

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, MAR 15 1906

DEAR SIR,

I wish to obtain information respecting the derivation of the place-names of Canada—of the names of the villages, towns, cities and of the natural features, such as rivers, lakes, capes, bays, mountains, etc.—and shall be much obliged if you will give me any information that you may possess or can procure, respecting the below-mentioned name and also respecting the names of any other features in the vicinity of your residence concerning which you have knowledge.

In many localities, the older generation is passing, or has passed away, and unless steps are taken to collect this information, it will, in many instances, be too late. In most communities there are persons who take an interest in things of this nature or who have been connected with the early settlement of the locality. If there are any such in your neighbourhood, will you kindly submit this to them.

Below I have indicated the lines along which I desire information and also the commoner derivatives of place-names in Canada :—

(1.) Whether named after a village, town or city, or natural feature in any other province or country ; if so, the name of province or country in which the original locality is situated.

(2.) Whether named after a person ; if so, the person's name, occupation, spelling of name as rendered by the person and any details of interest respecting him (or her) such as (a) Whether alive or, if dead, approximate year of death ; (b) Whether at any time a resident of the locality and, if so, whether still living there.

(3.) Whether named after a natural feature ; if so, any details respecting the origin of the name as applied to the feature and the geographical position of the latter.

(4.) Whether the town, village or city ever had any other name or names ; if so, at what dates, approximately, and the origin of these obsolete names.

Any information bearing on the above will be deemed a courtesy.

Yours truly,

JAMES WHITE,
Geographer.

Kindly write your reply on the attached sheet.

To ensure free transmission of your reply I enclose herewith an addressed envelope which will come free of postage.

Belle Côte

INVERNESS Co. N.S.

Belle Côte, N.S.
March 22/1906.

My Dear Sir: I now send, in, the information, which I have obtained, respecting the above named place. Belle Côte (a french word signifying a pretty shore) was so named on account of the pretty shore which borders the locality. The water which lies along this shore is the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This locality was originally called East ^{side of} Margaree ^{Harbour}. Near it are the villages of ^{Chapel,} Margaree Harbour, East side Margaree, North East Margaree and South West Margaree. So sometimes there happened to be confusion, in regards to the mails sent to these places, on this account the Name of East ^{side of} Margaree ^{Harbour} was changed to Belle Côte; the latter name being proposed by parties in the locality. The name was changed in 1893. Of the origin of the word Margaree itself, we find the following written by some authors:- This name was given

to the place, in the days of Louisbourg, by the French. They called the river, which separates Margaree Harbour and Belle Côte, Sainte Marguerite (Saint Margaret). From the latter name, that of Margaree was derived. According to other writers, it was named, in honor of a lady named Marguerite, who came over with the original settlers of this place, from Prince Edward Island, about the year 1784 or thereabouts. The Margaree river as mentioned above is situated in our village. Its present name has already been referred to above.

There are no lakes in Belle Côte. There is a cape in Belle Côte called Tom Aucoin's cape (This man is a near by farmer.) The Gulf or Bay of St. Lawrence has already been referred to. Bordering the village on the East are John McRae's mountain (This man having once lived on it) and Jack's mountain (This mountain being situated back of this man's lands).

I remain Yours Sincerely

German Stubbert, Postmaster
Belle Côte, Inverness Co., N.S.

According to the older generation here, the name Margaree originated thus:

About 200 years ago, a french vessel was wrecked on our coast, and the crew was obliged to pass the winter in this village. During the winter, some of them died. When the remainder of the crew left in the following spring, they said that they had stayed here "magr' eus" (against their will). (This should be malgr' eus in good french.) Then the name Margaree was formed from the word magr' e.

N.B. It should also be noted that, during the winter, they nearly starved.