry. (Photo by David A. Grimley, 1996)

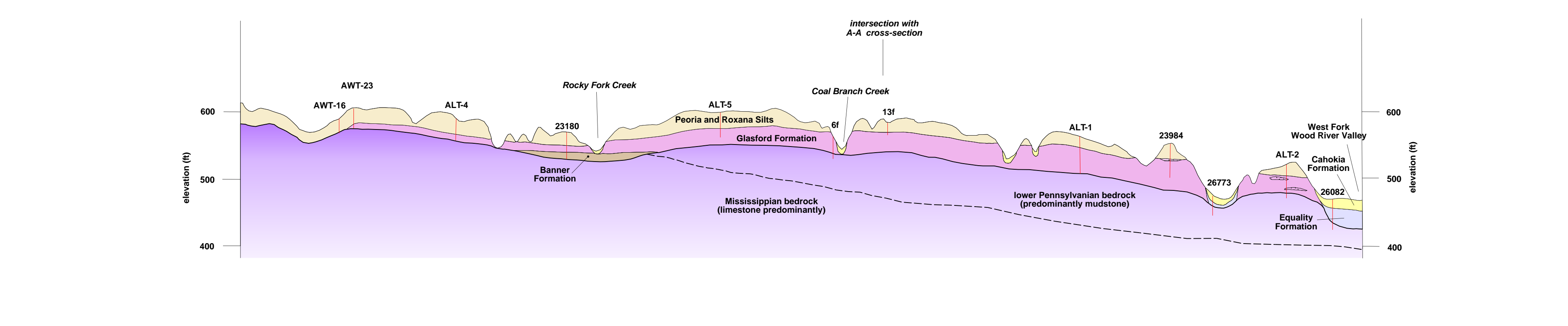


A view of the severe flooding on Front Street which occurred in downtown Alton, during the summer of 1993. Sand bagging efforts provided only limited help for the downtown area because water flowed underneath this barrier via the sewer system to the Broadway Street area. This flood rose to an elevation of 440 feet, higher than any other flood in modern history. Floods during the last glacial episode rose to about 495 feet elevation, depositing slackwater lacustrine sediment (Equality Formation in cross-section B-B) and clay beds within the loess at sites FN4 and FN5 (Leighton and Wilman, 1949) (Photo by Joel M. Dexter, 1993)

Cross-Section A-A'



Cross-Section B-B'



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