

ACTIVITY: Swimming
CASE: [GSAF 1771.07.12.R](#)
DATE: Reported July 12, 1771
LOCATION: USA.

NAME: Unknown
DESCRIPTION: Male

BACKGROUND

There were two seaside towns bordering the Atlantic Ocean in the USA with similar names: Damariscotta, Maine, and Massconcus Damiscotte along Massachusetts Bay. It would seem that the latter is more likely and was also spelled Musconcus Damiscotee (New Harbor, east of Boston) in a sale in 1736.

NARRATIVE: "A Letter from Philadelphia, dated July 12, asserts, that, about three weeks before, three men being in a canoe, fishing, near Damiscotte, a large shark came along-side, and after going several times round the canoe, came up and took the man standing in the middle overboard, bit him in two pieces, and swallowed both parts; afterwards came up to the canoe again, when the other two, being greatly terrified, hove over all their fish, and laid themselves down on the bottom, on which the shark made towards a boat lying at a little distance, when one of the people luckily having a gun, on his coming along-side, shot him instantly dead. They afterwards towed him on shore, opened him, and took out the two parts of the man, and buried them."

SOURCES: Manchester Mercury, Tuesday October 22, 1771, page 4

Drewery's Derby Mercury, Friday October 25, 1771, page 2

Berrow's Worcester Journal (London), Saturday, October 19, 1771

Maine Historical Society. York deeds (Volume 18) online, <http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/maine-historical-society/york-deeds-volume-18-nia/page-6-york-deeds-volume-18-nia.shtml>

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Chris Moore, GSAF

Manchester Mercury, Tuesday
October 22, 1771, page 4



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Drewry's Derby Mercury
Friday October 25, 1771, page 2



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