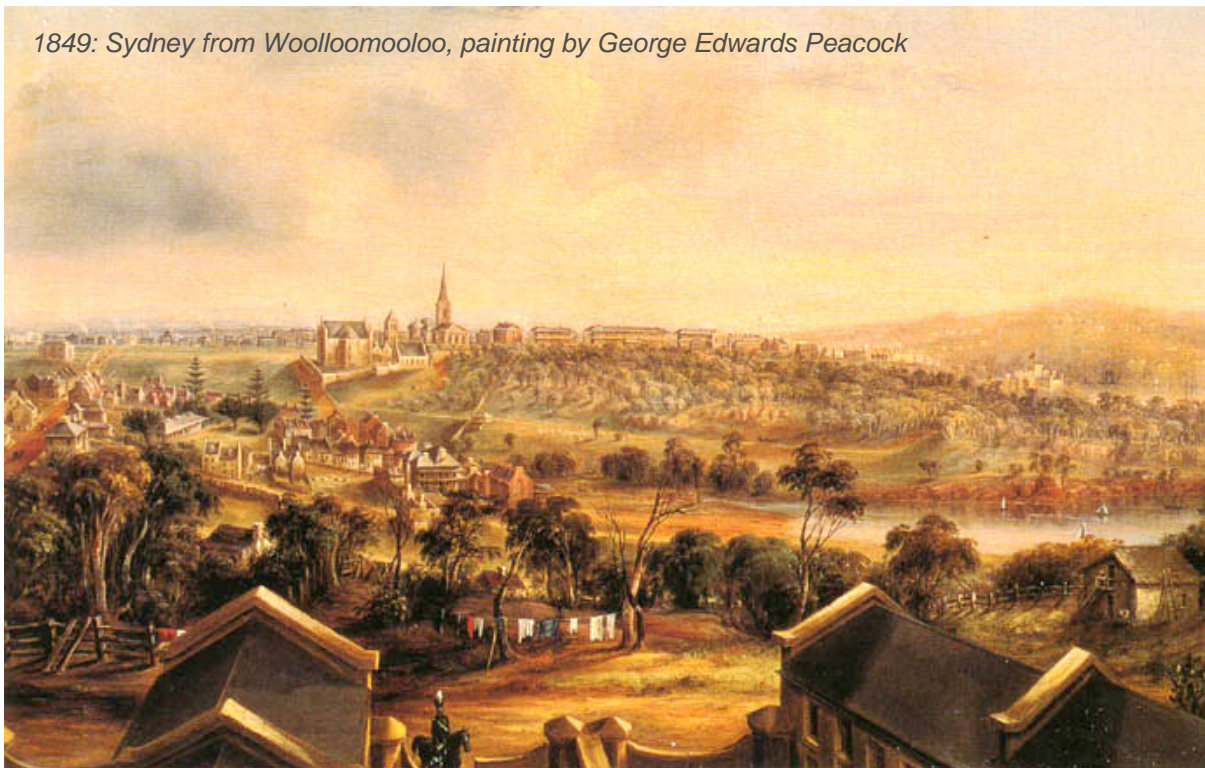


1849: Sydney from Woolloomooloo, painting by George Edwards Peacock



ACTIVITY: Bathing

CASE: [GSAF 1849.12.01](#)

DATE: Saturday December 1, 1849

LOCATION: Woolloomooloo, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Unknown.

DESCRIPTION: He was thought to be a seaman from the steamer *Eagle*.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, November 30, 1849

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 30 or 40 yards.

TIME: Afternoon.

NARRATIVE: When the man's cries were heard, Sweeney and another man got into a boat and went to his aid. Only after they struck the shark on its head several times, did it release the man. He died within minutes.

INJURY: Fatal. His thigh was stripped of flesh.

SOURCE: The Moreton Bay Courier, Saturday December 15, 1849 page 3, from the Sydney Morning Herald of December 2, 1849 (see next page)

DEATH FROM A SHARK.—Yesterday afternoon a person believed to be a seaman belonging to the *Eagle*, steamer, was bathing in Woolloomooloo Bay, not more than thirty or forty yards out from the Fig-tree, when he was attacked by a shark. He instantly gave the alarm, when a person named Sweeney and another man, who were close to him, got into a small boat belonging to Sweeney; they endeavoured to drag the sailor in, but the shark seized him in the groin, and it was not until he was struck several blows on the head with an oar that he would let go his hold; when the unfortunate man was pulled into the boat it was found that nearly the whole of the flesh of the thigh was stripped from the bone; he expired in a few minutes. His body was taken to the Hospital, where it awaits an inquest.—*S. M. Herald, Dec. 2.*