

(204-2B)

Observations on John (Jake's) Fairbairn's Excavation above Stegemoller Residence, Rider Hollow

3/18/12 in
70° heat!

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Two ponds being excavated in pasture, on E of Knoll and one SE. Both in places where the ground is wet & water table at the surface.

Till had surface stones removed in 19th century into adjacent stone walls. Remaining till is somewhat stony, but nowhere near skeletal. Cobbles angular to slightly rounded, the latter suggesting a longer bumpy ride over Belleaye Mtn. Too high up on the slope for Rider Hollow outwash. All rock is gray SS.

Till texture is quite fine, a silt loam with minor amounts of sand. Brown, not red, suggesting gray shale 'upglacier' on the SW slopes of Belleaye Mtn - not red shale. Summit ridge of Belleaye should be capped by SS.

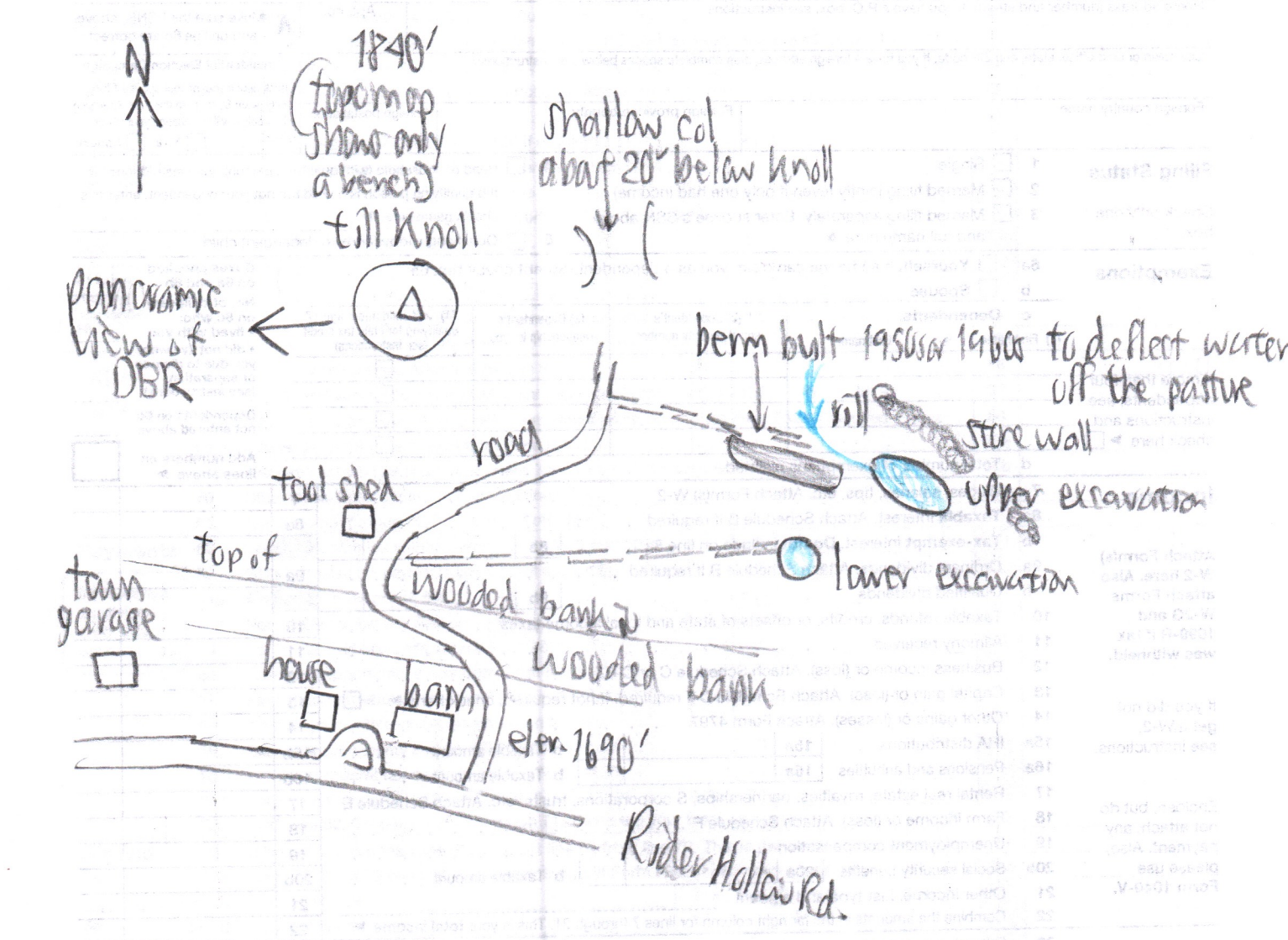
Rider Hollow is an asymmetrical valley, the S side up Kivam's Knobs steeper with shallower till. One hemlock band about 1/2 way up suggests a ledge exposed; this band shows up on Jan's aerial photos. The aerial photo also shows the stair-step layers of steepest gentler slopes.

The lower excavation had 2 places with red-brown ^{and pale gray} till patches. First thought to be the ^{Ed} BS horizon of a Spodosol, but texture is much too fine to permit such an accumulation. The color is most likely because of mottling in the imperfect drainage. A chunk was collected exhibiting the mottling.

Tompkins Hollow on DBR was grayer with haze than the ridge crest & spurs, & C-wave-like.

Jake's rented (from Hubble) bulldozer crushed a few gray SS slabs, exposing fresh blue unweathered surface. The gray (over)

layer of SS on the slab is only 1 to 2 mm thick a so
like a thin skin over the blue.



Jack reports that the Knoll doesn't drain well. No bedrock in the area so must be a dense basal till (formerly a fragipan) or unusually clayey till.