

depth below sea level is about 260 feet. The thickness at Wilmington of these undoubted Peedee beds, as shown by the record of the deep well at Hilton Park, is 720 feet.

Resting unconformably upon the undulating surface of the Peedee formation are the shell limestones and calcareous sands of the Castle Hayne formation of the Eocene. In the region between Castle Hayne and Wilmington these exist as shallow basin fillings upon the Peedee surface, the several basins probably being more or less separated from each other. South of Wilmington, where the Peedee surface passes below sea level, the Eocene beds, possibly representing both the Castle Hayne and Trent formations, thicken gradually until near the southern extremity of the mainland the thickness amounts to about 300 feet. They also thicken to the east of Wilmington, as indicated in the section from Wilmington to Wrightsville Beach. (Fig. 21.)

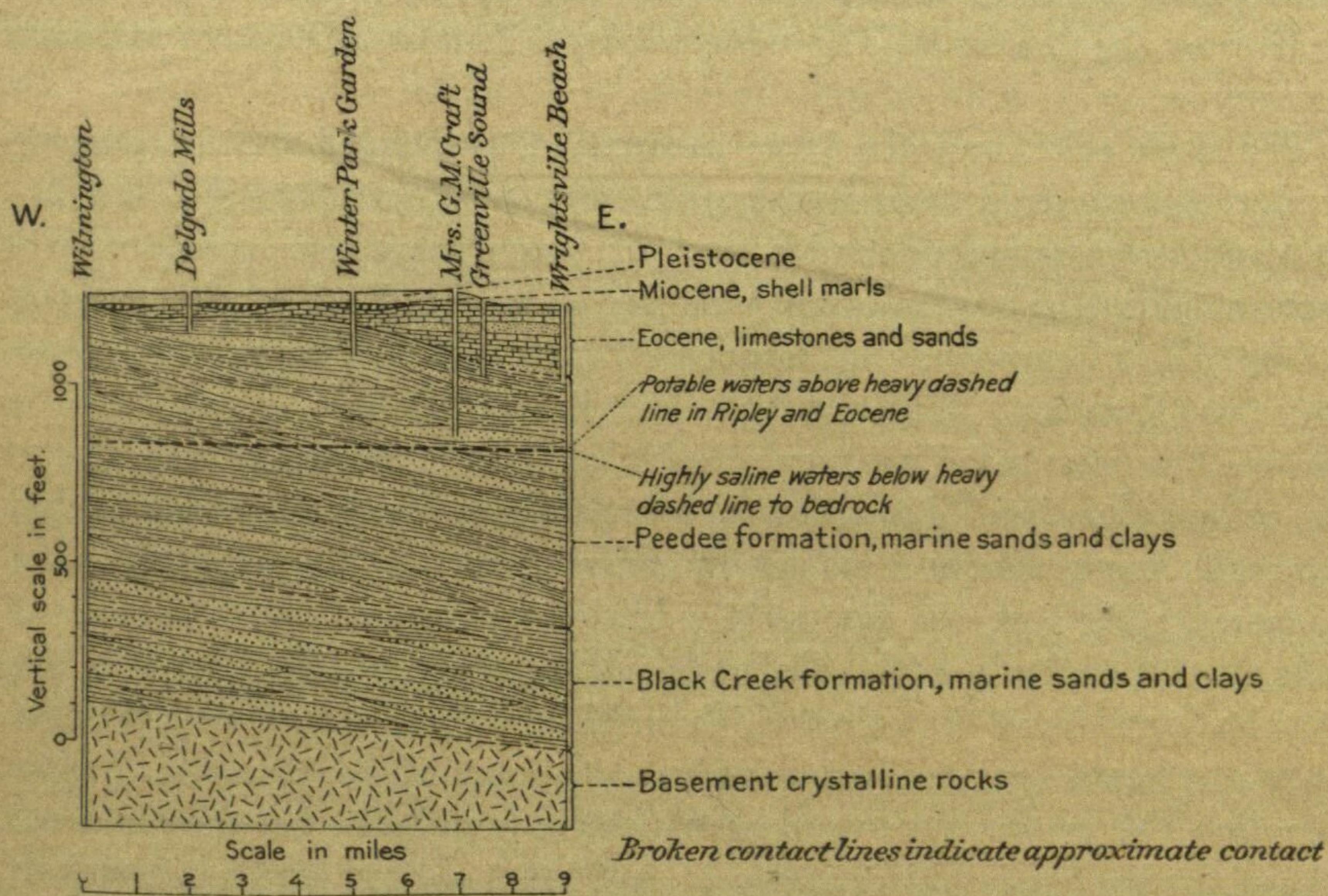


FIG. 21.—Geologic section across New Hanover County from Wilmington to Wrightsville Beach, N. C.

In the vicinity of Wilmington, Miocene shell marls rest upon the Castle Hayne limestone, but these seem to be present merely as disconnected sheets a few feet in thickness. But little is known of their distribution over the remainder of the county. Over the surface of all the county there is spread a surficial covering of Pleistocene terrace deposits, belonging for the most part to the Chowan formation, but in part to the Pamlico formation, and possibly in part to the Wicomico formation.