



ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: [GSAF 1845.12.26](#)

DATE: Friday December 26, 1845

LOCATION: Eastern Beach, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: John Williams

DESCRIPTION: He was a miner.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, December 29, 1845

NARRATIVE: See press clipping

On Boxing Day, a miner named John Williams left his home at Newcastle to go fishing for schnapper on the eastern or breaker beach. He was in the habit of tying his line to his wrist. Not coming home, search was made for him, and a knife and small line known to be his were found on the rocks. The supposition was that he had been dragged into the sea by a shark. Thirteen days after his mangled body, minus the head and shoulders, both arms and one leg, was washed up on the beach, under the gaol cliff. The body was identified by a remarkable cut on the ankle of the leg that remained.

NOTE: Death may have been due to drowning.

SOURCE: The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW), Saturday November 18, 1893, page