

Indian History

The most notable Indian of this area was probably Abram Assey and his son, known by the same name.

When the first survey party landed here in 1861, Abram Assey and his family were camped in Rasseau Bay, the site of which is now the public picnic area.

Their home was a lunch bank wigwam, "warm and comfortable", as recorded by the surveyors.

The Indian population had been made numerous over one hundred years before, when it was around the time of the beginning of settlement. This part of the country was not only an Indian hunting ground, but its waterways were an old route for the Indians from the Georgian Bay to the Ottawa River.

As with the tourists of today, the Indians were seasonal in this part of the country, and left before winter set in. Most of them made the trading post at Penetanguishene their headquarters. There they could exchange their furs for food and clothing.

According to legend, they used to come to the head of Lake Rasseau each spring to plant corn, on part of the ground where Rasseau Lake School is now established. They had a beaten path down to the shoreline where they landed their canoes.

A short distance from the mouth of Shadow River is a sheltered spot, under a rocky cliff where the Indians used to camp. This river no doubt, yielded an ~~()~~