

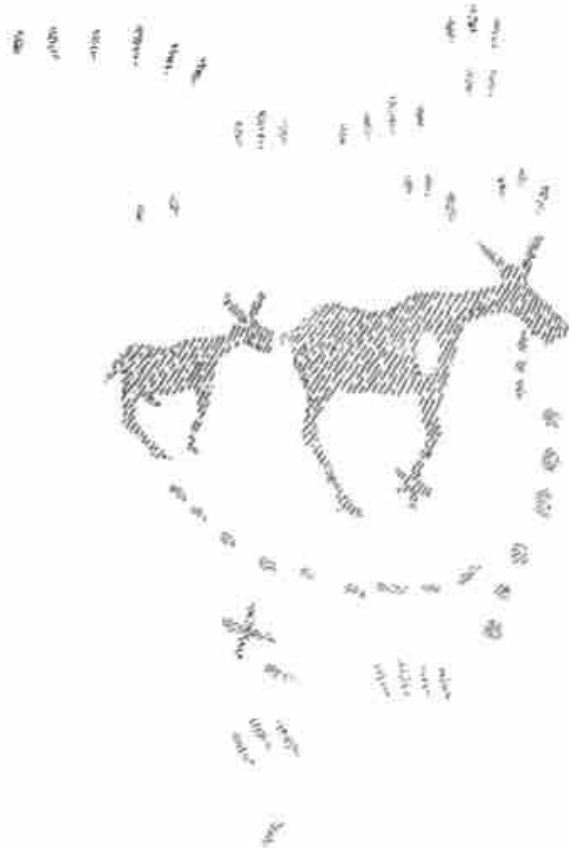
From p. 32 ...Neither Kee nor I was impressed by the rocks we passed as we paddled

south along the east shore of Darky Lake's southernmost arm. Coming to yet another rock, almost hidden by a grove of young birch trees, we looked up and gasped. High above the birches a great black overhang was poised. As we glided closer the screen of foliage moved aside and revealed, clear and startling, the "Heartless Moose" with a hole where her heart should have been, her bull calf following, the whole surrounded by tally marks, tracks, and a vertical row of discs.

Much else of interest was there: the half-figure of a man aiming what was surely a rifle, a group of canoes protected by a likely version of Mishipizhiw, and another canoe beside a second serpentine form, painted across two cracks with typical disregard for the painting surface.

Since then the scouts at Moose Lake in Minnesota have reported

Darky Lake cow moose and calf. Note splayed hooves and dew-claws of cow's forefoot





A likely Mishipizhiw at Darky Lake

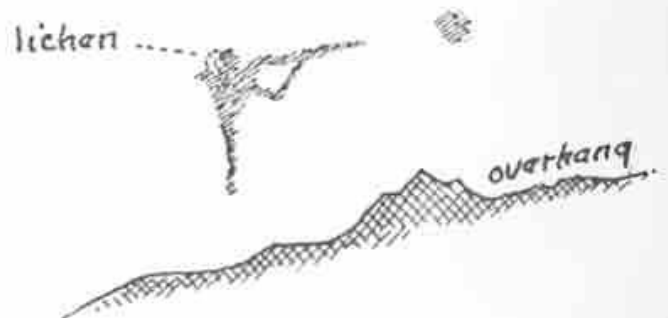
another small site on the opposite shore that we had missed.

On the same trip that Kee and I recorded the Darky Lake site we paddled east to Agnes Lake, recording three minor sites that are not illustrated here. At the Narrows into Burt Lake we found extensive iron stains temptingly suggestive of an early Ford car! Nearby, however, were two genuine handprints and some other faded material. From there on we had no reports to search for, and were delighted to run across

two little moose on the waterway south of Hurlburt Lake. Finally, on the west shore of Agnes, just opposite the little island where we awaited our airlift, we found two painted rabbits, and nearby four animals that I judged to be Indian in origin: these pecked or pounded into the rock but so shallowly that we paddled past them without seeing them at first, although we knew they were there.

These are the only petroglyphs I have found to date on a vertical rock face. At Nett Lake, Cache Bay, Shoal

Darky Lake:
man with gun,
and projectile?



Algonkin—whose straight talk and courtesy have given me many new insights into aboriginal modes of thinking, and into the ways in which these have been related to the rock paintings that they knew of. A number of these have since died, and it is more and more rarely now that I meet a man or woman whose memory reaches back beyond the turn of the century. Only a few of them passed on to the younger people what they could collect of old ways and beliefs. The old lore and practices are being submerged by the new, even as the flooding by lumber dams and hydro projects is drowning their forbears' paintings.

In the following pages I offer an account of the pictographs found in Ontario since the first edition of this book was published; pursuing for consistency's sake the same somewhat circuitous sequence of regions that was used under the section entitled "The Sites."

The Quetico-Superior Country

Through the observant eyes and proffered reports of Quetico Park portage crews, young canoe-trippers from Camp Owakonze, and scouts from the Moose Lake headquarters in Minnesota, the total of sites now located in Quetico Provincial Park has been doubled. Three more have been recorded on Darky, Kawnipi, and Kahshahpiwi Lakes. Six have been confirmed and pin-pointed, on Mackenzie, Doré, Ted, McAlpine, Cypress, and Shade lakes, and there are reports of others on Sturgeon, Cub, and Tuck lakes. Just beyond the

Park boundaries there are small sites on Iron Lake and Jordan Lake.

My first visit to Darky Lake illustrates how elusive a site may be. As my son Keewatin and I paddled down the east shore of Darky, and even after we found the first site, we scanned the opposite shore with binoculars to make sure we had missed nothing. So I was slightly doubtful in 1965 when I flew in from Nym Lake, even though I held a map on which a second site had been reliably pin-pointed. Nor did it help, as the pilot circled for a landing, that I could see no rock where a rock should have been. It was not until we had come down, pulled off the canoe, and I had paddled—with almost complete scepticism—towards the marked place, that I caught a hint of dark rock through the trees, then rounded a point to stare at a 30-foot cliff, visible only from this angle. One human figure, a few handprints, and tally marks were all that were there, but a large mass of rock that might have borne other paintings had fallen away from below the human figure, and awaits the attention of an underwater archaeologist.

Site #157,
Darky Lake

