

As to its meaning, the Indians agree. Thus Newell Paul told me that it means BIG EEL RIVER, and added that the Indians "used to catch the biggest eels ever caught, in that river and lake." Edward Jack gives RIVER OF BIG EELS (*Op. cit.*, 205); Gatschet (*Op. cit.*, 24) gives RIVER OF MANY EELS, though in a later letter to me he stated that it should be RIVER OF BIG EELS, and the same explanation has been given me by Mrs Wallace Brown of Calais, Me., who knows the Passamaquoddies well. In view of the facts the roots of the word become perfectly clear. The syllable MAG is a prefix meaning BIG, not, however, in Maliseet and Passamaquoddy, but in Micmac (Rand, *English-Micmac Dictionary*, 36, where several examples of its use are given). It is found in a good many place-names as will appear later in this series. The second syllable, A or E, is simply separative between the preceding and following roots, as Rand's examples illustrate. The next root is GAT or GAD, or KAT or KAD (the letters *g* and *k*, also *d* and *t* being almost indistinguishable in Indian), which is the Micmac word for EEL, though the Passamaquoddy word is also similar. The next root is the dissyllable A-WEE, which is the Micmac possessive, meaning ITS, the *W* being sounded, as is commonly the case, more or less like *V*. The final syllable, omitted, it will be noticed, from most of the earlier known uses of the name, is *K*, which is a locative termination, signifying place, possibly standing here for a reduction from TOOK, meaning river. Thus the full form of the word would be MAG-E-GAD-A-WEE-K, meaning exactly BIG-EEL-HIS-PLACE, or, as we would say, BIG EEL PLACE. There is, I believe, not the least doubt as to the correctness of this meaning.

It will be noticed that the spelling GUA of the third syllable of our standard form does not correctly represent the Indian root, nor is it found in any of the recorded forms excepting only those given by Sproule, with whom it originated evidently in some error, doubtless a clerical substitution of GUA for GAU, which latter does fairly represent the sound. Its use by Edward Jack, above noted, is no exception, since he was obviously influenced by its modern spelling.

It may seem at first sight an objection to this interpretation that the place is in Passamaquoddy and not Micmac territory. But, as I show elsewhere (in *Oromocto* following) and shall prove later in detail, many, if not most, of the place-names along the Fundy coast far into Maine are of Micmac, not Passamaquoddy or Penobscot origin.

This interpretation moreover, receives interesting confirmation from another and appropriate source, for Rand gives as the Micmac name of Liscomb Harbor, Nova Scotia, MĒGADĀWĪK, obviously the same word as MAGAGUADAVIC with the separative, or second, syllable omitted, and assigns to it the meaning WHERE THE BIG EELS ARE TAKEN (*First Reading Book in the Micmac Language*, 91). In his *Micmac-English Dictionary*, 182, Rand gives two other place-names into which the root GAT or KAD, EEL enters, and Gatschet (*Op. cit.* 21) gives another on Grand Manan.

The question now arises as to the appropriateness of this name to the locality. My own knowledge of this point being inadequate, I applied to two persons who know the river particularly well. Mr. James Vroom of St. Stephen, N.B., writes me that eels are very abundant and very large all along the main river [Magaguadavic] for two miles above the fall [at St. George]; that the river, through this distance, is a deadwater such as eels particularly like, and that a place where they are especially abundant is the Eel Pond, so called, just where the branch (or Canal) to Lake Utopia leaves the main river. Captain Charles Johnson of St. George confirms this information and extends it, saying that eels are abundant everywhere in the river and lakes, and that they occur plentifully also in the salt water basin below the