One and One-fourth Miles West of Walters, Wayne County.—Miocene marl was dug at this place a few years ago. The fossil shells represent a large variety of species and are contained in a matrix of bluish-gray argillaceous sand.

YORKTOWN FORMATION.

Name.—The Yorktown formation receives its name from Yorktown, Virginia, where beds of this age are well developed and from whence many excellent fossils have been obtained. The name "Yorktown" was applied to all the Miocene and Pliocene strata of the Atlantic Coastal Plain by James D. Dana in 1863, but not until 1906 was the formation definitely described by Clark and Miller (Va. Geol. Surv. Bull., No. II, pp. 19-20, Richmond, Va., 1906). The formation has not been represented as extending south of Virginia in any publications that have thus far appeared, but in the collection of material for this chapter it has been found that the formation with few changes does extend from Virginia southward into the State of North Carolina.

The beds in North Carolina that are now referred to the Yorktown formation have usually been considered a part of the undifferentiated Miocene, though the same strata were referred by Heilprin to the "Carolinian division" of the Miocene.

Definition.—The Yorktown formation comprises the latest Miocene strata of northern North Carolina and, with the Duplin formation, which is probably in part contemporaneous, constitute the uppermost divisions of the Miocene of the Atlantic Coastal Plain. In Virginia two Miocene formations are found beneath the St. Marys and the Yorktown, but these have as yet not been recognized in North Carolina, and it seems that they are entirely absent. The Yorktown rests directly upon the St. Marys, with which it is unconformable.

This formation extends in discontinuous patches across the northeastern part of the State, being especially well represented along the Chowan, Lower Roanoke, Lower Tar, and Lower Neuse rivers and their tributaries. Other isolated patches of small areal extent are found in intervening regions.

As stated above, the Yorktown formation rests upon the St. Marys strata wherever these are developed, but in their absence it is found in immediate contact with the underlying Eocene or Cretaceous. Along Wiccacon Creek and the Chowan River it rests upon St. Marys strata, and the same is true of the deposits found near Washington on the Tar River. Along the Lower Neuse River in the vicinity of New Bern the St. Marys formation is wanting, and there the Yorktown rests directly upon the Trent formation. This is well exhibited at Rock Landing on