

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** GSAF 1900.11.14 / SA 026

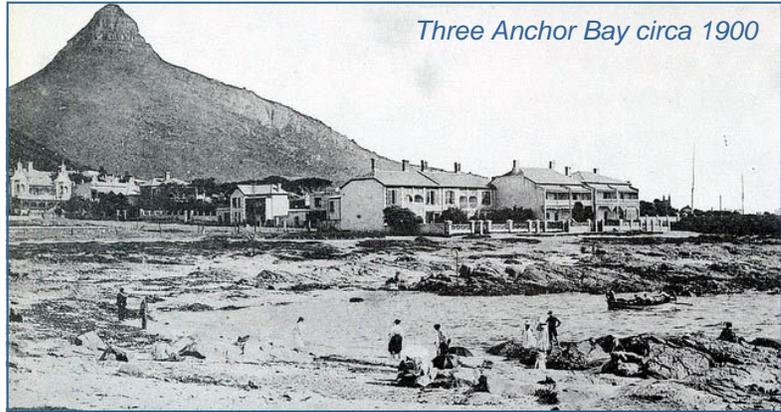
**DATE:** Thursday November 14, 1900

**LOCATION:** Three Anchor Bay, Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa.

**NAME:** William Strathorn

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 30-year-old male, physically fit and exceptionally broad-shouldered.

Two or three times a month he cycled down to Three Anchor Bay and went swimming.



### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Third Quarter, November 14, 1900

**TIME:** Morning

**NARRATIVE:** William Strathorn went for a swim but never returned. A witness, Mr Chapman, saw a man floating in the breakers 25 metres from shore and heard him call out, but could not understand what he said. Nevertheless, Chapman realized the man needed help, but by the time a boat was launched the man had disappeared. Strathorn's bicycle and clothes were found on the beach that morning.

**INJURY:** Eight days later the body of a white male washed ashore in the bay; his left leg was missing and his right leg had been removed at the knee. Teeth marks of a shark were apparent on the right femur and the torso. Strathorn's friend and business partner, Alvin Aftore, viewed the remains in the morgue. "By the general appearance I am certain they were the remains of Strathorn," said Aftore. Aftore, however, was unable to identify the features and thus the identity of the deceased was never officially established. Even before the body was found the press speculated it was "likely that sharks were the cause (in Strathorn's disappearance) as in the previous case [ref: Amos Layzell] at Woodstock Beach when a man's trunk was cast up fearfully mutilated and with the limbs torn off".

**SOURCE:** Cape Archives, Cape Town, South Africa.

**CASE INVESTIGATORS:** Marie Levine and Pippa Logan