

THE PHYSICAL HISTORY OF THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DURING THE LATE PALEOZOIC

ABSTRACT

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The physical history of the region is traced briefly from the close of the Silurian to the end of the Paleozoic. The relative importance of the different uplifts and the duration of the intervals of erosion following each are evaluated from the structural and stratigraphic evidence. Minor uplifts are known to have occurred at the close of the Niagaran, and at the close of the Upper Devonian. During the latter stages of the Mississippian, on the other hand, there were a series of oscillations culminating in a widespread emergence accompanied by a deformation believed to approach in magnitude that which succeeded the deposition of the Pennsylvanian. The relative importance of the last two uplifts are discussed and their influence on the present distribution of the Paleozoic outcrops noted.