Campti is said to perpetuate the name of an Indian chief named Campé or Compte. Marguerite Teers gives the following account: "Louisiana tradition reveals, in its annals of both legendary and historical importance, a story as interesting as it is significant. Many years ago a tribe of Indians settled on a huge red hill near the banks of the Red River in North Louisiana. Not long after, other settlers of various though principally French descent drifted into the same region.

Campte, the Indian chief, was a favorite, not only with his own followers but also with the pale-faced men toward whom his tribe was not merely tolerant, but even particularly friendly. Because of these harmonious relations and the great love for Campte by his fellow settlers the region was named after him.

In a few years, however, the old chief died and was buried on the same red hill where he had lived for a long time in peace and harmony.

Campte was probably of the Natchitoches tribe but it is not at all certain that his name was of Indian origin. It may be the French Compte; Indians at that time went by such names as Baptiste, Bernard, Celestine, Louis, Pierre, and Antoine. An early spelling of the village name—Compte—apparently dates from the year 1788. Other old forms are Compti, Compte, Campte and Campte. The modern spelling is found on the Graham-Tanner map of 1834.