

Mussels, and Fish. On every point or projection, formed where a side branch is given off by the main creek, is to be seen a vast kitchen midden or shell mound. So numerous are these heaps of refuse, and so extensive, that it has been a regular trade at which white men have worked all their lives to turn over these heaps and sift out the undecomposed shells for making lime by burning them; unfortunately the numerous weapons thus found in the heaps have mostly been thrown away. There is now not a single black on the creek. Many of the mounds are very ancient, and it must have taken hundreds of years for such heaps to accumulate. Stone hatchet blades are still to be picked up in considerable numbers, and several were obtained. The softer layers weathering out from under the harder slabs of the horizontally bedded sandstones, form numerous shelters and low-roofed caves along the creek banks. It was in these caves or "gunyas" that the blacks used to camp, and in front of all of them a mass of shells slopes down towards the creek just as at the Cape of Good Hope. One of the heaps was dug into; places were found where fires had been made, and there were numerous bits of burnt stick and charcoal, a piece of wallaby bone charred by the fire, and the thigh bone of a black woman. This latter was found without any of the remaining bones, the woman having been perhaps eaten piecemeal. These relics were buried in a mass of cockle, oyster, and mussel shells mingled with much black powdery matter composed of decayed shells and other débris.

The walls and roofs of the caves are covered all over with drawings executed by the blacks in charcoal on the rock. These are interesting from their rude character. They represent Opossums, Fish, Sharks, and white men. Near one of the caves, on a flat slab of stone standing naturally erect, is a figure of a Kangaroo cut out in the stone itself; the figure is 5 feet in height, and is marked out by means of an incised groove, an inch and a half in depth. The figure is shaded, or rather rendered more conspicuous by the chipping of irregular small holes all over the area representing the body, and also, as in the charcoal drawings of Opossums, by means of lines. The fore-legs of the Kangaroo seem not to have been finished, or the artist has been especially unsuccessful in his attempts to represent them, and perhaps has tried to correct them, as appears possible from the number of lines. The contour line of the body is carried across the root of the tail. Similar drawings executed by cutting grooves in stone are common about Sydney.

Besides the drawings, in almost every cave were hand marks. These marks have been the subject of much discussion, and various speculations have been made as to some important meaning of the "Red Hand of Australia." They have been made by placing a hand against the flat stone, and then squirting a mixture of whitish clay and water from the mouth all around. The hand being removed, a tracing of it stands out in relief, and where the sandstone is red, appears red on a whitish ground. The hand marks have evidently been made haphazard, like the drawings.