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ABSTRACT

The nature of the natural drainage of the Galesburg Plain in west-central Illinois has been the subject of speculation since the turn of the century. Of particular interest was a valley known as Big Meadow Channel, extending in a nearly perfect straight line for 50 miles (80 km.) from Bushnell, Illinois to an area just east of the bluffs of the Mississippi River near the town of Sutter.

The alignment of this valley (S 65°W) corresponds very closely to several other channels within the Lamoine drainage basin, a condition suggesting that these valleys may have formed in response to similar contributing factors. Unique to Big Meadow Channel, however, is the apparent extension of the valley beyond the Lamoine drainage basin, across the divide that now separates drainage associated with the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. While it appears that

evidence independently. it was not possible to construct a

however, it was possible to develop a more comprehensive
view of what occurred in the evolution of this valley and
provided considerable insight concerning the unique