

ACTIVITY: Bathing

CASE: GSAF 1874.07.15.a

DATE: Wednesday July 15, 1874

LOCATION: The incident took place near the Baths, Coney Island, Brooklyn, New York, USA.

NAME: Mr. Keatly

DESCRIPTION: He was a male from Brooklyn

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, July 13, 1874

TIME: Afternoon

NARRATIVE: See press clipping

INJURY: Lacerations to the groin.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: "His wounds were dressed and he was removed to his home." He apparently survived for there is no obituary in NY newspapers.

SPECIES: Not recorded. The total length of the shark was 68 inches [172.7 cm]

SOURCE: New York Times, July 17, 1874

The Centre Reporter (Centre Hall, PA), Thursday August 13, 1874, page 1



A SHARK STORY.

Mr. Keatly, of No. 838 Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn, in company with two friends, went out to Coney Island Wednesday afternoon. The party wandered along the beach, and when near Bath Mr. Keatly suggested they should bathe. The three accordingly went into the water. Mr. Keatly, however, wandered out somewhat further than the others, but did not go beyond his depth. While swimming around he felt a soft, cold substance rub against his leg. He did not pay any attention to it until the rubbing was repeated several times. Becoming alarmed, he glanced downward and saw a large shark in the act of turning on its side. Before he could gain the shore the sea monster had fastened his teeth deep into the fleshy part of his groin, causing him to yell with pain and terror. Fortunately, however, he had sufficient presence of mind to make a grab for the fish, and succeeded in catching it by the narrow part of the tail, between the dorsal fins. He clung to it with desperation, at the same time making every effort to get ashore. The shark meanwhile tugged so fiercely to get away that it terribly lacerated the flesh of Mr. Keatly, who finally succeeded in making a landing. The shark, with great difficulty, was forced to loosen his hold, and was finally killed by being repeatedly struck on the head with a large stone. Mr. Keatly's wounds were then dressed, and he was removed to his home in Atlantic avenue. The shark, which measured five feet eight inches from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail, is now on exhibition in Brooklyn.

New York Times, July 17, 1874