

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

GASPÉ - "LAND'S END" OF THE MICMAC

A learned examination of the origin
of the name, GASPÉ, as presented to
the Royal Society of Canada by Dr.
William Francis Ganong in 1928.

KEN ANNETT

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WHAT'S IN A NAME ?

A term that appears more frequently in modern Québec is TOPONYMY, which the Oxford Dictionary defines as "the study of the place-names of a region". Such study is of particular interest in Québec with its long and interesting history and mix of peoples. Québec place-names reflect a rich and varied relationship of man with his environment of land and sea - a relationship extending from aboriginal times, through periods of European exploration and settlement to the present day. Generations come and go but the place-names of the land tend to remain unchanged and provide a sense of permanency across the tides of time. The learned examination of the origin and meaning of the name, GASPE, presented below, is therefore of particular interest and significance to a series on GASPE OF YESTERDAY.

DR. WILLIAM FRANCIS GANONG - 1864-1941

Born in St. John, New Brunswick in 1864, William Francis Ganong was of Loyalist descent on both the paternal and maternal sides of his family. Beyond that he was a descendant of the Huguenot family, GUENON. He traced his Canadian ancestry to Thomas Ganong, a Loyalist from New York Province who sought refuge in King's County, N.B. at the time of the American Revolution.

After graduating from the University of New Brunswick, W.F. Ganong pursued his studies at Harvard University and the University of Munich in Germany. In 1894 he was appointed Professor of Botany at Smith College, Northampton, Mass., a post that he graced until retirement in 1932. Among the professional honours accorded to him was that of President of the Botanical Society of America.

The wife of Dr. Ganong, Jean Murray Carmen, was a sister of the well-known Canadian poet, Bliss Carmen.

It was as a prolific and distinguished historian and cartographer of his native New Brunswick that Dr. Ganong, long a Corresponding Member of the Royal Society of Canada, contributed material of great interest to Gaspesians. His learned papers contributed much original and interesting material on the Bay Chaleur region. In 1908 he edited

the early book of Nicolas Denys, "DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE COASTS OF NORTH AMERICA" (Ref. GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY - THE DENYS JOURNEY IN GASPEZIA) and in 1910 the "NEW RELATION OF GASPEZIA" of Father Christian Le Clercq (Ref. SPEC, September 30, 1961). His voluminous notes on these early books and his numerous studies of the Bay Chaleur region opposite Gaspezia, from Miscou to Restigouche remain as authoritative sources of historical information.

Dr. Ganong's Royal Society of Canada paper on the origin of the name of Gaspé was published in 1923 in the TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA, Third Series, Vol. XXII, Section II.

*The Origin of the East-Canadian Place-names Gaspé, Blomidon,
and Bras d'Or*

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(Read May Meeting, 1923)

This paper has the same aims as its predecessor published in the Transactions of this Society two years ago, and the prefatory comments there given are here equally applicable.

In brief, the following pages embody a contribution to the objective investigation of a subject which has been in the past all too largely dominated by subjective fancy, and thereby has become shot through with historical error. The discussions are made monographic, even at cost of much space, but such organizations of the existent data should provide good basis for future researches, which can thus more readily confirm or disprove the conclusions. Perchance, too, they may serve as a stimulus to the application elsewhere of like critical analyses, through which alone is the truth in such matters attainable.

Gaspé, and cognate place-names

GASPÉ is the name of a Cape, Bay, Basin, Village, County, and peninsular District at the eastern extremity of Quebec Province south of the St. Lawrence River. It is pronounced as the French spelling indicates, *i.e.*, like the English gas-pay, with the first syllable accented. It has also been spelled Gaspee, Gaspey, Gaspa, Gachpé, Gachepé, Gaschepé, Gaspei, and doubtless in other ways.

The name is not wholly unique in place-nomenclature. Thus, not far above Quebec south of the St. Lawrence is an old seigniory formerly called Gaspé, and on old maps the little river flowing through it was called Gaspé River,—now R. Auneuse or Aulnes. As well known, the seigniory was named for Pierre Aubert, dit de Gaspé, husband of the original grantee; and there is thus a connection between this name and our Gaspé. Again, there is near Providence, Rhode Island, a Gaspee Point, known to preserve the name of a British armed vessel burned there in 1772 by exasperated colonists. It was also presumably for some earlier and much lesser mischance to this same vessel that the

name Pt. Gaspee appeared on the northwestern point of Cape Sable Island, in Barrington Passage, on a chart of 1781 by DesBarres. This vessel is known to have cruised in these waters, and presumably she was named for our Gaspé. Further, the name was formerly applied to Cape North on Cape Breton Island, as also to the Island itself, as noted below. There is also a Gaspesia Shoal near Walkhouse Point in the Manitoulin District of Ontario, named for a vessel, and Gaspesia is derived from Gaspé, as also later noted. The Gazetteers give other words elsewhere bearing some resemblance to Gaspé, but evidently through coincidence only.

The only attempts at critical analysis of the name Gaspé in light of its history seem to be two of my own (both vitiated, however, by an error of premises corrected below), viz., in these *Transactions*, VII, 1889, ii, 53, and in the Champlain Society's edition of Father LeClercq's *Nouvelle Relation de la Gaspésie*, 1910, 63. Other accounts of the name, as cited below, appear also in Roy's *Noms Géographiques de la Province de Québec*, of 1906, p. 109, and Rouillard's *Noms Géographiques . . . empruntés aux langues sauvages, 1906, 34*, and in works by Father Pacifique later cited.

At least seven interpretations of Gaspé have been proposed.

First, in most recent publications the word is said to be Micmac Indian, meaning "land's end", or equivalent. The statement can be traced back to (Sir) William Dawson's article *A week in Gaspé*, in the *Canadian Naturalist*, III, 1858, 323, which, in connection with the Micmacs, reads,— "The name Gaspé is derived from the language of these Indians, and is stated to mean as nearly as possible, 'the land's end'"; while a footnote adds,— "M. Hamel, quoted by Stewart in a paper on Canadian names in Proc. of Quebec Lit. and Hist. Society gives the meaning as '*Bout de la pointe de terre*'." The original statement by Hamel (Joseph Hamel, a surveyor) is in Appendice BB, dated 1833, in *Journaux de la Chambre d'Assemblée du Bas Canada*, for 1835, in a Report of explorations of unknown parts of the Gaspé peninsula, where, in a list of Micmac words taken from his Indian guides, occurs "Gaspé—Kespèque. Bout de la Pointe de terre". No earlier form of this interpretation seems to be known, but for completeness it is worth while to note that a passage in the Jesuit Relations for 1659 seems to connect the phrase "bout du monde" with Gaspé (especially in the condensed summary given by Father Pacifique in *Bulletin Soc. Géogr. de Québec*, XXI, 1927, 113), and might therefore be taken to indicate a very early interpretation of the name; but a reading of the entire passage (Thwaites's edition, XLV, 70-71), will show that the phrase really refers to New, in relation to old, France. Hamel's interpretation was given again, apparently quite independently, by Father Vetromile in 1866 as follows,— "*Gaspésie*, from the Indian name *Gachepè* or *Kech'pi* (the end), very appropriately to signify the extreme North-east end of the Micmac territory, and the last promontory lying between the mouth of the Great St. Lawrence river and the Bay of Chaleurs" (*The Abnakis*, 46), a passage of such unwonted accuracy for this author as to make me suspect his information came from Rand, who, however, nowhere mentions the word Gaspé in his works. The same interpretation is again advanced, and seemingly also independently, by Father Pacifique, by far our best living authority on the Micmacs, who makes it a Micmac word *Gespeg*, meaning "bout, fin, extrémité", and connects it with Gespogoitg, Yarmouth, and Gespesaocg, Cape Breton, whereof more below (Rouillard, *Noms*, cited, 35, and *Bulletin*, cited, 112). As the evidence later given will show, this interpretation of Hamel's seems to be, with certain qualifications, correct.

Second, to his just-cited statement Father Vetromile appends a footnote, reading,— "If Gaspésie comes from *Kespassé*, it means smoked food, e.g. fish". But Gaspésie is a known French derivative from Gaspé, and not itself Micmac, a fact which disposes of this guess.

Third, l'Abbé Laverdière in 1870, in a footnote to the word Gachepé in his great *Oeuvres de Champlain* (p. 68) wrote,— "Ou Gaspé. Suivant M. l'abbé J.-A. Maurault, ce nom serait une contraction du mot abenakis '*Ka sepidi*, qui est séparément, qui est séparé de l'autre terre'. On sait, en effet, que le Forillon, aujourd'hui miné par la violence des vagues, était un rocher remarquable séparé du cap de Gaspé". This derivation must have been communicated to l'Abbé Laverdière directly, since it nowhere appears in l'Abbé Maurault's only published work, *Histoire des Abenakis*, Sorel, 1866. Its validity, however, despite l'Abbé Laverdière's apparent endorsement, which has caused a rather wide citation by others, is negated by three circumstances, viz. the utter improbability, or impossibility, that a place-name in wholly Micmac territory could have been given by the widely removed Abenakis: the absence of any supporting roots from Abenaki as well as Micmac dictionaries: and the general unreliability of l'Abbé Maurault's interpretations of place-names, hardly any one of which, east of Abenaki territory at least, represents anything more than a random matching of roots which happen to be coincident in sound, quite regardless of the history or original forms of the names.

Fourth, M. Faucher de Saint-Maurice, in his *Promenades dans le Golfe Saint-Laurent*, Quebec, 3rd. edition, 1881, 214 (and presumably the earlier editions), after mention of the explanation just-cited, adds,— "D'un autre côté, mon frère Jules, lors d'un voyage fait au Saguenay et sur les bords du lac Saint-Jean, m'écrivit qu'il a entendu un Montagnais nommer le cap où nous sommes *Guihahspèque*, deux mots qui, en langage chrétien, veulent dire 'la fin de la terre' ". His cap "ou nous sommes" was Gaspé. No roots in support of such a name with such a meaning appear to occur in Father Lemoine's *Dictionnaire Français-Montagnais*; and it seems wholly probable that we have here a Montagnais adoption, perhaps somewhat misspelled (*Guihahspèque?* = *Gaspek?*), of the Micmac name *Gaspek*,— locative of Gaspé.

Fifth, a suggested connection of Gaspé with Gaspar de Cortereal, Portuguese explorer of eastern Newfoundland, is noted in Roy's earlier-cited *Noms Géographiques* (p. 169), as taken from the *Annales de la Propagation de la Foi* (of Montreal), Oct., 1887. The author, Father F. X. Bossé, after speaking of the loss of Gaspar de Cortereal, and of his brother in search of him, adds,— "C'est ce qui explique comment, sur une carte géographique portugaise de 1509, une partie du littoral du Labrador est nommé *Terre de Cortereal*, et le golfe Saint-Laurent y est appelé le *Golfe des deux Frères*. Il y a aussi un grand rapprochement entre *Gaspard* et *Gaspé*". This map seems unknown to the modern critical students of our historical cartography, nor does any known shred of evidence, or probability, connect the words, whose resemblance seems purely coincidental.

Sixth, in the same article Father Bossé also suggests that Gaspé may have been brought from Caspé, in Aragon, Spain, by early Basque fishermen, whose country it adjoined. Here, however, we have but another unsupported guess from coincidence.

Seventh, in the erroneous belief, later explained, that Gaspé was used by Alfonse in Cartier's time, when Huron-Iroquois Indians resorted there, I suggested in the earlier editions of this article that the origin of Gaspé might be found in their tongue, as *Honguedo* was certainly their name for the region. The error in the premises, however, leaves the idea groundless.

Finally, it is worth while to mention, anticipatorily, that a theory might be based on a possible cartographical transformation into Gaspé or Gaspey of the c. de Prey, (an equivalent of Cartier's cap de Pratto) found on the Desceliers Mappemonde of 1546 on the Gaspé peninsula. The idea, however, is wholly improbable.

We may well here note in passing the origin of the derived name GASPESIE, with its later English equivalent GASPESIA. The subject is discussed in the Champlain Society's edition of Father LeClercq's *Nouvelle Relation*, of 1691, p. 12, where it is shown that GASPESIE was first introduced in that work as a name for the country from Gaspé towards Cape Breton: that it was adapted from an earlier name GASPESIENS, used for the Indians of that country as far back as the earlier Jesuit Relations: and that after some later use it became extinct as a geographical name, though it survives in literary usage, and, as GASPESI, in local speech.

We turn now to the documentary history of the name.

It can be traced back in its present spelling, with variants already noted, applied to bay, basin, cape, and country, to Father LeClercq's *Nouvelle Relation* of 1691, which uses GASPÉ and GACHPÉ, for the mountainous country and a bay. Denys, in his well known *Description Geographique* of 1672, uses only GASPÉ, for river and cape, and a resort of fishermen. The *Relations* of the Jesuits have GASPÉ in the later, but GACHEPÉ in the earlier, of the series, used usually in connection with the resort of Indians there. The fine Jean Guérard map of the Atlantic coasts, of 1631 (still unpublished in the Bibliothèque Nationale) has GASPAY for the river, while Champlain's maps of 1632 and 1612 have also GASPAY, apparently for the cape. Champlain, in his *Voyages*, and later writings, uses GASPÉ, GASPEY, and GASPAY, but in his *Des Sauvages*, of 1604, has GACHEPÉ, GACHEPAY, and GASCHÉPAY, for a high land, a bay, and a fishing resort. Lescarbot, in his *Histoire de la Nouvelle France* of 1609 and later, uses invariably GACHEPÉ, and includes the word in a list of names of Indian origin. DeMonts' Commission of 1603, given by Lescarbot and elsewhere, has also GACHEPÉ.

Thus our name Gaspé goes back to a form GACHEPÉ or GACHEPAY which was prevalent in 1603-4, and had we no earlier record we would seek for an origin embodying this longer and otherwise slightly different form; but the case is somewhat altered by two earlier spellings that are known. One is on the G. LeVasseur world map of 1601, (still unpublished in the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris), which has apparently GASPAY for the country north of the bay, and B. GASPI for the bay itself. The other is a Pierre Bertius published map of 1600, given by HARRISSE in his great work *Découverte et Evolution cartographique de Terre-Neuve*, of 1900, p. 283, which has C. GASPEI for the cape, as has also another map, mentioned in my preceding paper (p. 30) as in the Germanic Museum at Nuremberg, but shown by comparison with the one just mentioned to be of the same authorship and date. No use of the name prior to 1600 is known, for its occurrence in the phrase "Bay of Molues, or Gaspay", (nicely modernized to Gaspé in some late copies) in Hakluyt's translation from Jean Alfonse's *Cosmographie* of 1545 is an editorial interpolation by Hakluyt, as shown by comparison with Alfonse's original Ms. reprinted by Musset in 1904 (p. 487), and by Biggar's new collation from the original in his *Voyages of Jacques Cartier*, of 1924, p. 278 seq. I fell into this trap, thus putting the use of the word back to Cartier's time, in the afore-

cited two earlier editions of this analysis, as have others also. e.g. R. F. P. Martin, in his notes to Bressani's *Relation abrégée*, of 1852.

Summarizing these data, it becomes clear that the name GASPÉ goes back with variants, most notably a form centering in GACHEPÉ in Champlain's time, to GASPÉ, GASPAY, and GASPEI, applied to country, bay, and cape, in 1600 and 1601. On Le Vasseur's map of 1601, it appears with Quebecq, Taducaq, and several others which, wholly absent from all records of Cartier's voyages, but appearing in Champlain's works and DeMonts' commission, seem clearly to represent names which had come into use by the traders and fishermen who resorted to the St. Lawrence towards the close of the sixteenth century, and which were first introduced into cartography as a result of the voyage of Chauvin to the lower St. Lawrence in 1599.

Turning next to etymology, it is clear that three circumstances aforementioned point strongly though not conclusively to an Indian origin for the name GASPÉ, viz., Le Vasseur's map gives it with other new Indian names, though also with others not Indian: Lescarbot makes it Indian, though his authority on such a point is none of the best: and the modern Micmacs use it (in the locative forms KESPÈQUE and GESPEG), though often they adopt foreign names of prominent places. Following, however, the clue provided by their use of the word, and the meaning they assign to it, viz., "the end", or "end of the land", we turn to Rand's works, and in his *Micmac-English Dictionary*, of 1902, p. 74, find several words in which the prefix KESPA- or KESPE- means "end", and among them KESPAK, meaning "the end, it is the last". At first sight this would seem identical with Hamel's KESPÈQUE, but it is not clear that KESPAK is used in a geographical sense, while moreover the construction of Micmac place-names includes, (usually at least), with such a prefix some additional roots further defining its application. This leads us to ask whether there occur in Micmac territory any cognate words likely to illuminate this problem, and happily we find such, as now to be noted in detail.

Kespoogwit. This is the Micmac name specifically for Yarmouth, in the extreme southwest part of Nova Scotia, and generally for the southwestern part of the Province, not now in use but amply recorded. Rand's *English-Micmac Dictionary* of 1888, p. 285, gives for Yarmouth KÈSPOOGWIT meaning *Land's End*, and it is the same, with added locative -k in his *Micmac-English Dictionary*, p. 74, 183. The identity of the place is confirmed from several sources, a reference in Leland's *Algonquin Legends*, p. 33, Gesner's list of place-names in Murdoch's *Nova Scotia I*, 1865, 534 (which has KEESPOOGWITK, ("Land's end), Yarmouth"), and especially in a valuable list of place-names taken apparently anew and independently from Micmacs, in J. R. Campbell's *History of . . . Yarmouth*, 1876, p. 20, which has KEESPOUGIAC, "A Point of Land" for Yarmouth Cape. Important in another way is a much earlier record of the name, which, though not applied to Yarmouth, does evidently refer to that region, viz., in a list of Indian chiefs of Acadia and their districts of 1760, by Abbé Manach, is included a Chief of KESHPUGOWITK (*Coll. Mass. Hist. Soc.*, X, 1809, 116: confirmed from original in *Pennsylvania Gazette*, May 1, 1760). This old form, written by a scholarly Frenchman who knew Micmac, confirms other ample evidence in showing that the Micmac sibillant written down by some as s was recorded by others as sh, a fact helping to show the identity of GACHEPÉ and GASPÉ.

Connected with KESPOOGWIT, however, is a seeming anomaly, viz. Rand applies the name, in substantially identical form and meaning, not only to Yarmouth, but also to Cape Negro (Ms. list of 1872, and *First Reading Book*, p. 81, 85), and furthermore to Cape Sable (*Micmac-English Dictionary*, p. 74, 183). Neither application is confirmed from other sources (its use for Cape Blanche in Crowell's *History of Barrington* resting obviously on Rand), nor is it consistent with Indian usage that the same name should be used for three places, so near together. Both Cape Negro and Cape Sable fail, however, within the district of Kespoogwit (named from its principal place, Yarmouth), and therefore it seems clear that Rand, whether through inadvertence or want of names for those places, gave them the names of their district. It is to be remembered that Rand, while an assiduous collector of Micmac place-names, was not critically interested in them as such.

The construction of KESPOOGWIT is clear. It involves the prefix KESP- meaning "end", with -OOGWIT, a combination found also in other Micmac place-names in the sense of "situated", and used commonly if not always for inhabited places. It is hence descriptive of the position of Yarmouth at the extreme limit of Micmac occupation in Nova Scotia. Here, however, is a crucial point, viz., GASPÉ occupies an exactly homologous position at the northern extremity of Micmac territory, the presence of these Indians there being amply attested back to Champlain's time. Cartier, in fact, found Micmacs at Bay Chaleur, but Huron-Iroquois at Gaspé, which they called HONGUEDO. The latter Indians, however, are no more heard of in this region, and it is reasonable to infer that with cessation of their visits before the time of the post-Cartier traders the Micmacs had established themselves there, and named it descriptively as their last outpost towards the St. Lawrence. These considerations suggest that originally the word GASPÉ was equivalent to KESPOOGWIT, in slightly different dialectical form, describing primarily the place of Indian resort there, i.e. the Bay or Basin and vicinity, whence it was extended by the white traders, becoming abbreviated in the process, to the general region and the cape. In this case the name GASPÉ represents the KESPOOG- of KESPOOGWIT, the seeming difference in forms being no greater than that which is explicable by dialectical differences of different districts of the Micmac people, plus historical and other factors involved. On this basis also the KESPÈQUE and GESPEG of the present Micmacs would represent the same abbreviated word, the termination of which happens to have a satisfactory locative form.

These conclusions achieve a notable support in two circumstances. First, as Father Pacifique states (in Rouillard, *Noms* cited, p. 35) "Pour les Micmacs d'autrefois, leurs pays *Migmagig* était un géant dont la tête était le Cap-Breton, un pied *Gespogoitg* et l'autre *Gespeg*". Second, Rand, in his *First Reading Book*, p. 81, says "The Indian name for the whole country is Megūmaage, MICMAC-LAND, or *Country of the Micmacs*. They divided it into seven districts, each district having its own chief, but the chief of Cape Breton, which comprised one district, was looked upon as head of the whole. As marked on the "wampum belt", C.B. is at the head. To the right stretch away three districts with their chiefs, viz., Pictou, Memramcook, and Restigouche; and the same number to the left, viz., Eskegāwaage (from Canso to Halifax), Shubenacadie, and Annapolis, which reaches to Yarmouth. These two arms of the country are named from two prominent points, viz., *Cape Chignecto*, and *Cape Negro*.—Sigunikt and Kespoogwit". Obviously the topography of the Micmac Country,

here expressed correctly, and fancifully embodied in the conception of the giant with head at Cape Breton and feet at Restigouche (with Gaspé) and Yarmouth, supports the idea of an homology between the names KESPOOGWIT and GASPÉ, as there is between the places.

This, however, is not the end of the matter, for Cape Breton apparently possessed at its own apex a third Gaspé, now surviving in Aspy, which we consider separately.

Aspy. This is the name of a Bay, Harbour, and small River of Cape Breton Island, on the east coast just south of Cape North. The first attempt at interpretation of the word seems to be that of Bourinot, in his fine monograph on Cape Breton (in these *Transactions*, IX, 1891, ii, 269), where he offers, purely speculatively, two suggestions, which of course are now reappearing as conclusions of authorities. One would make it identical with APÉGÉ, an old Micmac name for the codfish, and the other a transfer here by the Basques of the name PIC D'ASPÉ, prominent in the Pyrenees, an idea which Bourinot could have rendered more plausible by citing the very striking Wilkie Sugarloaf, instead of Cape North, as the "Pic". For neither idea, however, is there the slightest support in records or probability.

The name appears for the Bay, or Harbour, variously spelled ASPY (apparently first used by Haliburton in 1829), ASPEY, ASPÉ, ASHPÉ, ASPEE, ACHEPÉ, ACHPÉ, back to beyond 1700. It is B. ACHPÉ on the Coronelli map, *Partie orientale du Canada* of 1689, and I. & B. D'ASPÉ on the Jumeau map *La grande baye de S. laurens*, of 1685, the earliest known appearance of the name in application to the place now so called. On the W. Hack *Map of North America*, of 1684 appears simply ASHPÉ, applicable either to the Bay or to the contiguous Cape North. On the J. Thornton *New Chart of . . . New Scotland, &c.*, undated, but belonging about 1680, appears at the northeastern end of Cape Breton C. GASPA, which survives on some later Southack charts; while on the N. Visscher *Carte Nouvelle . . . d'Amérique la plus septentrionale*, also undated but belonging about 1670, this same name, C. GASPA, is applied positively and unmistakably to our present Cape North. Finally, on the aforementioned Jean Guérard map of 1631 the same name, as PT. GASPA, is applied to a point southeast of "C. St. Laurens", and therefore to our Cape North. It is furthermore an interesting circumstance that some maps, of later date, apply the name, in forms identical with some variants of Gaspé, to the entire island, which is ISLE DE GASPEY OR BRETON on a chart of about 1700 in Hulbert's *Crown Collection*, 1st. ser. v, No. 7; is GASPEY ISL. on a Moll Map of 1720; and is ISLAND GASPE'E on the ms. Durell *Chart of the coast of Nova Scotia &c.* dated 1736, but belonging a little earlier, for it is closely followed by the well-known published *Map of the British Empire in America* of 1733, by Popple, which has GASPEE OR CAPE BRETON. It is, by the way, a curious circumstance that this temporary name for the Island was taken from one of its capes, as the surviving name is taken from another.

In summary, the records show that ASPY applied to the Bay, Harbour, or River goes back to about 1680, when it is replaced by GASPA applied to a Cape which is our present Cape North. The thought that despite the immediate contiguity of the two places, the names may be separate words whose resemblance rests purely in coincidence, is negatived by two circumstances. First, both words seem clearly Micmac, and that two adjoining places should bear names so closely alike as ASPÉ and GASPA would be wholly inconsistent

with the principles of Micmac place-nomenclature, a conclusion supported by the fact that the G (or K) sound in such words is very commonly dropped by those Indians themselves. Second, a direct connection between the two seems established by an application for a grant of land, of 1767, given in *Acts of the Privy Council, Colonial Ser.*, V, 599, which speaks of GASPÉE BAY, "north-west from Cape North in Cape Breton Island". Obviously the north-west is an error, since no land or bay, but only the waters of Cabot Strait lie there; and the original presumably read Southwest from Cape North, which is the position of Aspy Bay.

All considerations accordingly point to an identity of GASPA and ASPÉ, and to GASPA or GASPÉ as the original form of ASPY, the name being extended thence to the cape presumably by early sailors. Equally this GASPA would seem identical with the Gaspé of Quebec, especially as the same variants,—ASPÉ-GASPÉ, ACHEPÉ-GACHEPÉ, ASPEE-GASPEE, ASPEY-GASPEY occur in both words. As to a reason for the application of Gaspé to this place, that is not far to seek, for Aspy, with its harbour and lagoons and river, in this respect much like Ingonish, is the last place towards the northern extremity of Cape Breton suitable for Indian occupancy, as it is the last that is now considerably settled by their successors. The place, therefore, is in this respect homologous with Gaspé and Kespoogwit, and would naturally bear a like name. It is, indeed, an interesting circumstance that the three extremities of the Micmac country (the summit of the head as well as the two feet of the giant) bore such similar, if not identical, names, though of course as a coincidence of physiographic position, not by deliberate intention. The circumstance naturally adds further confirmation to the interpretation of Gaspé.

It may well be that some knowledge of an older form for Aspy survives among the Micmacs of Cape Breton, and such may be the significance of the word GESPESAOCG or GESPIOGSAOEG, given by Father Pacifique (Rouillard, *Noms* cited, p. 35, *Bulletin*, cited, p. 112) as a Micmac name for "cap Morien ou un autre à l'extrémité est du Cap Breton". In the latter part of this word may be found some connection with the roots -OOGWIT, of KESPOOGWIT.

In summary, the name GASPÉ is apparently shown, by ample concurrent circumstantial evidence, to be a word of the Micmac Indians, presumably the first part of an originally longer name, expressing the last place of habitual resort in their territory towards the St. Lawrence River, and extended secondarily to the Cape and the surrounding country.