

minute description of the Onondaga valley, in 1665. (See early history, page 149.)

Charlevoix, as well as others of the Jesuit Fathers, frequently alludes to the salt springs at Onondaga.

In 1770, Onondaga salt was in common use among the Delaware Indians, who in that year brought a quantity of it to the house of the Father of the late Judge Bowker, of Cayuga, who then lived at a place called *Papeconck*, (now Colchester.) He says that it was common for the traders, at that day, to bring small quantities of this salt to Albany, along with their furs as a curiosity, and that they always spoke in high praise of the salt springs at Onondaga.

He says, that at that period he has seen salt in the Indian huts at Onondaga, and the Indian women engaged in making it, and that it was sometimes sent to Quebec for sale.

In a letter of Colonel Comfort Tyler, to Doctor Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, in 1822, which was published in an appendix to his Essay on Salt, Colonel Tyler says, "I was informed that Sir William Johnson had several years before obtained a deed from the Indians of a tract, one mile in width, adjoining and including the entire lake, and that he made the purchase on account of some salt water which had been discovered upon the margin of the lake."

They were well known by reputation to exist, although not explored prior to the American Revolution, and the Legislature of New-York, at an early day, duly appreciated their rising value. By the treaty of "Fort Schuyler, formerly called Fort Stanwix," held 12th September, 1788, the Onondaga Indians ceded to the State of New-York, "all their lands forever," excepting certain "tracts reserved." (See Treaties, page 348.)

At the time the Military Bounty Lands were ordered to be surveyed, in 1791-92, the Surveyor General was directed to make a sufficient reservation, to secure all the salt springs around the Onondaga Lake. The first settlers commenced the making of salt in 1788.

Colonel Tyler's letter before referred to, says, "In the