

HISTORY OF SHEDIAC

The name "Shediac" is of Indian Micmac origin and signifies "running far in", referring to its position at the angle formed by the line of the coast running north and that running east towards Cape Tormentine. The oldest map on which the name is found is that of Jumeau in 1685; it is thereon spelled "Chediac." In maps and documents of the eighteenth century the following variations in spelling are found:—

Chediak	Gédaique	Shediac	Chediac
Chedik	Judayque	Ejetdaik	Jediack
Chedaique	Epegediac	Jediach	Shediak
Chedaick	Shediack	Esedeik	Chedaic

Of these the Micmac name is Es-ed-ei-ik. I believe that this record of variations in spelling cannot be equalled in the case of any other place-name in the world. In one map the name was wanting, "Chedabouktou" being wrongly applied.

The modern spelling first occurred on D'Anville's map of 1755.

On March 29, 1697 a Seigniory was established at Shediac and granted to Sieur Mathieu de Lino, Marchand à Québec, in return for his service as interpreter in the English language, which was always gratuitous. The following is the description of the grant:

"A certain tract of land containing five leagues or thereabouts by a similar depth, situate on the coast of Acadia, opposite the island of St. John, to be taken from the concession of the Sieur Duplessis, treasurer of the navy, of the Bay and River of Cocagne, going towards the south-east in the direction of that of the Sieur de la Vallière, together with the islands, islets, beaches and capes, situate opposite the same, and gave to the said concession the name of "Lino-ville."

Nicolas Denys, founder of Nepisiguit (Bathurst) and of several other posts on the eastern shore of Acadie as far south as Cape Breton, published a description of this coast about 1672, in which is an account of a bay said to be about ten leagues above Cape Tormentine. It is termed by Denys Cocagne, which means a place of heart's delight, from the abundance of good food found there.

(Some writers have believed that his description really applied to Shediac, but Dr. Ganong, after a careful study of the topography, concludes that Denys actually described the region now called Cocagne).

In 1686, Mgr. de Saint-Vallier of Quebec, made a pastoral visit to Acadia, and while travelling along the coast in a canoe visited Shediac,