CHAPTER III.

HISTORY OF LAND TITLES.

From time immemorial, down to a few years after the close of the revolution, the title of lands in this section of the state, was shared in doubtful supremacy by savages and other denizens of the forest. At the earliest period of authentic history, the Iroquois confederacy, and the Oneida nation in particular, were acknowledged to be the owners of the greater portion of our territory; which, according to Gautinonty, a chief of the Oswegatchie tribe, extended as far north as a line running from the mouth of French Creek to Split Rock on Lake Champlain; while the Oswegatchies claimed the land north, as far down the St. Lawrence as Cat Island (Louisville), where a monument had been erected by Sir John Johnson.* The Oneidas, according to a map and survey by Arent Marselis, at the request of John Duncan, and by order of the surveyor general, claimed' from the Line of Property reversed, and continued from the Canada Creek, till it comes to a certain mountain called Esoiade, or the Ice Mountain, under which mountain that Canada Creek, opposite to the Old Fort Hendrick, heads; from thence running westerly to an old fort which stood on the creek, called Weteringhra Guentere, and which empties into the River St. Lawrence, about twelve miles below Carlton or Buck's Island, and which fort the uneidas took from their enemies a long time ago; from thence running southerly to a rift upon the Onondaga River called Ogoutenagea, or Aguegonteneayea (a place remarkable for eels), about five miles from where the river empties out of the Onondaga Lake.'t Marselis was doubtless the first surveyor in the county, and there is preserved a traverse of Hungry Bay made by him, in September, 1789, which began "at a monument or red painted post, set up by the Indians, as a division line between the Onondago and Oneida nation;" from which it would seem that the former claimed some right on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario. To extinguish these claims, a treaty was held at Fort Stanwix, October 22d, 1784, with the Six Nations, by which all the country, east of a line drawn from Johnson's Landing Place on the Lake Ontario, and keeping four miles east of the carrying path between that lake and Lake Erie, to the mouth of Tehosororon, or Buffalo Creek, and thence south, to the north line of Pennsylvania, and down the Ohio, was ceded to the United


t The original survey bill and map are filed in the state engineer's office.