



The dominating feature of Lockport is the Des Plaines Valley. It is this natural feature still preserved in large part that has shaped the character of the town. The Des Plaines Valley was formed by the melting of the glacier during the last ice age. As the ice melted, the water flowed in a torrent down to the sea. After tearing up the area for several thousand years (or about 10,000 years ago) it subsided into the sluggish affair we know as the Des Plaines River. In its youth it had carved limestone cliffs, such as in Dellwood Park, which revealed to the early settlers the valuable supply of limestone building materials that lay readily at hand.

The Des Plaines Valley at Lockport was an important gathering place for the Indians. In prehistoric times the mound builders constructed their monuments, most of which are gone, but many were recorded by the early settlers. There were also a large number of ordinary Indian burial places uncovered in the early twentieth century at Dellwood Park and elsewhere. The first white explorers to go through this area went via the Des Plaines River. That was