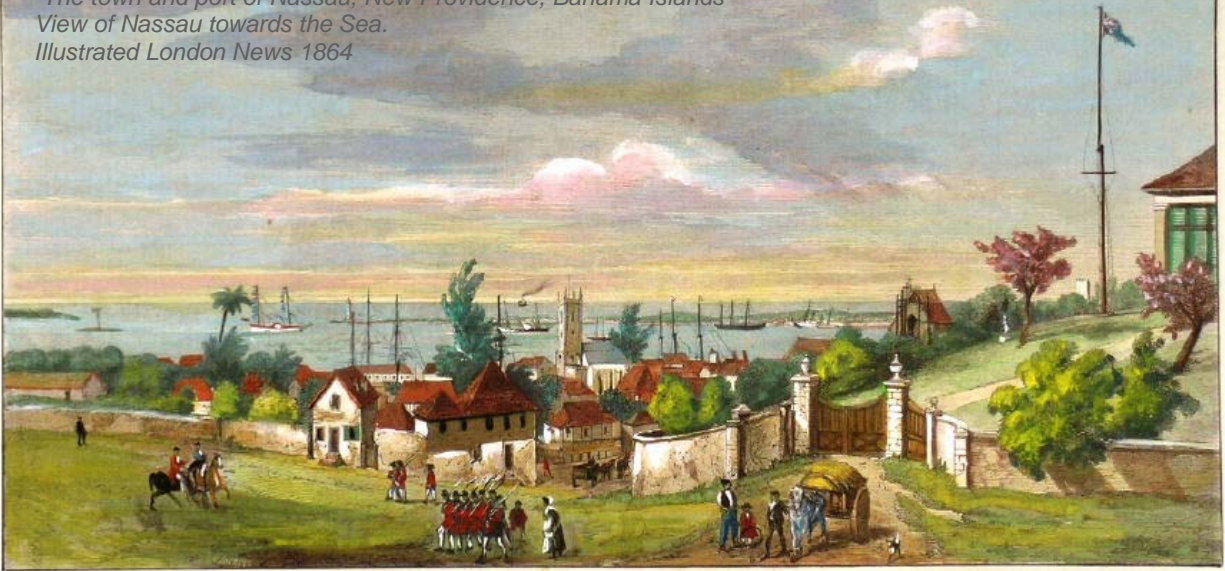


"The town and port of Nassau, New Providence, Bahama Islands  
View of Nassau towards the Sea.  
Illustrated London News 1864



THE TOWN AND FORT OF NASSAU, NEW PROVIDENCE, BAHAMA ISLANDS.

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming  
**CASE:** [GSAF 1860.03.11](#)  
**DATE:** March 11, 1860  
**LOCATION:** Nassau, New Providence Island, Bahamas.

**NAME:** Unknown. He was a pilot from the port of Nassau.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, March 7, 1860. Third Quarter, March 14, 1860.  
**TIME:** 17h00

**NARRATIVE:** As the ship *Karnak* was leaving the port of Nassau, a pilot fell overboard from her boat, in which he was being towed. The ship was stopped, and the boat instantly left for his rescue, while two life-buoys were thrown from the ship.

The boat got close enough to give him the end of an oar, which he took, and cried, "For God's sake save me!" he men were about to haul him into the boat, when he was carried underwater by a large shark.

**INJURY:** Fatal

**SPECIES:** Not identified, but possibly a tiger shark. "A few days after the fatal accident, a shark was captured in Nassau harbor, and on being opened, the pilot's right hand and wrist,

A few weeks ago (says a Cumberland paper) a sad occurrence happened to a poor fellow, a pilot, who fell overboard from a pilot boat engaged with the British mail steamer *Karnak*, coming out of Nassau harbour; and, although assistance was speedily rendered by throwing overboard an oar, of which he laid hold, he, after piteously crying out to his mate, "For God's sake save me!" was with the oar carried down by an enormous shark, and never seen again. A few days after the fatal accident a shark was captured in Nassau harbour, and, on being opened, the pilot's right hand and wrist, with a portion of his shirt (by which the hand was identified), a goat's head with horns nine inches long, and a turtle's head, were found in the belly. The hand, &c., have been given to the poor fellow's relatives.

with a portion of his shirt (by which the hand was identified), a goat's head, with horns nine inches long, and a turtle's head were found in his stomach."

**SOURCES:** New York Times, Monday March 26, 1860

The Moreton Bay Courier, Tuesday September 18, 1860 page 4

Van Dervoort, Prof. J.W. (1886) *The Water World*. New York: Union Publishing House, page 170

#### **Arrived.**

Steamship Karnak, Brownless, Havana March 15, and Nassau 16th, with mail and passengers to E. Cuward. On Saturday, March 11, when leaving Nassau, at 6 P. M. for Havana, with a fresh breeze from N. and a considerable swell on the Bar one of the crew of the pilot boat which was towing alongside (colored man) was pitched overboard. The ship was stopped, and the boat instantly left for his rescue, while two life buoys were thrown from the ship. The boat got close enough to give him the end of an oar, which he took, and said "For God's sake save me." The men were about to haul him into the boat, when he was carried down by a large shark, which came up at the moment, taking the oar with him. It and the life buoys drifted on shore that evening, but no trace of the man was seen afterwards.