

Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science

Volume 27 | Annual Issue

Article 23

1920

A Field of Eskers in Central Iowa

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Recommended Citation

Smith, John E. (1920) "A Field of Eskers in Central Iowa," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, 27(1), 180-180.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol27/iss1/23>

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A FIELD OF ESKERS IN CENTRAL IOWA

JOHN E. SMITH

(*ABSTRACT*)

This area is located chiefly in Polk County, one to three miles west of Camp Dodge in a swampy section of the south side of Beaver Creek valley. It is just north of the recessional moraine that extends in an east-west direction across parts of Polk and Dallas counties. Within an area about a mile wide and two or three miles long lying mostly in sections 19 and 20 of Jefferson township, there are a dozen or more eskers which the writer first studied during observations made in this locality in 1910.

The eskers are irregular in size when considered individually and when compared with each other and vary as follows: in width, 10 yards to 100 yards; in height, 15 feet to 40 feet or more; in length, 100 yards to one mile. They contain clay, sand, gravel and coarser material and show some stratification. A few of them are nearly at right angles to the general direction of the moraine in this vicinity, some of them are nearly parallel to the direction of the valley (southeasterly), and some lie in a component of the two directions. Among them a few winding curves are found and some of them end in or near a field of kames. As no good structure sections of the eskers were available for study, no explanation of their origin was given.

During the discussion of the paper, these eskers were compared with those in Worth and Dickinson counties.

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