several thousand feet. It is pure conjecture as to where the eroded material was transported and deposited as no evidence bearing on this problem is now known. Here, therefore, is one of the great gaps in our history of past events in the region.

The earliest recorded event in the Paleozoic history of the district is the depression of the entire region as well as extensive areas both to the northeast and southwest. The entire Appalachian region, which had presumably long been an area of erosion, gradually sank beneath the waters of a great southeasterly advancing inland sea.

Beginning with Hardyston time and continuing throughout the entire Paleozoic era, all geologists believe there was a large continental land mass, to which the name "Appalachia" has been applied, from 100 to 300 miles or even more in width, that paralleled the present Atlantic shore line. At times the northwest margin of this land perhaps lay only a short distance to the southeast of what now constitutes Northampton County. At other times, the shore may have been several scores of miles away.

The inland sea covered all of the present Appalachian province. It varied from time to time in size and shape owing to movements or warpings of the earth's crust. In this sea, which appears to have always been comparatively shallow, practically all the materials now constituting the sedimentary rocks of Northampton County were accumulated on a gradually sinking bottom.

When the depression of the area occurred, there was probably a fairly deep cover of soil and rotten rock over the land. The waves of the advancing Cambrian sea seem to have removed most of this surficial cover inasmuch as the Hardyston in most places rests on fresh unchanged gneisses. Locally, however, a thin band of a peculiar rock is found at the contact, which is believed to be an old soil. It has now been altered to a dense, fine-grained, light green rock that has been called pinitite. It is never more than a few feet thick and can seldom be recognized over any extensive area. It is developed in very few localities in Northampton County but in the adjoining area of Lehigh County it is better known. It is questionable as to whether this material should be included in the Byram or in the Hardyston. Inclusions of angular vein quartz fragments link it with the former, and occasional rounded pebbles suggest the latter reference.

The lowest strata of the Hardyston are conglomeratic in several places but not everywhere; occasional pebbles are more than an inch in diameter. These coarser sediments constitute a basal conglomerate that was formed either near the mouths of streams or where shore currents were reasonably strong. They probably formed near the shore as the advancing sea transgressed. They also indicate that the land