



## VIGNETTES OF COASTAL PLAIN GEOLOGY

JOHAN AUGUST UDDEN  
1859-1932

Born in Sweden, Johan August Udden came to America at the age of two. Although primarily a teacher in his early years, he devoted a large amount of effort to the study of the geology of Iowa, Illinois, and, particularly, Texas. In 1911 he became a geologist for the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas and in 1915 was made its director, a post he held until his death. In addition to his landmark work in proving the value of well cuttings for subsurface geology, he also was the first to propose geophysical methods that would lead to the discovery of many gas and oil wells in the Gulf Coast. But his most lasting contribution may have been the discovery of the Big Lake oil field on land belonging to the University of Texas, which has added many millions of dollars to the University's endowment. (From C. L. Baker, 1933, Geological Society of America, Bulletin, v. 44)