

11th/8

Little Bras d'Or, South Side,
Cape Breton, N. S.,

Nov. 27, 1905.

The Geographer,
Department of the Interior,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,

Your list of questions concerning this locality has been handed to me and I attempt what answers I can, feeling that, if of little value, the attempt I make, may encourage you in a good work.

1. The name Little Bras d'Or was doubtless given by the French in acknowledgement of the great beauty of the narrow neck of water which connects Bras d'Or Lake with the Atlantic. The Little (or Petit I suppose it was) being applied to distinguish it from Big Bras d'Or, which name we give to the larger outlet of the lake, lying on the other side of Boulardene Island. Now the English word Little got into the name I cannot tell. Why this P.O. is called South Side I don't know either. For, as the water runs near north and south I think it should have been distinguished as East Side.

2. —

3. Little Bras d'Or is 100 yards wide and continues that width for five miles from the ocean, where it abruptly widens to a mile, and is called, popularly, The Bay or sometimes Little Bras d'Or Lake, distinguishing it from Little Bras d'Or Gut, the narrow part. Big Bras d'Or is nowhere less than one mile wide.

Little Bras d'Or, South Side NS
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4! The people here and around call the narrow part of the water The Gut, as mentioned before, which name extends itself to the places on both sides the water. For instance we call the places below us, that is nearer the ocean, (not properly below us, however, for the water rises and falls throughout the whole lake) whether on this side or the other, including the Post Offices, Alder Point, on this side, and Mule Creek and Point Leon on the other, generally, down the Gut. While an inhabitant of one of the neighbouring towns would call the whole place on both sides the narrow water, The Gut.

The school section below us, that is, Alder Point P.O., is Little Bras d'Or Gut, Gut distinguishing it from this section called simply Little Bras d'Or.

Sincerely yours,

M. A. Phelan.