

## ROCK PAINTINGS AT TEMAGAMI DISTRICT

BY W. H. C. PHILLIPS.

On information received from Wm. Brodie of Unionville, of drawings or markings that he had seen in the Temagami District Mr. W. H. C. Phillips, a temporary Assistant, was sent in June by the Department to procure photographs or drawings of them. The following is his account:

"At Latchford we procured the services of Steve Ryder, the Indian guide, who had first observed the pictographs, and we proceeded to Temagami Station by train, thence to the Hudson Bay Company's post at Bear Island, Temagami Lake, by steamer, and continued our trip by canoe for about eighty miles, including return.

The first series of paintings or drawings was found on the west side of the north arm of Diamond or Non-wa-kaming Lake, a short distance south of Lady Evelyn Falls, or about thirty-two miles from Temagami Station, on the T. & N. O. Ry.

The second series was on the west side of the south arm of Lady Evelyn Lake, just north of Lady Evelyn Falls, or about two miles from the first series.

In both cases the paintings were on the bluff shore about six feet above the water and at these points the channel is very narrow.

The formation is of limestone and apparently pieces of the rock have been broken off to give a better surface and also to protect the markings somewhat from the weather as in a number of places where pieces of rocks were broken off it left an overhanging projection.

The work was done in a dull red color and had a faded and washed-out appearance and in a few places was partly overgrown with moss. A camera and special plates had been taken along for the purpose of taking photographs, but on account of the lack of contrast between the natural and artificial colors and the impossibility of getting a sufficient exposure of the photographic plates owing to the constant rise and fall of the canoe on the waves none of the numerous plates exposed showed any traces of the drawings or paintings. It was thought better to have measurement and drawings made as it was feared the camera would not prove a success, and this was done under difficulties as the mosquitoes and black flies were very numerous and persistent.

The markings or paintings were from one-half inch to an inch in width, and although in some places the color was faint, still, for the greater part they were easily discernible at a distance of ten or fifteen feet. The series appeared to be composed of groups of markings and the drawings that were made and are here produced will show the arrangement of them. Each series did not cover a space of over thirty feet in length by about two feet in irregular width and at a reasonable height to do the work if a person was standing on the ice or in a canoe."

A comparison of the drawings made by Mr. Phillips in the Temagami country with those made by myself on Lake Massanog or Massanoga, as it is sometimes called, (pp. 48-9 in the Ontario Archæological Report, for 1893-4) cannot but convince us that the work in both parts of the country was done by the same people.

It would be utterly vain to look for any interpretation. All we can say is that "this looks like" one thing and "that looks like" another, but any attempt to form a connected story in the sense intended by the man who did the work would be only a useless effort. Even the Indians of to-day are unable to give the least hint with respect to the meaning of anything in such pictographs.

It should be mentioned here that these paintings extended along the face of the rock in one irregular line, so that they should, in our engravings, be regarded as two sentences of print or of writing, and read from left to right, one line following the other. This, however, may not be the order in which the story should read. The first series ends with the group of upright lines near the top of Plate VI.

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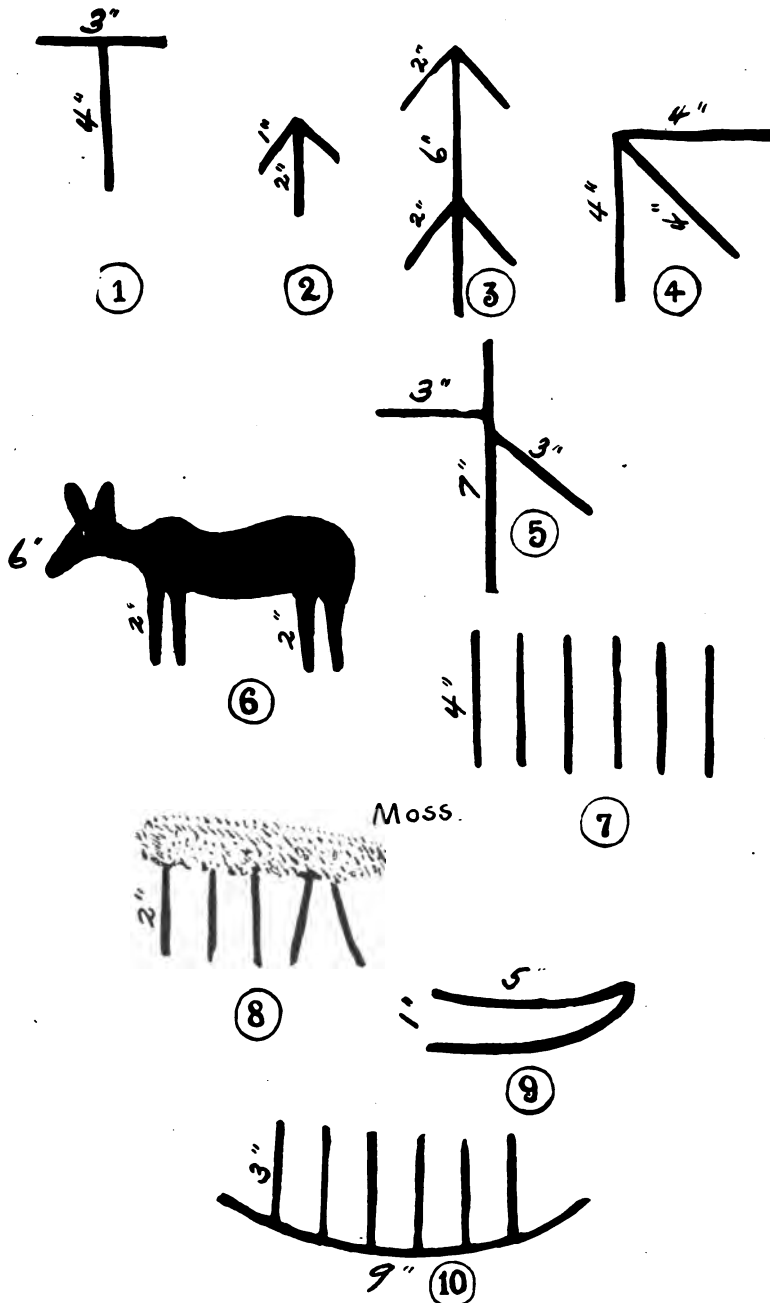


PLATE IV.

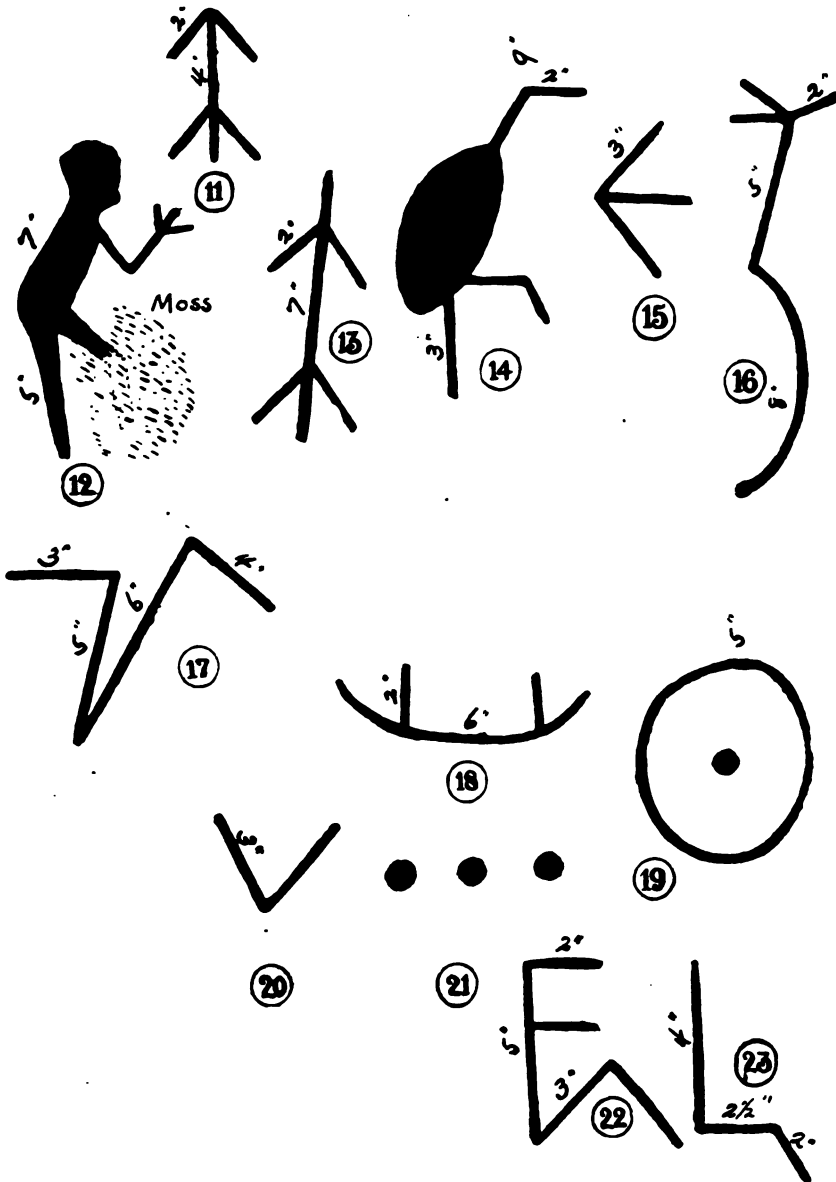


PLATE V.

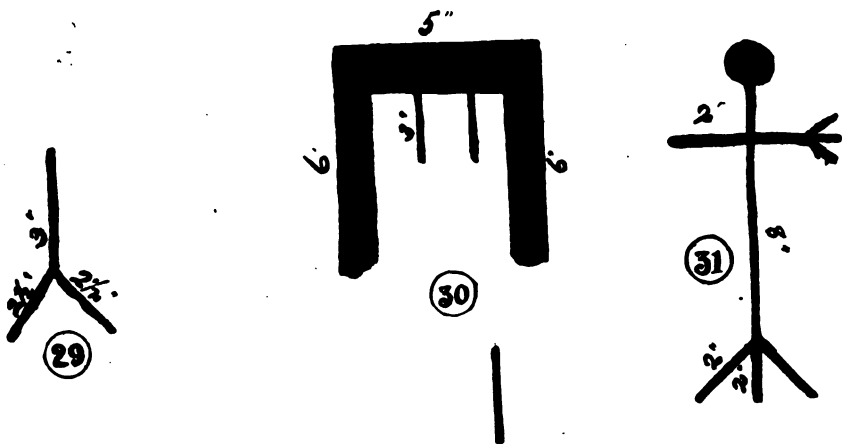
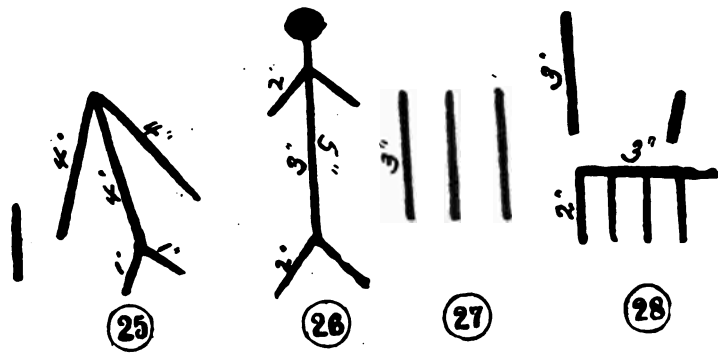
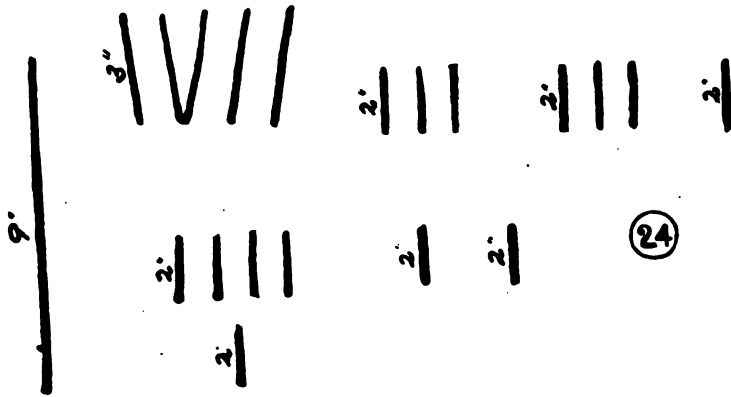


PLATE VI.

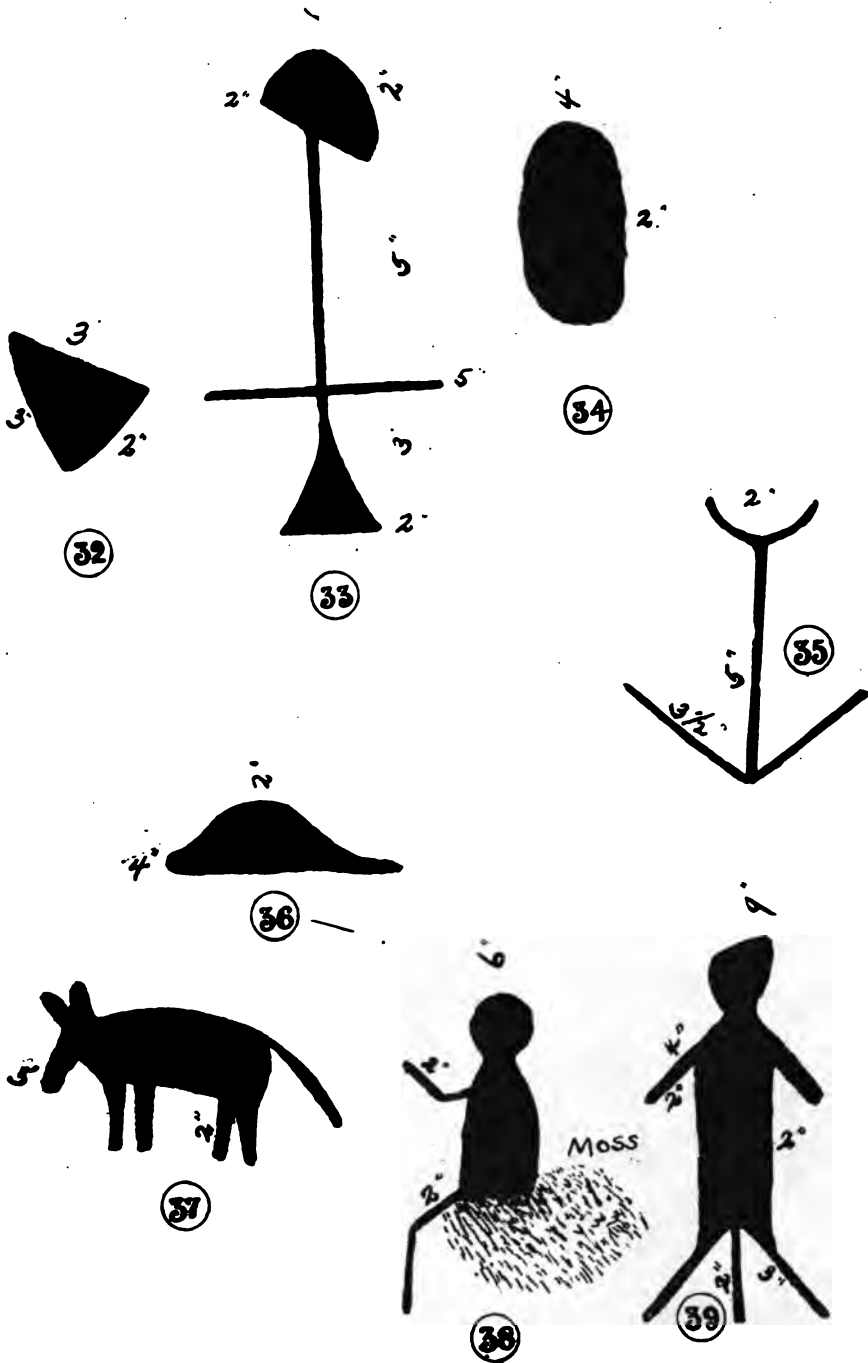


PLATE VII.

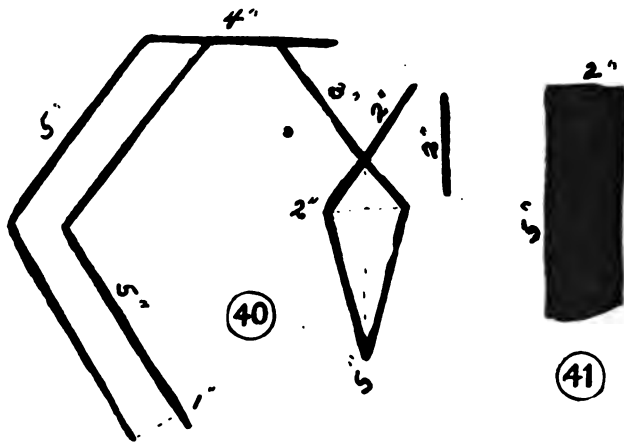


PLATE VIII.

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