Brooklyn Public Library

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle (Brooklyn, New York) · Sun, Sep 8, 1895 · Page 10

Downloaded on Feb 26, 2015

SHINNECOCK INDIANS' LANDS.

A Syndicate of Capitalists Ready to Buy the Reservation.

THEY WANT A CLEAR TITLE.

Meeting of the Tribe Last Week to Discuss the Proposition—The Legislature to Be Asked to Authorize the Sale. Rights of the Remnant of the Tribe and How They Were Acquired—No Full Blooded Indians Left.

The Shinnecock tribe of Indians held a meeting last week on the reservation near Southampton to discuss the various aspects of a movement that is on foot to sell the lands of their reservation. A number of members of the tribe attended from various parts of the town, and the meeting was conducted by Supervisor Foster Post, who is also the oldest member of the tribe and a descendant of the Rev. Paul Cuffee, the last native missionary, acted as peacemaker between the two factions into which the question of the

DAVID WALKER.

disposal of the lands has divided the Shinnecocks. It is understood that ninety days' notice is to be given to all interested that a petition will be presented to the next state legislature asking that body to authorize the proposed sale of the land.

The Shinnecock Indian reservation is situated on the south side of Shinnecock bay, about two miles east of the village of Southampton, between the latter place and Shinnecock Inlet. It contains about one and a half broad versions of three square, are descendants of one of the thirteen original families (there at shortpines which occupied Long Island when the white men first set foot upon it. The land is bounded on the north by the road from Cairns Place to the lands of the Shinnecock tribe, the division being somewhere about the middle of the narrow neck of land between Southampton and Shinnecock bay. All of the land at present included in the reservation was originally occupied by the Shinnecock tribe and the lands to the east of it by the Montaukett tribe, known as Canoe Place were occupied by the Pantigo tribe. West of the latter tribe came the Quiogue tribe, and then the Shinnecocks. Speonk, Unsaquay, Matchaunk, Rockaway and Canarsie tribes, the last named holding the territory west of the island, the limits of which included in Kings county and a portion of Queens.

On the 12th of August, 1703, the people of Southampton purchased of the Shinnecocks the land which they occupied, and which was the last lands of what was called the Shinnecock tract and which included the hills, with the land on the bay side, and the meadows on the north side of the town. They were allowed the privileges of plowing, planting and cutting timber for fencing and fuel; also to cut flags, bulrushes and such grasses as they are in the habit of using for mats, baskets, etc., and to cut thatch. The Indians then