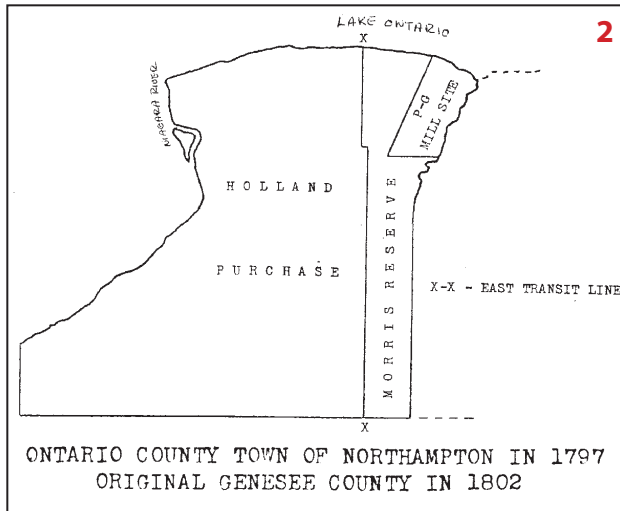


(continued from page 2)



rit Cotringer purchased 50,000 acres, south of the Ogden Tract. A tract 6 miles wide, containing 100,000 acres was sold to John B. Church. And in the southern part of the original Genesee County, toward Pennsylvania, 175,000 acres were purchased by Samuel Sterritt, and although it passed through several different ownerships over a short period of time, it is still most commonly called the Sterritt Tract. With the exception of a small "Mt. Morris Tract", all of the remaining land owned by Robert Morris, located along the eastern boundary of the Morris Reserve, became known as the "Morris Honorary Creditor's Tract." It was divided among the creditors of Robert Morris.

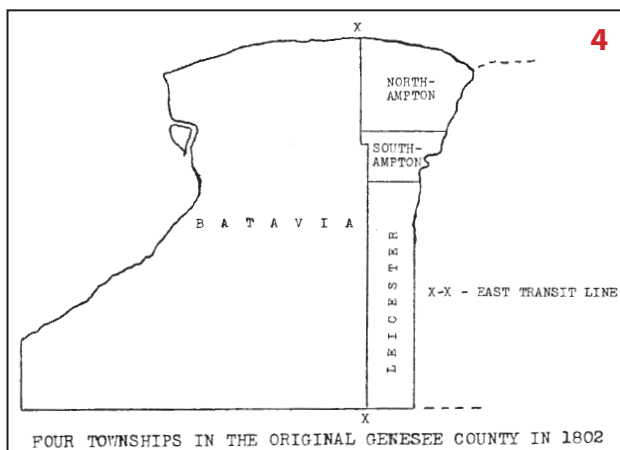
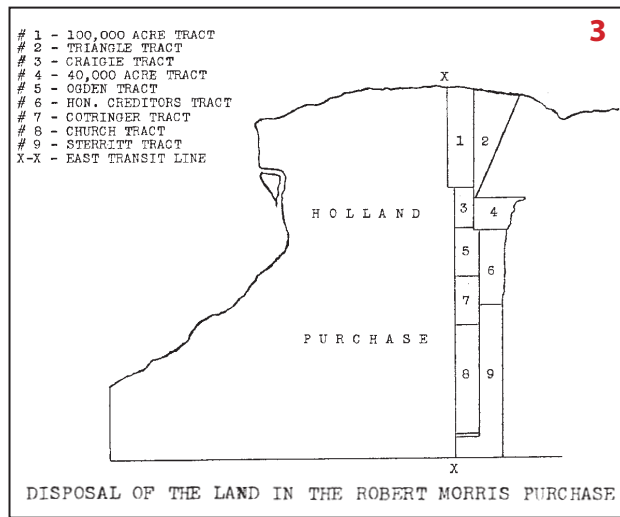
Strange as it seems, all this land had been divided into tracts, but no one had negotiated with the Indians. That was still Morris' responsibility. So in September 1797, Thomas Morris and Charles Williamson, representatives for Robert Morris, met with the chiefs and sachems at the Council of the Big Tree near Geneseo. Negotiations lasted for several days. Ultimately, the Indians relinquished all claims to the land in return for \$100,000 and the establishment of several Indian reservations within the area. Once the **Big Tree Treaty**

boundary lines than had been possible before. Ellicott considered their work to be "for the ages." As a result, they discovered and corrected many discrepancies. Some of the boundaries were corrected by as much as two miles.

The most important boundary that they surveyed was the Eastern Transit Line of the Holland Purchase. It begins at the Pennsylvania border in the town of Alma and continues due north eventually following the common border of Bethany and Pavilion, along **Transit Road**, crossing what is now Route 5, a few feet east of the Black Creek bridge in Stafford, near the fire hall. The Transit line continues north between Byron and Elba, taking a westerly jog at the corner of the Craigie Tract and the 100,000 Acre Tract before reaching Lake Ontario in the Town of Kendall. This Eastern Transit Line has never been challenged.

From 1788 to 1802, the land west of the Genesee River was part of **Ontario County**. The county seat was in Canandaigua where all land transactions had to be recorded. (This is important if you are tracing family settlement in LeRoy prior to 1802, you'll need to check the Ontario county Clerk's office in Canandaigua.) The land west of the Genesee River, when it was part of Ontario County was designated as the Town of Northampton. The first Northampton town meeting was held at the home of Peter Sheffer, Sr. (east of the present village of Scottsville) on April 4, 1797.

In 1802, **Genesee County** was separated from Ontario county. It contained all the land west of the Genesee River, to the state border at the Niagara River and from the Pennsylvania border to Lake Ontario. It was the former town of Northampton. Genesee County was divided into four new towns: Batavia, Northampton, Southampton and Leister. (#4) Batavia was the largest and contained all the land of the Holland Purchase and became the county seat. Northampton was immediately west of the Genesee River toward Lake Ontario. Southampton was immediately south of Northampton and was the smallest



was signed, the surveyors went to work and settlers began pouring into the wilderness.

Joseph Ellicott led the team of surveyors for the Holland Purchase. They utilized surveying equipment, including a transit, that produced a more accurate account of the

(continued on page 4)