

**AAPG Annual Meeting
March 10-13, 2002
Houston, Texas**

Gerald M. Friedman¹ (1) Brooklyn College & Graduate School of the City Univ. of New York, and Northeastern Science Foundation, Troy, NY

Petroleum Geology in Selected States

Our annual forum's title this year is once again Petroleum Geology in Selected States. Four states seen through the eyes of the state geological surveys were selected as examples of the history of petroleum geology: Pennsylvania, Michigan, Colorado, and Texas.

Drake completed his successful oil well in August 1859. By the end of that first historic year, at least 5 additional oil fields were discovered in Pennsylvania. By the close of the 19th century, nearly 300 oil and gas fields were in production.

In 1925 Saginaw oil field became Michigan's first commercial success in Mississippian Berea Sandstone, using local brine wells to map an anticline. Discovered in 1957, the Albion-Scipio oil field, a narrow 35 mile linear trend of Ordovician dolomite pools still ranks as Michigan's only giant field.

In Colorado and Texas several basins and numerous fields provided much of the backbone to the U.S. oil and gas industry with such giants as the Upper Cretaceous oil fields of the Denver Basin in Colorado or such Texas giants as the Permian Basin, the Wilcox, Austin Chalk, Sprayberry trend of West Texas (once known as the world's largest uneconomic field), Frio, Formation and others.

Our final speaker is Simon Winchester whose book "The Map that Changed the World - William Smith and the Birth of Modern Geology" has become a New York Times Best Seller. "Strata" Smith is the hero of this book. This book and Winchester's oral tale will conclude an exciting session.