

The general religious ideas of the Mississaguas are those common to all Algonkins. The Indians of Chemong Lake (and the same remark applies to the other bands) "believed in supernatural appearances, in spirits of the earth, the air, lakes, rivers, etc." The spirits of the water were by them considered evil, and they endeavored, before undertaking a journey, to propitiate them by offerings of small portions of bread, meat, tobacco, and gunpowder, which were thrown into the water. The Mississaguas of the Bay of Quinté, before going up the Saganashcocon (Moirá) River, on their annual hunting expeditions, thought fit to gain the favor of the spirit by depositing bits of tobacco on the east shore of the river, near its mouth. The Indians of the Credit sacrificed to the spirits of the forest, the river, the lake. When overtaken by storm upon Lake Ontario, they would appease the angry spirit of the waters by the sacrifice of a black dog, around whose neck they tied a stone and cast him into the lake.

Remarkable objects of nature attracted their attention and became objects of worship; and beneath lone pine-trees, before gloomy caves, and beside rushing waterfalls, their tobacco offerings were sure to be found. The Chemong Lake Indians regarded Clear Lake, a beautiful expanse of water, free from weeds and river-growths, with superstitious awe. The caverns in the hills around Burlington Bay and the head of Lake Ontario were looked upon by the Mississaguas as the abodes of spirits. One of these, at the foot of a steep precipice, from which the sound of explosions was often heard, was called by them *Manito-ah wigwam* (the house of the devil). At the foot of a hill near the Credit village was a deep hole in the water. Here, the Indians said, a spirit was often heard to sing and beat his drum. When the white man became a too frequent visitor in the neighborhood, the spirit raised a great flood, and departed down the river into the lake. The Mississaguas of the Credit believed in the existence of fairies, diminutive sprites, to whom they used to offer bits of cloth and the like. The east bank of the Credit, about a mile from its mouth, and the region around Burlington Bay were said to be favored with their presence. They used to paddle a stone canoe, and when pursued would make for a high bank (within which was their home), upon striking which boat and contents disappeared. They were said to be the good genii of the huntsman. All the Indians believed in the existence of *wendigoes*, or giants. Stony Lake, up the valley of the Otonabee, was reputed amongst the Chemong Lake Indians to be haunted by these beings. With the Mississaguas of the Credit and Bay of Quinté it was the custom to blacken the face and to fast, in order to propitiate some adverse deity. At Chemong Lake the father was