

## EARLY SURVEYS

There is the greatest possibility that the first white man to paddle into Rasseau bay, was the great explorer and map maker, David Thompson.

In 1837 on Government instruction he made a rapid survey of the three Muskoka Lakes. These maps of the lakes, the first with any pretense to accuracy, lay unknown in some Government office for years.

During the next few years other surveys were made of the region from the Severn River north to Lake Nipissing. Soon pressure was put on the Government to survey this uninhabited tract of land and set it off in counties and townships.

It was believed this huge tract of land possessed a vast supply of valuable timber, but its fitness for agriculture purposes was unknown.

It was not until 1861 that Mr. J. S. Dennis, Prov. Land Surveyor, under Government instruction organized a survey party to carry on surveys of the colonization roads in what was to become Muskoka and Parry Sound districts.

One of the men with the survey party was Mr. Vernon B. Wadsworth, then 16 years of age, who in later years had his summer home in the Village of Rasseau.