THE TEAYS PREGLACIAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM

OF

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP, MADISON COUNTY, OHIO

A Senior Thesis

Prepared

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#### ABSTRACT

Before the glacial invasion of Pleistocene time, the streams of the present Ohio Basin flowed generally northwestward and were carried by the Teays River and its tributaries. The Teays River rose in the Piedmont Plateau of Virginia and North Carolina and flowed northwestward across West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois to the ancestral Mississippi River. This system of drainage was brought to a close by the advance of Pleistocene glaciers, which filled the valleys and formed new drainage patterns.

The buried valleys of Pleasant Township, Madison County, Ohio, have been mapped for this report from well records. The bedrock of Madison County consists mainly of limestone and dolomite strata of Silurian and Devonian ages. These are generally dependable sources of water supply for community use, farms and suburban homes. Sand and gravel beds which underlie or are interbedded in the glacial till are also sources of water, along with sand and gravel beds associated with the Darby Creek and Deer Creek valleys.

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#### INTRODUCTION

The consolidated rocks in Madison County were deeply trenched by the Teays River and its tributaries. The Teays River drainage system was ended by the advance of the glaciers in the Pleistocene epoch. These ancient valleys are buried under a deep layer of till, clay, silt, sand, and gravel. The sand and gravel beds are good sources of ground water along with the limestone and dolomite strata of Silurian and Devonian age. Ground water is also available from the outwash sand and gravel beds in the Deer Creek valley.

The geology, geography, and ground water hydrology of Pleasant Township will be discussed along with a discussion of the Teays River drainage system and the drainage modifications of the Teays River due to the advance of the Pleistocene glaciers. Because of the importance of the deposits in the buried valleys with respect to water supplies, the principal objective of this investigation was to map the buried valleys in Pleasant Township.

Research was the primary source of information for the manuscript while information from well logs contributed to the construction of the map of the buried valleys in Pleasant Township Well logs from Pleasant Township were contributed by the Ohio Division of Water.

#### THE GEOGRAPHY OF PLEASANT TOWNSHIP

#### LOCATION AND SIZE OF THE AREA

Madison County is in central Ohio just west of Columbus, the capital, and encompasses 463 square miles, or about 296,320 acres. The city of London, near the center of the county, is the county seat and lies about midway between Columbus and Springfield. It is bounded by Union County on the north, Franklin and Pickaway Counties on the east, Fayette County on the south and Greene, Clark, and Champaign Counties on the west. Figure 1 shows the location of Madison County, Ohio.

Pleasant Township is located in the southeast corner of Madison County. It is bordered by Fairfield Township to the north, Oak Run Township to the northwest and Range Township to the west as can be seen in Figure 2. Pickaway County lies to the east and Fayette County lies to the south. Mount Sterling is the major city of the township.

## SETTLEMENT OF THE MADISON COUNTY AREA

The Delaware, Mingo, Shawnee, and Wyandot were the Indian tribes living in the area and used Madison County for hunting. In the early 1800's, when settlers began to arrive, the Indians ceased hunting the area.

The first permanent settler was Jonathan Alder, who was captured and raised by the Indians. In 1795, after the Treaty of Greenville, more settlers began to arrive. By 1820, the population of the Madison County area was about 4,800. By 1850,



FIGURE 1. MAP OF OHIO, SHOWING COUNTIES AND STREAMS

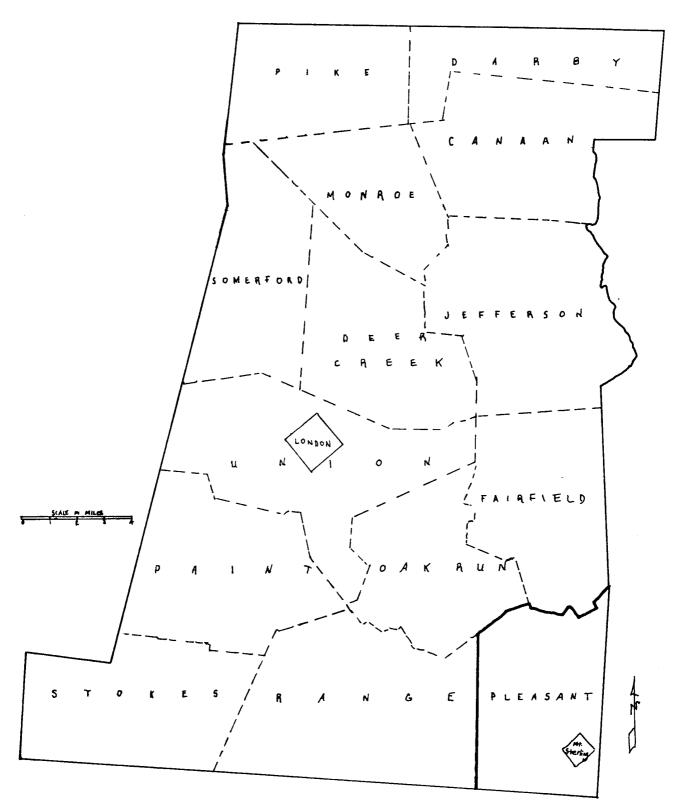


FIGURE 2. MAP OF MADISON COUNTY AND ITS TOWNSHIPS

the population was 10,015 and by 1880, it was 20,130.

All of Madison County was in the Virginia Military District. People receiving land grants would designate their own boundaries, therefore tracts of land in Madison County are irregular in shape and size.

Madison County was erected in 1810 by an act of Legislature. The County was named after James Madison, who was president at that time.

In 1980, Madison County had a population of 33,004, its largest to date. Pleasant Township had a total population of 2,768 with 1,623 people living in Mount Sterling Village. AGRICULTURE

Farming is the dominant land use in Madison County with about 96% of the total land area utilized for this purpose. There are approximately 1000 farms averaging 286 acres each. Cash grain production is the major farm enterprise with a smaller income derived from the sale of livestock and livestock products. Corn, soybeans, and wheat are the major crops grown. Swine are raised mainly in the southern third part of the county, being a chief source of farm income. NON-FARM DEVELOPMENT

Although farming is the dominant land use in Madison County, residential, commercial, industrial and related types of non-farm land use development has been increasing in recent years. Factories in London and the surrounding towns produce a variety of products such as food and food-related items,

plastics, and industrial machinery and parts. There are also several farm equipment dealers and grain elevators in the county.

#### MINERAL RESOURCES

Madison County has a very minor place in Ohio's large mineral industry. There are several gravel pits, clay pits, and a small limestone quarry accounting for the county's entire mineral production.

#### CLIMATE

The climate of Madison County is classified as continental. This is characterized by large annual, daily, and day to day ranges in temperature. Precipitation varies widely from year to year but is normally abundant and well distributed throughout the year. Fall is the driest season. Most precipitation during the winter months occurs as rain.

Overall, Madison County is cold in the winter and uncomfortably warm in the summer. Precipitation results in adequate accumulation of soil moisture, minimizing the hazard of summer drought. In winter the average temperature is  $31^{\circ}$  F with an average daily minimum temperature of  $23^{\circ}$  F. In the summer, the average temperature is  $72^{\circ}$  F and the average daily maximum temperature is  $84^{\circ}$  F. The total annual precipitation is 36.7 inches. The relative humidity in midafternoon is about 60%. The sun shines approximately 65% of the time possible in the summer and 35% in winter. The prevailing wind is from the south-southwest with an average wind speed highest in March

with ll miles per hour. Tornadoes and severe thunderstorms occur occaisionally and are usually of local extent and short duration but can cause damage in a variable pattern.

#### GEOLOGY AND GROUND WATER HYDROLOGY

#### DRAINAGE AND TOPOGRAPHY

Madison County is part of the Till Plains Section of the Central Lowlands physiographic province. It is mostly a nearly level and gently undulating ground moraine with a few end moraines. The dominant texture of the glacial till is loam. The glacial till was laid down by two major advances of the Wisconsin glacier. Melt waters from the first advance deposited sand and gravel outwash, which was covered by the second advance. Many random pockets of sand and gravel are buried under glacial till. These pockets often provide an excellent source of water for wells.

End moraines and areas near streams form the only evident relief in the county. The highest point in Madison County, along the west-central line is about 1200 feet above sea level. The lowest point, in the southeast corner of the county in Pleasant Townshop is about 800 feet above sea level. Local relief is greatest, about 60 feet, along the main valleys where there has been dissection by short, steep tributary streams. 99% of Madison County lies mainly in the Scioto River drainage basin. The headwaters of Darby, Deer, and Paint Creeks lie within Madison County. All of the streams flow south or southeast (see Fig. 1). No natural lakes are present, but Madison Lake, about 100 acres in area, has been formed about 4 miles east of London by raising the level of Deer Creek.

<u>Deer Creek.</u> In Madison County, the streamflow of Deer Creek is generally from the northwest to the southeast. Deer Creek is the largest stream in the area and drains about half the land surface of the county. Its headwaters are near Summerford and it has many small tributaries. Figure 3 shows the distribution of the Deer Creek Basin and its tributaries. Its location can also be seen in Figure 1.

Large supplies of ground water are available in Pleasant Township from the outwash sand and gravel in the Deer Creek valley or from the underlying Bass Island dolomite.

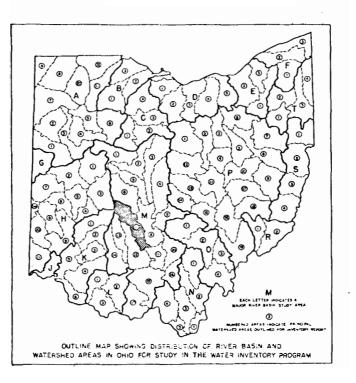
The geologic formations in the Deer Creek Basin range from the various glacial deposits of sand, gravel, and clay to the bedrock units of limestone and shale. With the exception of the extreme lower portion of the area, the entire basin is underlain with water bearing Silurian and Devonian limestone. Table 1 shows a stratigraphic section describing the physical and water-bearing characteristics of the formations within this basin. Drainage and elevations of Deer Creek and its tributaries can be seen in Table 2.

<u>Deer Creek Lake.</u> Deer Creek Lake is located in Fayette and Pickaway Counties, Ohio. It lies in the Scioto River basin, 21 miles above the mouth of Deer Creek. It controls the runoff from a drainage area of 278 square miles.

The project is operated for the reduction of flood damages in the Deer Creek valley and for flood protection in the Scioto and Ohio River valleys. The cost of completing

work was \$19,800,000, including the development of recreational facilities.

The dam has a maximum height of 93 feet and a total crest length of 3,880 feet. A gate-controlled concrete gravity spilling section is incorporated in the earth fill structure. The full pool has an elevation of 844 feet with a surface area of 4,046 acres.



# FIGURE 3. DISTRIBUTION OF DEER CREEK BASIN AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

Source: Ohio Water Plan Inventory, Deer Creek Basin

SYST OR SERI		GROUP OR FORMATION	CHARACTER OF MATERIAL	WATER-BEARING CHARACTERISTICS
	Recent		Clay, silt and sand deposited on floodplains.	Thin deposits, usually impermeable. Small yields devel- oped from dug wells.
y.	•		Thick lenses of sand and gravel deposited in buried drainage channels.	Domestic and farm supplies available. Local municipal and industrial wells de- velop as much as 400 gpm.
Quaternary	ocene		Clayey till inter- bodded with sand & gravel deposited at edge of glacier.	Potential yields of 5-25 gpm may be de- veloped for farm & domestic use.
ۍ ۲	Fleist		Heterogenous mix- ture of clay, sand & gravel inter- bedded with sand & gravel. Deposits as much as 410 feet thick.	Few wells in glacial deposits. Adequate supplies in under= lying limestone bedrock.
Devo	nian	Ohio	Brown-black carbon- aceous shale.	Yields little or no groundwater supplies.
	Columbus		Fairly massive, pure limestone.	Municipal and indus- trial wells developed
Silu	rian	Bass Islands	Thin to massive, inpure argillaceous limestone.	as much as 150 gpm in the Bass Islands formations & upper portions of the Niag-
		Niagaran	Thin to massive bedded dolomite with layers of star shale in the lower portions.	aran. Limestone is a dependable source of water for most of the basin.
Ordo	vician	Richmond & Maysville	Limestone inter- bedded in shale.	Wells develop less than 2 gpm.

# TABLE 1. GENERALIZED STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE OF THE ROCKS IN THE DEER CREEK BASIN

TABLE 2. DEER CREEK BASIN

Stream Name	Length (Miles)	Elev. at Source	Elev. at Mouth	Av. Fall (Ft./Mi.)	Flows Into	Mouth in County	Drains Sq. Mi.
DFFR CREEK	•	m	2	•	Scioto <b>Ri</b> ver	Ross	8.4
bí	5.5	741	650	9	er Creek	Ross	19.36
Hay Run	•	Ч	9	<i>о</i> .	Deer Creek	Ross	0.7
Stall Run	•	ħ	6	<b>.</b>	ay Ru	0	4.5
Dry Run	•	0	m	Ч.	eer Cre	Pickaway	9.0
Buskirk Creek	•	ħ	ħ	æ	eer Cree	•	.,
Clark Run	•	ω	5	•	Deer Creek	i ckaw	0.6
Georges Run	•	4	ω	ŝ	eer C	i ckaw	Ч.
Long Branch	•	Ś	0	5	Deer Creek	ayet	.≁
Duff's Fork	٠	Ч	Ч	ŝ	eer Cr	вy	2.1
Opossum Run	•	9	Ś	5.	eer Cree	Pickaway	<b>۳</b>
Sugar Run	•	m	9	۲	eer C	вd	3.7
Muð Run	•	9	6	∾	ugar R	adiso	7.8
Bradford Creek	•	13	0	8	ugar R	вd	40.42
Turtle Run	•	t,	Ś	ۍ	r 8	Madison	2.5
Turkey Run	٠	ħ	0	:	eer Cr	Madison	2.3
Oak Run	•	12	Ч	ч.	eer Cree	Madison	2.4
Walnut Run	•	ω	9	8	Oak Run	вd	
Glade Run	٠	~	m	•	eer C	Madison	2.2
North Fork	•	t	0	22.2	Deer Creek	Madison	• 7

Source: Gazetteer of Ohio Streams

#### STRATIGRAPHY AND STRUCTURE OF THE BEDROCK

The bedrock of the Pleasant Township area consists of limestone and dolomite strata of Silurian and Devonian age as can be seen in Table 3. Several hundred feet of Ordovician age shale underlie the bedrock. The strata lie on the east flank of the Cincinnati anticline and dip northeastward toward the Appalachian basin area at about 20 feet per mile. The top of the Ordovician shale, the Richmond group, declines in elevation from 800 feet in southwestern Madison County to 300 feet in the northeastern part of the county.

The bedrock is missing in parts of the buried valleys as it has been removed by erosion. In the eastern part of Madison County, the limestone and dolomite reach a thickness of about 500 feet. The bedrock is exposed in a few isolated areas, but most of these rocks are covered by glacial and alluvial deposits.

The Brassfield limestone of Early Silurian age is deeply buried and unimportant as an aquifer. It marks the lower limit of ground water supplies. The underlying shale of the Richmond group is rarely a source of water.

The Middle Silurian rocks above the Osgood shale form a general homogenous stratum in which the individual formations are distinguished mainly by their bedding. These Middle Silurian rocks are almost always a dependable aquifer for farm and home use. A few areas have been thinned by erosion and are a poorer source of water. A zone of high permeability, the Newburg sand

Mater-bearing properties		Adequate water surgifies generally available for four and dowestic requirements, except from the Obsolvation. Weter supplies for mundelpal or industrial use are generally evailable from the lass Islands dolondte. Wells drilled to the so-called Nevburg zone, at or rear the top of the undif- ferentiated pre-Bass Island rocks, yield ub tem open of the eastern part of the courty.			Wells generally yield less than I gpm. In pleces water is high in sait and hydro- gen sulfide. Mater, there present, generally occurs in top few feet of utrata.	Generally yields salt water from so- called Blue Lick horizon, which in Madison Courty occurs about 600 to 700 feet below the top of the formation
Character of material	Light in color, massive to thin hedded, contains chert	Variable in structure and texture; siliceous	Variable in structure and texture	Calcareous; contains limestone beds Massive to irregularly bedded	Sitale, soft, calcarcous, in- turbeded with thin hard limetone layers; called Cincinnation shale in old reports.	Limetone or dolomite and now shale
Average thickness (feet)	¢.	375	75	60 35	1150	650
Section						
Formation	Columbus limestone	Tarss Islands dolomite (relled Waterlise or lower Wonroe in old reports.)	Cedarville limestone, Springfield limestone, and Euchemia dolomite of Foerste, undifferentiated	Osgood shale Entestifeld linestone		So-called Trenton Hrettone of drillers.
Group		<b>ດ</b> ສູ່ນາເອ <b>ສ</b>			Richmond, Mayesville, and Edon groups, un- differentiated	Rocks of pre-Eden age
Series		Upper Silurian	Miódle Silurian	Lover Silurian	Upper Oréovician	
System	Devonian	Silurian			Ordovician	

TABLE 3. STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE OF CENTRAL OHIO

zone, lies at or near the top of the Middle Silurian and is an excellent source of water.

The most important aquifer in the carbonate rocks is the Bass Islands dolomite. It is generally known to drillers as the Monroe dolomite. The stone is thinly to massively bedded and ranges in color from brown to dark gray and is slightly siliceous.

<u>Water-Bearing Properties.</u> Most wells drilled into the bedrock obtain water in the top few feet of bedrock from crevices opened or enlarged by weathering that occurred when the rocks were exposed at the surface. The weathered layer forms a homogenous aquifer with overlying sand and gravel beds. Due to differential weathering, permeability and yields differ from place to place. Yields from the weathered layer are great enough for home or farm use in most areas of Madison County. Larger supplies are commonly obtained from wells penetrating crevices below the weathered surface.

Recharge to the consolidated rocks occurs from local pricipitation seeping downward. Recharge is the greatest in areas where the consolidated rocks are close to the surface or adjacent to permeable sediments.

<u>Newburg Zone.</u> Wells drilled below the weathered layer in the limestone and dolomite rocks usually increase little in yield until they encounter a discreet zone of high permeability. These zones commonly occur at certain stratigraphic horizons and serve as zones of circulation in the carbonate rocks. The most important zone of this type in Madison County is referred to

as the Newburg zone. Im most cases in the Newburg zone, the water is under strong artesian pressure and rises considerably above the level at which it was encountered.

The Newburg zone declines in elevation in Madison County from about 900 feet above sea level in the west to about 500 feet above sea level to the east. The dip is therefore about 20 to 25 feet per mile or about the same as the regional dip. In Pleasant Township, the Newburg zone is from about 590 feet above sea level in the west to about 480 feet above sea level in the east. In the deep buried valleys, the Newburg zone has been removed by erosion.

The Newburg zone is generally an impure, porous dolomite. In some areas the dolomite gives way to thin lenses of sandstone, marking a disconformity. It is also an important source of water for large-scale industrial and municipal use in Madison County.

Permeable zones also occur in Madison County in carbonate rocks above the level of the Newburg zone. These zones probably develop as the result of solution by ground water moving laterally along a plane of weakness. According to Norris (1959), susceptibility of any particular zone to solution may stem from close spacing of joints or could be a result of a large volume of circulating water in the area. This could lead to the development of zones of continuous porosity or caverness conditions along some beds.

Information about the water-bearing properties of the

rocks below the Newburg zone is scarce due to lack of records. The underlying Osgood shale may be a poor source of water. Little is known of the water-bearing properties of the Brassfield dolomite in Madison County even though it is a common source of water a few miles to the west of Madison County. The shales of the Richmond, Maysville and Eden groups are not a source of ground water. These overlie the Trenton limestone, which is a hard, light-colored limestone. The Trenton limestone is a source of oil and gas in northwestern Ohio. In Madison County it yields small amounts of brine and is called the Blue Lick water zone. No water has been reported below the Blue Lick zone.

## SOILS OF PLEASANT TOWNSHIP

Nine major soils are recognized in Madison County. These soils developed from highly calcareous glacial till of Late Wisconsin age, or from its alluvium. Six types of soils can be found in Pleasant Township and can be noted in Table 4. The Brookston and Crosby soils widely cover Pleasant Township, while the Miami, Celina, Sloan, and Fox soils are mainly found in the vicinity of Deer Creek. The upland soils of this area resulted chiefly from variations in relief and its effect on soil drainage. Miami soils develop on slopes and resulted in the formation of well drained soils, having light colored surface soils and brown subsoils. Brookston soils develop on flat to depresses areas and are very poorly drained. They have dark colored surface soils and mottled gray and brown subsoils. Thus, two different

	TABLE 4 . SULLS	OF FLEASAN	SULLS OF FLEASANT TOWNSHIP, MALLSON COUNTY, OHIO	ON COUNTY, UNLU	
Soil	Topography	Drainage	Surface	Subsoil	Substatum
Miami	Rolling	Well	Silt Loam	Silty Clay Loam	Loam
Celina	Gently Rolling	Mod. Well Silt Loam	Silt Loam	Silty Clay Loam	Loam
Cros by	Nearly Level	Imperfect	Silt Loam	Silty Clay Loam	Loam
Brookston	Level	Very Poor	Very Poor Silt-Clay Loam	Silty Clay Loam	Loam
Fox	Level to Rolling Well	Well	Loam	Clay Loam	Gravel
Sloan	Nearly Level	Very Poor	Very Poor Silty Loam	Silty Clay Loam	Silt, Clay & Sand

OIHO MADISON COUNTY. SOILS OF PLEASANT TOWNSHIP. TARLF 4

Source: Soil Areas of Madison County, Ohio

soils developed because of differences in relief as it affects soil drainage.

#### THE TEAYS RIVER DRAINAGE SYSTEM

#### INTRODUCTION

The ancient river system, Teays, flowed from the Appalachian Mountains in North Carolina to the ancestral Mississippi River in central Illinois. It cuts across virtually all present stream alignments in the region. Most of the way, the stream flowed on resistant dolomites and limestones and had a gradient of 9 to 10 inches to the mile.

William George Tight (1865-1910), Professor of Geology and Botany at Denison University, Ohio, made significant contributions to the knowledge of the preglacial river that drained Ohio prior to glaciation and is commemorated in the name Lake Tight. He was the first to discuss the drainage modifications of southeastern Ohio and to trace the course of the Kanawha River through the abandoned Teays Valley in West Virginia to Chillicothe, Ohio, where it disappears beneath glacial drift.

Lake Tight is the large proglacial lake formed in southcentral Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky, resulting from glacial ice damming the Teays River and its tributaries. While the ice stood at its maximum, rivers of glacial waters poured off the ice sheet and backed the waters in all the southern tributaries of the preglacial Tuscarawas-Muskingum. This also led  $t_{R}^{O}$  the ultimate formation of the present Ohio River.

The Teays River also provided a corridor for the migration of flora and aquatic fauna into the Teays drainage basin.

Isolation of these species was a result of the proglacial Lake Tight.

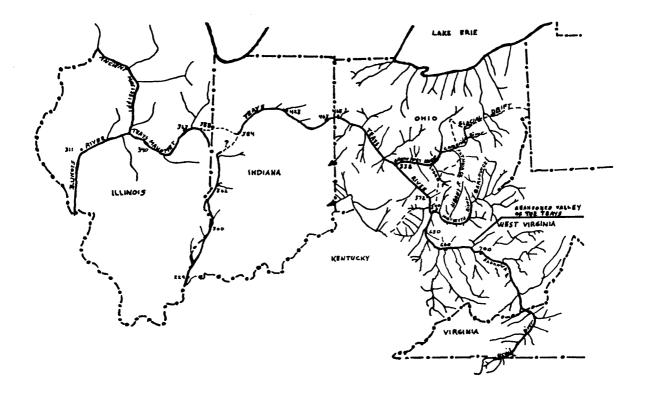
COURSE OF THE TEAYS

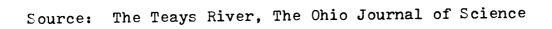
The term Teays is applied to the ancient river that Tight designated and also to the work of all streams contemporary with it. The immature peneplain of this era is commonly known as the Parker Strath.

The Teays gathered its headwaters in the Piedmont of North Carolina, flowed north through Virginia and northwestward across the mountains to Charleston, West Virginia (see Figure 4). From Charleston, it flowed past St. Albans, Milton and Barboursville to the Ohio River Valley at Huntington and followed the path of the present day Ohio River to Wheelersburg, Ohio. Here, the Ohio River turns abruptly toward Cincinnati, while the Teays River continues northward. The Teays River flowed through Ross County, Pickaway County, Fayette County, and Madison County, where the stream received a large tributary, the Groveport River, which drained an excessive area in central Ohio. It continued northwest through Ohio and westward to the Ohio-Indiana line in Mercer County, Ohio.

The Teays River drained a large area in northern and central Indiana. It roughly follows the present day Wabash River to its outlet. A large tributary entered the Mahomet Valley near Paxton, Illinois. From here, the Teays River runs through Illinois, where it entered the well-known bedrock valley along the Illinois River, formerly occupied by the ancient Mississippi River.

FIGURE 4. COURSE OF THE TEAYS RIVER





#### MAJOR TRIBUTARIES OF THE TEAYS IN OHIO

The tributaries of the Teays River exhibit the same characteristics as shown by the Teays. In these areas the hills are considerably reduced, the tributaries have low gradients and broad valleys, and a dendritic pattern is prominent. These are all features of river maturity. The largest tributaries in Ohio are the Marietta River, Hamden Creek, the Albany River, Barlow Creek, the Portsmouth River, the Logan River, Bremen Creek, Putnam Creek, the Cambridge River, the Groveport River, Mechanicsburg Creek, and Wapakoneta Creek. These can all be seen in Figure 5.

## DEPOSITS IN THE TEAYS VALLEY

<u>Coarse Material</u>. The coarse material found in the Teays Valley consists of sandstone boulders and highly weathered chert and quartz pebbles. These types of materials are far from abundant or are entirely absent in most parts of the Teays Valley. Where present, they lie on or near the bedrock. The chert is highly leached, discolored, and highly polished. The quartz pebbles derived from conglomerates and conglomeritic sandstones that outcropped well within the basin. The boulders are well-rounded and were gathered throughout the basin and from the Piedmont to the East.

<u>Sands.</u> The sand deposits lie directly on the bedrock with a few interbedded with silt deposits. They are fine-tomedium in texture, have well-rounded grains, and are stained yellow with iron oxide coatings. They contain a few percent



of mica and clay, some of which acts as bonding materials.

In some areas silts lie above the sands and appear to be the old alluvium along the preglacial streams. It is fine in texture, blue to gray, fairly plastic, and is also very siliceous.

<u>Minford Silt.</u> The Teays River was dammed in its lower course by an early glacier, ponding waters and producing widespread finger lakes in the Teays Valley and it tributaries. Large deposits of silt and clay in these areas are known as the Minford silt. The deposits on the old floors are best proserved in the parts of the valleys that now form divides between present streams and in the parts that were abandoned through piracy, meanders, and other adjustments. The thickness of such deposits usually range from 20 to 40 feet.

The Minford silts are always highly laminated. The material is fine-grained, has sticky plasticity, and has a smooth feel. The unoxidized color is dark bluish gray and the weathered is shades of brownish gray.

The Minford silts yield very little water to wells. This type of deposit is called "quicksand" by drillers. It is commonly forced inside the well casings by water pressure, making drilling difficult or impossible.

## DRAINAGE MODIFICATIONS

The earliest ice invasion in Ohio correlates with the Kansan or pre-Kansan of the west and invaded only the northern part of the state. After this glaciation there was a long

period with no surface disturbance except stream adjustments. The next two successive ice sheets were the Illinoian and the Wisconsin, which moved southward across Ohio. These two glaciers contributed great quantities of debris to the glaciated area of Ohio along with a pronounced softening of relief.

The glacial drift at the surface in Madison County was deposited during the Wisconsin glaciation around 15,000 to 20,000 years ago. The Wisconsin glacier made at least two major advances into the Ohio area, separated by a long interglacial stage. Some of the subsurface glacial deposits originated during an earlier invasion by the Wisconsin ice or by the previous two glacial stages.

The Kansan or Pre-Kansan Glacier. The effects of the early Kansan or pre-Kansan glacier were pronounced especially on the drainage patterns of central and southern Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Indiana as seen in Figure 6. New stream systems were inaugurated as the streams reversed or became filled with silt. Gradients of the streams were also changed due to this glaciation.

The Teays Stage drainage suffered severe alterations due to the first period of glaciation in Ohio. The Teays Stage stream north of the Kansan or pre-Kansan boundary were eliminated or shifted to new courses. Two major modifications in the Ohio area occured. The first was the blocking and elimination of the Teays River in the St. Marys Reservoir area by a glacial sheet. This caused the floodwaters to be shifted



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westward. The second major change in the drainage pattern in Ohio was caused by the ice sheet damming the old Pittsburgh River in the vicinity of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. This caused the flood waters of the upper part of the Pittsburgh River basin, now drained by the present Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, to reverse direction (Stout, 1944).

The invasion of this ice sheet across northern Ohio also shifted the main drainage lines in the central part of the state. The headwater areas of the Teays Stage remained the same, but the main streams in the lower courses pursued different directions.

Another effect during theearly stages of the damming of the Teays, Dover, Pittsburgh and other rivers by the Kansan or pre-Kansan glacier was a flood period with the formation of long finger lakes in which was deposited the Minford silt.

Overall, evidence warrants that the Kansan or pre-Kansan glacier modified the rock surface and drainage patterns across northern Ohio. It brought the Teays Stage drainage system to a close and inaugurated the Deep Stage drainage system.

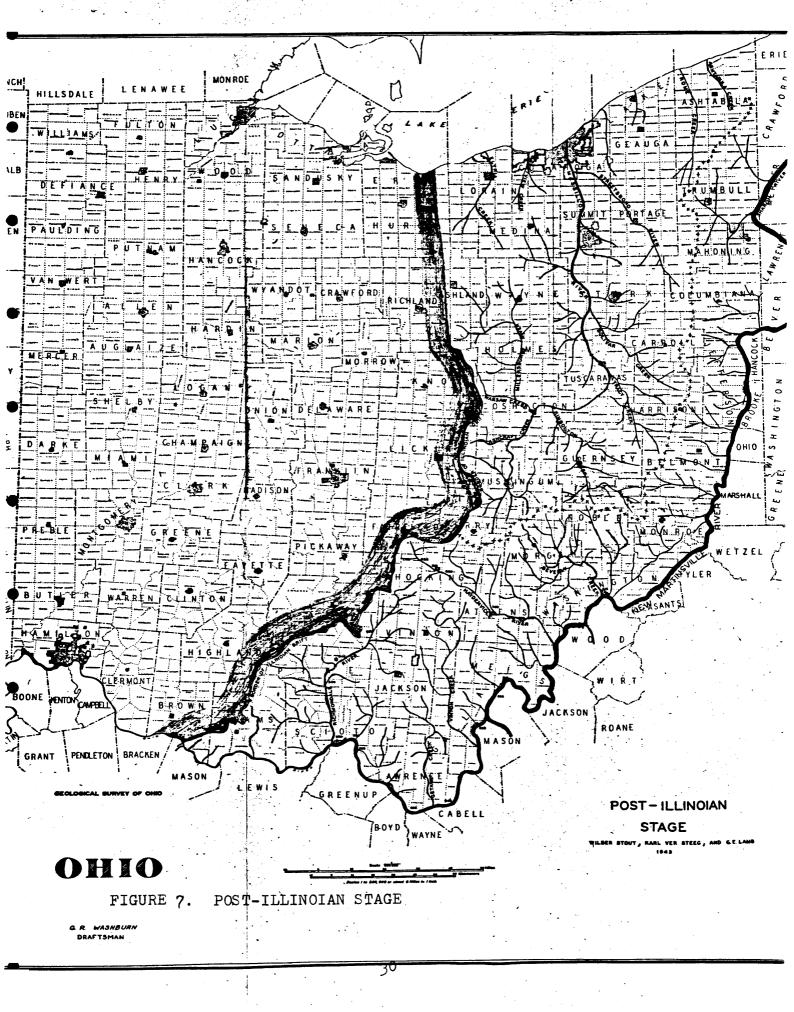
Stout (1938), states that soon after the new system of drainage was outlined, regional uplift took place with consequent active cutting of stream beds. Through this the stream floors were degraded much below the level of the Teays. This cycle of erosion was brought to a close by the Illinoian ice invasion and was characterized by the development of new streams, the deepening of stream channels, steep slopes of valley walls,

and the general immaturity of the basins.

The Illinoian Glacier. The drainage pattern in Ohio was also greatly changed by the Illinoian glacier. Its farthest advance can be seen in Figure 7. In Ohio it extended only a short distance south of the bed of the Deep Stage Cincinnati River and covered about three-fifths of Ohio. The Illinoian glacier had a marked influence in leveling the surface in Ohio through the burial of drift. It was also a prominant factor in changing the drainage systems throughout the entire area. It was a thick sheet of glacial ice and had much influence in directly and indirectly shaping surface features.

The Deep Stage drainage in Ohio was completely obliterated by the Illinoian glacier. It left great quantities of glacial debris, drift, and outwash, which was worked upon by streams. This condition was much different from pre-Kansan time when the stream burden consisted only of the wash from the hills.

The mantle of the Illinoian drift in central Ohio introduced quite a few important shifts of drainage. Besides the effects it had on the Deep Stage Cincinnati River, the Deep Stage Newark River was completely blocked by the wall of ice at Hanover, Ohio. Its large northern tributary, the Utica River, was buried and elininated northward. Overall, the ice of the Illinoian glacier was an effective barrier of waters from the unglaciated portion of southeastern Ohio. These waters sought other outlets and established new lines of drainage.

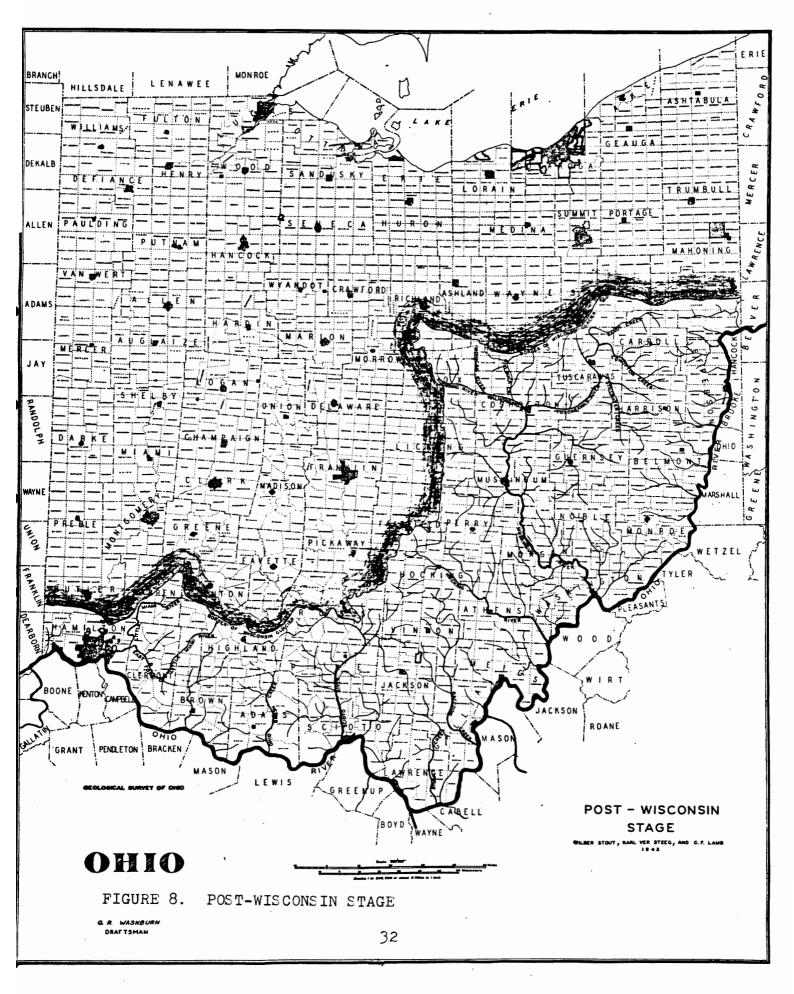


<u>The Wisconsin Glacier</u>. The last ice sheet to invade Ohio was the Wisconsin glacier. The deposits of this glacier can be found over the northern and western parts of Ohio. It made many changes in the surface features of Ohio, leveling areas to a smooth plain and filling valleys with all sizes of outwash materials.

In eastern Ohio the Wisconsin ice sheet extended about one third of the way from the lake to the Ohio River. Throughout the central part of the state, the Wisconsin lagged behind the ëxtent of the Illinoian glacier. In western Ohio the glacier reached 15 to 40 miles north of the Ohio River. The extent of the Wisconsin glacier can be seen in Figure 8.

The Wisconsin glacier pushed out lobes along its main axes of flow. Here the ice was thicker and moved at a faster rate The location of these lobes depended upon the source of the ice while the direction of flow was determined by various surface factors such as topographical depressions. The major lobes in Ohio pushed out along the stream valleys in the Grand River, Killbuck River, Scioto River, and the Miami River.

The Wisconsin glacier caused considerable shifting and modifications of the drainage systems established in post-Illinoian time. The most important alteration was the reestablishment of the master stream along the original course and in the direction of flow of the Deep Stage Cincinnati River of post-Kansan time. This direction was westward or was in reverse with that established in post-Illinoian time.



The master stream was now the Ohio River. This line of drainage was a consequence of the damming of the New Martinsville River near Homewood, Pennsylvania by a thick mass of ice and rock materials of the Wisconsin glacier.

The Wisconsin seems to have been a thicker or more massive ice sheet than the previous ones as indicated by the accumulations left behind. Its typical surface features include ground moraines, eskers, kames, outwash aprons, and beach ridges.

Summarizing, there were two major effects of the Wisconsin glacier. The first was the major change in direction of flow through the blocking of older lines of drainage and the opening of new passages. The second major effect was the choking of adjacent valleys with silt, sand, and gravel causing the new streams to flow at higher levels. Overall, the streams of Ohio are composite in make-up with the work having been done in the Teays River, Deep Stage, post-Illinoian, or post-Wisconsin time, or a combination of all of these events.

# GROUND WATER CONDITIONS IN PLEASANT TOWNSHIP

Large supplies of ground water are available from the outwash sand and gravel in the Deer Creek valley in Pleasant Township or from the underlying Bass Islands dolomite. The Bass Islands dolomite is generally a good source of water with typical farm wells being drilled a few feet into the bedrock. Wells of larger yield are commonly drilled to greater depths in the bedrock and tap widespread zones of high permeability such as the Newburg zone.

Mount Sterling has the largest ground water development in Pleasant Townshop. The wells are drilled into the Bass Islands dolomite into a permeable zone similar to the Newburg zone but higher in elevation.

Plate I shows contours on the bedrock surgace in Pleasant Township based on drillers' records of wells recorded between 1954 and 1982 Madison County prior to Pleistocene glaciation was a relatively flat upland that was cut by wide, steep-sided valleys. The elevation of the bedrock surface in Pleasant Township ranges generally from 800 to 900 feet above sea level. The steep-sided valleys that cut across this area are about 600 feet above sea level. These valleys were cut by the Teays River and its tributaries.

The Teays River entered northern Pleasant Township from the east and was joined in north central Pleasant Township by a large tributary from the south. It was made up of

two other smaller tributaries. Today, Deer Creek follows the path of the small tributary that flowed from the southeast, and Bradford Creek and Sugar Run follow the path of the ancient tributary that flowed from the southwest. In general, Deer Creek closely follows the drainage pattern of the ancient Teays River in Pleasant Township. The gradient of the Teays Valley in Pleasant Township is approximately 1 foot per mile. Table 5 shows the records of wells in Pleasant Township that were used in the construction of Plate I.

### TABLE 5. RECORDS OF WELLS IN PLEASANT TOWNSHIP, MADIS ON COUNTY, OHIO

Explanation of terms and symbols:

of the well inventory. Elevation of Well.... Determined from the topographic maps of the United States Geological Survey. Depth to Bedrock....Depth to the surface of the consolidated rocks. Depth of Well.....Depth reported by driller. Water Level ..... The depth below land surface of the water level as reported by the driller. Date .... Date of determination of the water level. the well was pumped br bailed. level in the well caused by the withdrawal of water at the rate indicated in the rate column. Diameter of Well.....Approximate inside diameter of the well

or casing.

RECORDS OF WELLS IN PLEASANT TOWNSHIP MADIEON COUNTY, OHIO Remarks

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### SUMMARY

Pleasant Township is located in central Ohio and was first settled in the 1800's. Its population has continued to grow steadily and today it has a total population of 2,768 people. 1623 people live in Mount Sterling Village, its largest town Agriculture is by far the prominent form of land use, making water a valuable resource.

The bedrock of the Pleasant Townshop area consists of limestone and dolomite strata of Silurian and Devonian age. Before the Pleistocene glaciation, the ancient Teays River rose in the Pledmont Plateau of Virginia and North Carolina and flowed across West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois to the ancestral Mississippi River. It was the major factor in shaping the land in this area until the glaciers flowed down from the north. At this time, the streams of the present day Ohio Basin flowed northwestward. The Kansan, Illinoian, and Wisconsin glaciers changed the landscape by flattening the land, filling in the valleys, blocking streams, and changing the direction of flow of most of the streams in the Ohio Basin.

The buried valleys in Pleasant Township are dependable sources of water for community use, farms and suburban houses. Sand and gravel beds which underlie or are interbedded in the glacial till are good sources of water, along with sand and gravel beds of the Darby and Deer Creek basins.

Madison County is part of the Till Plains Section of the Central Lowlands Physiographic Province. It is a nearly level undulating ground moraine with a few end moraines. Deer Creek if the largest stream in the area and drains about half of the land surface of the county. It closely follows the path of the ancient Teays River in Pleasant Township.

Wells drilled into the bedrock obtain water from the crevices in the top few feet of bedrock. This weathered layer forms a homogenous aquifer with overlying sand and gravel beds. Wells drilled below the weathered layer in the limestone and dolomite rocks increase little in yield until they encounter a discreet zone of high permeability. These zones serve as zones for circulation. The most important zone of this type in Madison County is the Newburg zone.

From Plate I it can be seen that Pleasant Township prior to Pleistocene glaciation was a relatively flat upland cut by a wide valley to the north and joined by a steep-sided tributary from the south. The elevation of the bedrock surface ranges from about 800 to 900 feet above sea level to about 600 feet above sea level in the valleys. The valleys have a gradient of about 1 foot per mile.

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