

The close of the period prior to the organization of the First Geological Survey of Maryland found much interest developed in the study of the geology of the state and at this early day considerable knowledge had been already gained regarding the geological deposits.

THE WORK OF THE FIRST STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND THE INVESTIGATIONS CARRIED ON UNDER PRIVATE AUSPICES DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

THE FIRST STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 1834-41.

The decade 1830-40 was a period of great importance in the development of official geological surveys. Before the close of the decade nearly every one of the eastern and some of the central states as well had officially inaugurated geological work. With three exceptions, viz., North Carolina, Massachusetts and Tennessee, Maryland was the first state to establish an official survey. To Maryland, however, belongs the credit of first fully recognizing the importance of a topographical map as a basis for a proper representation of the geology of the state, and we find the General Assembly both in 1833 and 1834 making provision both for a Topographical Engineer and a State Geologist.

The inception of the first geological survey of Maryland dates from 1833, when resolutions relative to a state map and geological survey were passed by the General Assembly of the state upon the 6th and 16th of March.¹ Memorials had been presented to the Legislature recommending the survey, including one from the Maryland Academy of Science and Literature.

The original resolution provided for the appointment of both an engineer and a geologist, but the latter office was stricken out at the time the first resolution was passed. It was incorporated in a second

¹The General Assembly of Maryland was petitioned by Fielding Lucas, Jr., in 1831 to grant money to prepare a more correct geographical map of the state upon which were to be laid down the prominent features of its geology. This petition was not granted, and the bill presented at the same session was rejected. Several earlier attempts, looking to the same result, had been defeated.