

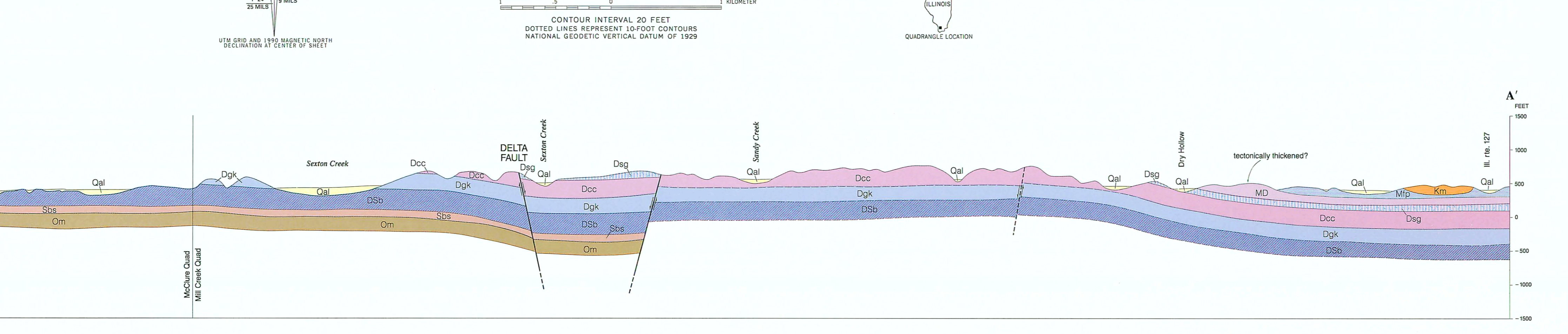
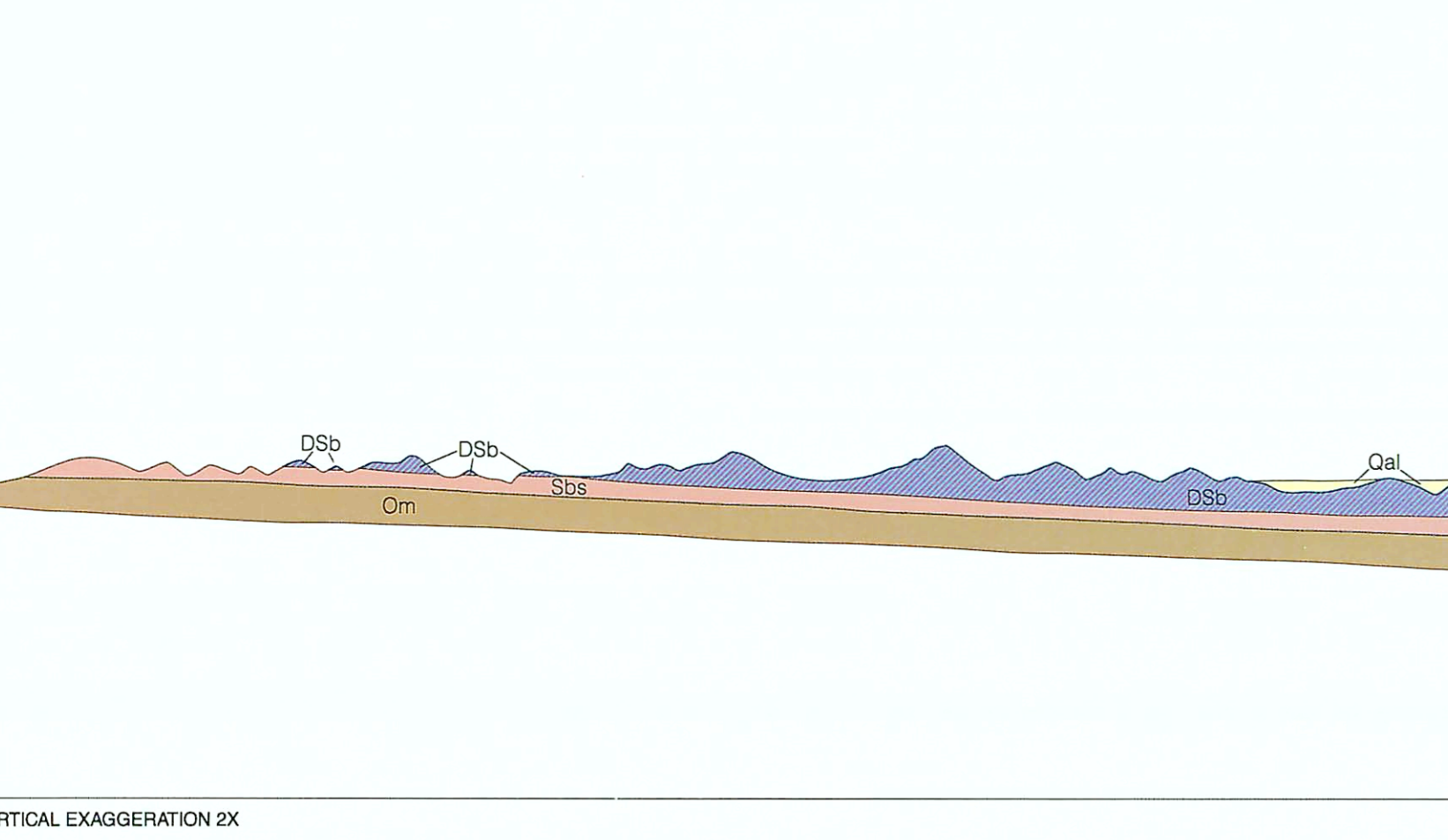
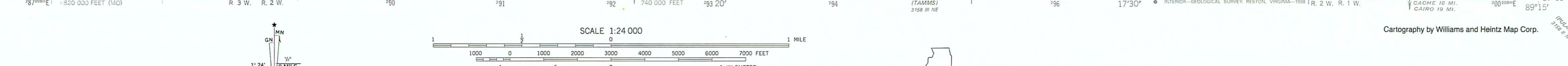
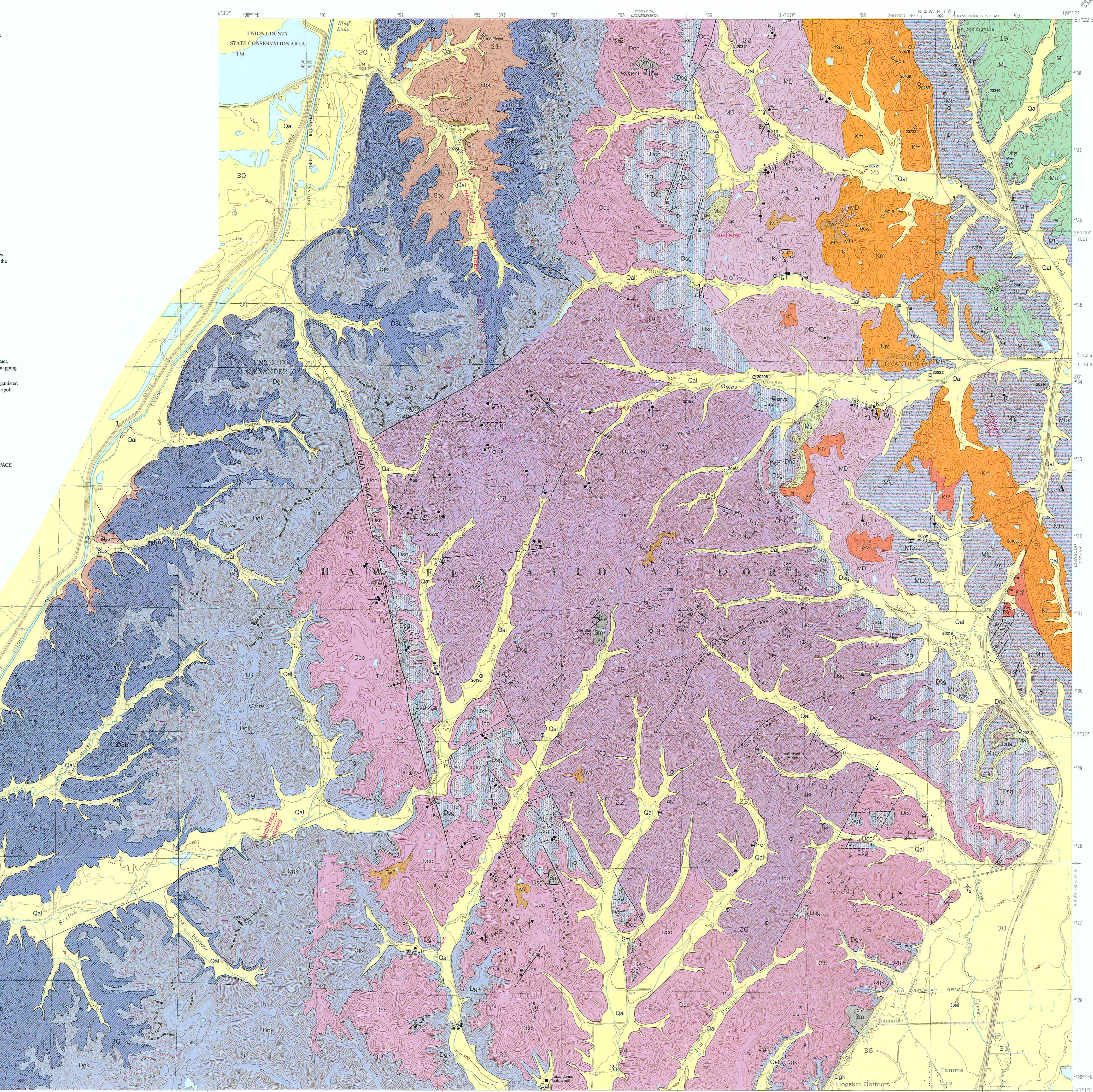
EXPLANATION	
	Gal Alluvial and lacustrine deposits
	Tw? Wilson (?) Formation
	Km McNairy Formation
	K? Tuscaloosa (?) Formation
	Mu Utica Limestone
	Mip Fort Payne Formation
	Ms Springfield Limestone
	MD, Mississippi and Devonian strata, undivided
	Dra New Albany Shale
	Dsg St. Laurent and Grand Tower Formations
	Dcc Clear Creek Formation
	Dcg, Grassy Knob Chert
	Dgk, Clear Creek and Grassy Knob, undivided
	DSB Bailey Limestone
	Sbs Bainbridge and Sexton Creek Formations
	Sm Maquoketa Formation

SYMBOLS	
	Strike and dip of bedding; number indicates degree of dip. Where no number is given, the dip is irregular or variable.
	Horizontal bedding
	Vertical joints
	Strikes, direction of dip indicated
	City dikes
	Fracture with horizontal slickensides
	Outcrop of special note, shown where contact, map scale, or fault was exposed in time of mapping
	Quarry or open-pit mine: Ch = chert, G = gneiss, L = limestone, no symbol = other
	Open adit or drift mine: G = gneiss, no symbol = tripoint
	Checked adit or drift mine: G = gneiss, no symbol = tripoint
	Surface-mined area

SYMBOLS	
	Drill holes from which SUBSURFACE DATA WERE OBTAINED
	Oil well hole with 1953 county number
	Water well with 1953 county number
	COGEMAP test hole



Index map showing areas geographically surveyed by authors



SYSTEM	SERIES	GROUP	FORMATION	MEMBER AND BED	GRAPHIC COLUMN	THICKNESS (ft)	DESCRIPTION
QUATERNARY	Platennian and Holocene			Alluvial and lacustrine deposits		0-150	A Alluvial and lacustrine deposits of massive to crudely stratified clay, silt, and sand and gravel well mapped on topographic but not examined in detail. The lower contact is unconformable.
QUATERNARY	Platennian and Holocene			Wilson (?) Formation		0-607	B Gravelly light gray to nearly black, rounded, polished chert pebbles, most smaller than 1/2 inch, mixed with occasional granitic and small pebbles of quartz and feldspar. The pebbles are locally cemented by silica and iron oxide. The matrix is quartz and chert sand. Little of the material is in place; most gravel has been derived from its original position.
CRETACEOUS	Upper		McNairy			0-1057	C Sand, gray, silty, clay, sandstone, and conglomerate. Sand is variegated gray, yellow, red, orange, and brown, fine to coarse grained, and poorly sorted. It is composed of quartz with minor lithic fragments, mica, and dark minerals in a clay matrix. Most of the sand is massive to poorly stratified. Gravel is mostly light to medium gray, subordinate to well rounded pebbles of quartz, feldspar, and mica, and to a sand matrix. It occurs as irregular pockets and veins in sand. Light gray, partly laminated, siliceous siltstone with irregular partings of mica and mica. Light gray, partly laminated, siliceous siltstone with irregular partings of mica and mica. Light gray, partly laminated, siliceous siltstone with irregular partings of mica and mica.
CRETACEOUS	Upper		Tuscaloosa?			0-907	D In the SW 1/4 of Section 25 and the NW 1/4 of Section 36, T14S, R2W, this material is a bedded chert with rounded and frosted grains. It is cross-bedded to massive and lacks fossils. Sandstone occurs only in thin beds in the SW 1/4 of Section 25. The chert is composed of chert gravel, as above, with a quartz sand matrix and cement of silica and iron oxide. Tuscaloosa (?) and Tuscaloosa (?) lithologies occur locally in areas mapped as McNairy. The lower contact is unconformable on Paleozoic rocks but may intertongue with Tuscaloosa (?) gr.
MISSISSIPPIAN	Vermilion	Marmoth Cave	Ullin Limestone			0-150	E Ullin Limestone. Gravelly white, light gray and medium gray, subangular to rounded pebbles and cobbles up to 6 inches in diameter. Chert is commonly nodular to much of it is probably derived locally. Conglomerate is gravel (as shown), in places cemented with silica or iron oxide. Assignment to the Tuscaloosa Formation is debatable.
MISSISSIPPIAN	Vermilion	Marmoth Cave	Fort Payne			80-144	F Limestone is light yellowish to brownish gray, fine to coarse, light brown ochreous to greenish gray, and contains up to 20% dark gray, silty, micaceous, and slightly siliceous, grading into and intertonguing with the underlying unit.
MISSISSIPPIAN	Vermilion	Marmoth Cave	Springville Shale	State Pond Member		35-40	G Silty shale and shale. Most of the unit is greenish to bluish gray, blocky to slightly lumpy, silty shale and shale in thin irregular, bedded beds. The silty shale contains occasional burrows and trails, but no body fossils. The unit contains upward. The State Pond Member is a thin, light gray, silty shale with irregular, bedded beds and nodules. It occurs in tabular beds 4 to 18 inches thick and separated by thin beds of silty shale and shale. The lower contact is disconformable.
MISSISSIPPIAN	Vermilion	Marmoth Cave	New Albany Shale			0-60	H Shale. Black, hard, brittle, highly fissile, nonconformable, slightly silty, grayish shale. The unit is poorly bedded and known mainly from road cuts of wells in the eastern part of the Mill Creek and adjacent Grogan Quadrangle. The New Albany Shale is similar to the basal member of the Springville Shale. The lower contact is disconformable.
MISSISSIPPIAN	Vermilion	Marmoth Cave	St. Laurent	Nordenman Oolite Bed		50-160	I Shale. Black, hard, brittle, highly fissile, nonconformable, slightly silty, grayish shale. The unit is poorly bedded and known mainly from road cuts of wells in the eastern part of the Mill Creek and adjacent Grogan Quadrangle. The New Albany Shale is similar to the basal member of the Springville Shale. The lower contact is disconformable.
MISSISSIPPIAN	Vermilion	Marmoth Cave	Grand Tower	Dutch Creek Ss. Member		10-30	J Limestone, dolomite, albite, and shale. Carbonate rocks are mostly medium to dark gray and brownish gray, very argillaceous and silty, dolomitic lime mudstone and shaly sandstone, and shaly sandstone. The basal Dutch Creek Sandstone Member, which is white (weathering dark gray), fine grained, and contains up to 20% dark gray, silty, micaceous, and slightly siliceous, grading into and intertonguing with the underlying unit.
MISSISSIPPIAN	Vermilion	Marmoth Cave	Clear Creek			200-300	K Clear Creek. Minor limestone, chert, and shale. Carbonate rocks are mostly medium to dark gray and brownish gray, very argillaceous and silty, dolomitic lime mudstone and shaly sandstone, and shaly sandstone. The basal Dutch Creek Sandstone Member, which is white (weathering dark gray), fine grained, and contains up to 20% dark gray, silty, micaceous, and slightly siliceous, grading into and intertonguing with the underlying unit.
DEVONIAN	Lower	Tamms	Grassy Knob Chert			200-250	L Chert. Microcrystalline silica, and minor limestone. Chert (largely siliceous limestone) is a silty to sandy, well bedded, gray to orange and red-stained zone. Bedding is thin and wavy to tabular, and is commonly micaceous. The chert is mostly porous to microporous but dense in some. Bedded chert occurs locally near top of ridges. Ledger-forming chert occurs sporadically throughout the unit. The chert is generally dark gray to light gray, and is generally silty and highly fractured in most places. Microcrystalline silica is white to light gray, and is generally silty and highly fractured in most places. Microcrystalline silica is white to light gray, and is generally silty and highly fractured in most places. Microcrystalline silica is white to light gray, and is generally silty and highly fractured in most places.
DEVONIAN	Lower	Tamms	Bailey Limestone			300-325	M Limestone, chert, minor shale, and microcrystalline silica. Limestone is light brown to light yellowish gray, blocky to slightly lumpy, silty shale and shale in thin irregular, bedded beds. The silty shale contains occasional burrows and trails, but no body fossils. The unit contains upward. The State Pond Member is a thin, light gray, silty shale with irregular, bedded beds and nodules. It occurs in tabular beds 4 to 18 inches thick and separated by thin beds of silty shale and shale. The lower contact is disconformable.
DEVONIAN	Lower	Tamms	Bainbridge	Moccasin Springs Member		100-110	N Limestone, chert, minor shale, and microcrystalline silica. Limestone is light brown to light yellowish gray, blocky to slightly lumpy, silty shale and shale in thin irregular, bedded beds. The silty shale contains occasional burrows and trails, but no body fossils. The unit contains upward. The State Pond Member is a thin, light gray, silty shale with irregular, bedded beds and nodules. It occurs in tabular beds 4 to 18 inches thick and separated by thin beds of silty shale and shale. The lower contact is disconformable.
DEVONIAN	Lower	Tamms	Bainbridge	St. Clair Ls. Member		10-11	O Limestone, chert, minor shale, and microcrystalline silica. Limestone is light brown to light yellowish gray, blocky to slightly lumpy, silty shale and shale in thin irregular, bedded beds. The silty shale contains occasional burrows and trails, but no body fossils. The unit contains upward. The State Pond Member is a thin, light gray, silty shale with irregular, bedded beds and nodules. It occurs in tabular beds 4 to 18 inches thick and separated by thin beds of silty shale and shale. The lower contact is disconformable.
DEVONIAN	Lower	Tamms	Bainbridge	Sixton Creek Shale Member		30-40	P Limestone is light to medium brownish gray lime mudstone and wackestone that has been altered to a silty, micaceous, and slightly silty, grayish shale. The unit is poorly bedded and known mainly from road cuts of wells in the eastern part of the Mill Creek and adjacent Grogan Quadrangle. The New Albany Shale is similar to the basal member of the Springville Shale. The lower contact is disconformable.
DEVONIAN	Lower	Tamms	Bainbridge	Grand Tower Ls. Mbr.		30-40	Q Limestone, chert, minor shale, and microcrystalline silica. Limestone is light brown to light yellowish gray, blocky to slightly lumpy, silty shale and shale in thin irregular, bedded beds. The silty shale contains occasional burrows and trails, but no body fossils. The unit contains upward. The State Pond Member is a thin, light gray, silty shale with irregular, bedded beds and nodules. It occurs in tabular beds 4 to 18 inches thick and separated by thin beds of silty shale and shale. The lower contact is disconformable.
DEVONIAN	Lower	Tamms	Bainbridge	Maquoketa		20-30	R Limestone, chert, minor shale, and microcrystalline silica. Limestone is light brown to light yellowish gray, blocky to slightly lumpy, silty shale and shale in thin irregular, bedded beds. The silty shale contains occasional burrows and trails, but no body fossils. The unit contains upward. The State Pond Member is a thin, light gray, silty shale with irregular, bedded beds and nodules. It occurs in tabular beds 4 to 18 inches thick and separated by thin beds of silty shale and shale. The lower contact is disconformable.
DEVONIAN	Lower	Tamms	Bainbridge	Thebes Sandstone Member		25-60	S Intergrading sandstone and siltstone are light to medium gray, greenish to brownish gray, argillaceous, and laminated to blocky bedded. They are quartzose and partly silty. The unit is poorly bedded and known mainly from road cuts of wells in the eastern part of the Mill Creek and adjacent Grogan Quadrangle. The New Albany Shale is similar to the basal member of the Springville Shale. The lower contact is disconformable.

DESCRIPTION

STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY
The Mill Creek and McClure Quadrangles lie along the boundary between the Ozark Dome to the west, the Illinois Basin to the northeast, and the Mississippi Embayment to the southeast. The Ozark Dome area has outcrops of Devonian and older strata, which dip eastward at an average rate of less than 1°. Mississippian rocks in the Illinois Basin portion of the study area dip east-northeast at 2° to 3°. The Cache River bottoms, underlain by thick Quaternary alluvium at the southeast corner of the Mill Creek Quadrangle, are at the edge of the Mississippi Embayment. Southeast of the Cache River, Cretaceous and lower Tertiary strata are at the surface. Undifferentiated Cretaceous-Tertiary strata within the Mill Creek Quadrangle occupy a south-trending graben and bear vertical slickensides and scattered hilltop outliers. Cretaceous-Tertiary sediments of the Embayment may have originally blanketed the study area.

The Harrison Creek Anticline in the northern part of the Mill Creek Quadrangle is a north-trending, nearly symmetrical fold that extends northward into the Jonesboro Quadrangle. The Upper Ordovician Girardeau Limestone Member of the Maquoketa Formation is exposed at the core of the anticline and flanked by the Silurian Sexton Creek Limestone and Bainbridge Devonian-Bailey Limestone. Maximum dips are about 19° on the west flank and 11° on the east flank. The axis of the anticline plunges gently southward in Section 33, T14S, R2W, and is truncated by a northeast-trending, high-angle fault in the north part of Section 4, T14S, R2W. The upper Bailey Limestone and Grassy Knob Chert (Lower Devonian) northwest of the fault are juxtaposed with Grassy Knob Chert on the southeast, downthrown side. Throw of the fault is about 50 to 60 feet.

The Delta Fault in the western part of the Mill Creek Quadrangle was first mapped and named by Waller and Ekblaw (1940). The fault trends S15°E about 4 miles from near the mouth of South Ripple Hollow nearly to Sandy Creek. The Delta Fault is a high-angle, dip-slip normal fault with 100 to 200 feet of throw down to the east. The fault plane, exposed in several places, dips 40° to the east and bears vertical slickensides and small faults. A zone of limonite-cemented chert breccia is about 12 feet across along the fault. In places the Delta Fault divides into several closely spaced subparallel faults that have stepwise displacements down to the east. A number of smaller faults that strike N15°W to N40°W have been mapped a short distance east of the Delta Fault, particularly in Section 21, T14S, R2W. The exposed faults are high-angle and normal.

Immeasurable small faults, most too small to show on the geologic map, were observed east of the Harrison Creek Anticline and Delta Fault. Trends of these faults are diverse, but the most common trends are N20°E to N20°W, east to west, and N30°E to N40°E. North-trending faults are most common in the northern half of the study area, whereas north-south-trending faults are largest and most numerous in the southern half. Linear drainages and scarps such as Sexton Creek, Sandy Creek, Jim Branch, and the Cache River bluff at Tutuville indicate the presence of additional large, unmapped north-south-trending faults or fracture zones.

Nearly all the small faults in the Mill Creek Quadrangle dip steeper than 60°, and many are vertical. Most of these faults have a few inches to about 20 feet of throw, but a few have more than 100 feet of throw. Horizontal slickensides, reversals of dip directions, wrong-way "drag," and positive and negative flower structures (Hershel 1985) along many of the faults indicate strike-slip displacement; however, the amount and direction of horizontal offset can rarely be determined. Two west-northwest-trending faults of Dago Hill in the SW 1/4, Section 3, T14S, R2W, bear horizontal striations; the "smoothness test" and arrangement of pinnae fractures along the faults that strike N15°W to N40°W have been mapped. A positive flower structure, or pop-up structure, has been mapped in the NE 1/4, Section 33, T14S, R2W. In the narrow, west-northwest-trending fault slice, the distinctive red limestone of the Bainbridge Formation has been uplifted into contact with the younger Bailey Limestone and Grassy Knob Chert. A small pull-apart graben filled with nega-breccia is exposed along the streambed in You-Be-Damned Hollow in the SW 1/4 NW 1/4, Section 35, T14S, R2W. North of this site a series of echelon north-northeast-trending faults have been mapped. These high-angle faults outline narrow horsts and grabens and locally contain pull-apart breccia like that in You-Be-Damned Hollow. The fault pattern implies left lateral, divergent wrenching.

At least some faulting is post-Cretaceous. Undifferentiated Cretaceous-Tertiary gravel is in fault contact with Paleozoic rocks along Cooper Creek, SW 1/4 NW 1/4, Section 1, T14S, R2W, and also at the entrance of an abandoned ganister mine northeast of Elco in Section 18, T14S, R1W. The belt of Cretaceous-Tertiary strata in the northeastern Mill Creek Quadrangle is a paleoklyved field with fluvial sediments. The linear trend and parallelism with faulting suggest structural control.

The complexity of faulting, poor exposure, and paucity of markers best precluded drawing structure contour lines on the geologic map.

ALTERED ROCKS
Lithologies of all Paleozoic units are altered in a large portion of the study area. The area of altered strata covers the Mill Creek Quadrangle (except the northeast and northwest corners) and part of the southeastern McClure Quadrangle. The altered strata continue northward into the Jonesboro Quadrangle and southward into the Tamms Quadrangle.

In this area, all the rocks are leached of carbonate minerals and silicified. The Grassy Knob Chert and Clear Creek Formation are altered to chert and microcrystalline silica (originally with some clay partings). The Grand Tower Limestone is dissolved, leaving a residuum of clay and chert. The basal Dutch Creek Sandstone Member is brecciated. The St. Laurent Formation is altered to punky, cherty, laminated low-density rock that contains no calcite or dolomite. The altered Springville Shale is a multibedded cherty material called "calico rock"; and the formerly siliceous limestone of the Fort Payne Formation is a bedded chert and ganister (granular silica). Alteration extends at least 400 feet below the surface, the depth of the deepest drill holes in the area.

The rocks are thoroughly faulted and fractured throughout the area of altered strata, as described in the preceding section on structural geology. By contrast, unaltered rocks contain few faults and are only moderately jointed. Geophysical data indicate a large body of dense magnetic rock, probably a mafic pluton, beneath the altered strata. In several parts of the study area, deeply silicified rocks of the Clear Creek and Grassy Knob Formations occur along faults. The Grassy Knob is extensively silicified along the northern part of the Delta Fault and other faults in Sections 5 and 8, T14S, R2W, whereas ledge-forming cherts of the Clear Creek follow northeast-trending faults in the NW 1/4, Section 14, in the same township. Horizontally burrowed layers in both the Grassy Knob and Clear Creek Formations were especially susceptible to alteration; they are heavily silicified well away from mapped faults.

The relationship of alteration to igneous activity suggests hydrothermal activity (Berg and Masters 1994). Intense fracturing provided pathways for hydrothermal fluids. Weathering processes also may have played a role in altering rocks near the surface.

ECONOMIC GEOLOGY
Microcrystalline silica (tripoli) is the principal economic mineral product of the Mill Creek-McClure area. More than 200 tripoli mines, mostly small room-and-pillar drift mines, have operated in the study area in the last 100 years or so. One underground and two surface mines are active, and silica processing plants are in operation at Elco and Tamms (Berg and Masters 1994).

Tripoli occurs in altered Clear Creek Formation and Grassy Knob Chert, and to a lesser extent, in the Bailey Limestone. Four factors led to the formation of tripoli: (1) original biogenic silica in the form of sponge spicules, abundant in the host rocks; (2) abundant detrital quartz silt in the host rocks; (3) hydrothermal leaching and concentration of silica; and (4) near-surface weathering in the past (probably a minor factor). Tripoli is used for polishing compounds, abrasives, and extenders or fillers in paints and plastics. Ion-exchange compounds are used as an ingredient in Portland cement.

Dense, hard chert from the study area has been used for alkali-resistant pavement and road gravel, and for making refractory bricks. Ganister derived from silicification of the Fort Payne Formation was formerly mined for use in the manufacture of refractory bricks (Lamar 1953).

No oil or gas production has been achieved in or near the study area. The Humble Oil Company's Pickle No. 1 well, drilled in 1967 to a total depth of 8,492 feet, was dry and abandoned. This hole was drilled near the structural apex of the Harrison Creek Anticline. The oil-bearing formation penetrated was the basal Canfield Mm. Sineson (Lamotte) Sandstone. No shows of oil or gas were reported.

The hydrothermal theory of alteration in this area suggests the possibility of metallic ore deposits in the subsurface. Local residents tell of mineral lead mining in the vicinity of the Delta Fault, but their reports cannot be confirmed. Concentrations of limonite, goethite, and manganese oxides occur near the Delta Fault and other faults in the study area. These minerals suggest that metallic ore may be present at depth. Unusually high concentrations of metals occur in cuttings from the Humble Pickle No. 1 oil well hole. Results of the analysis of cuttings from 29 wells distributed throughout Illinois (Erickson et al. 1987) indicate that samples from the Pickle well had the highest values of silver, arsenic, and lead; the second highest molybdenum value; and the third highest copper value. The silver value for the Pickle well was six times greater than that for any other well (Erickson et al. 1987).

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GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE MILL CREEK AND McCLURE QUADRANGLES, ALEXANDER AND UNION COUNTIES, ILLINOIS

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