



**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** [GSAF 1911.05.09](#) / SA-039

**DATE:** Tuesday May 9, 1911

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Victoria Bay, Western Cape Province, South Africa. Victoria Bay is a small bay set in steep cliffs, located 56 kilometres northeast of Mossel Bay.

*34°00'20.10"S, 22°32'56.95"E*

**NAME:** James May

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 64-year-old male. A native of Cornwall, he had emigrated to South Africa in 1885. He had a general dealer's business in Montague Street.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, May 5, 1911

**ENVIRONMENT:** The press noted that "many man-eaters have been seen lately."

**TIME:** Early evening

**NARRATIVE:** The press reported that James May "went to bathe and was taken by sharks." The May 16, 1911 edition of the *Cape Mercantile Advertiser* tells us that "a singlet which has been identified as belonging to Mr. James May . . . was washed up at Victoria Bay, about five miles from the town on Saturday (May 13, 1911) near the spot where his

jacket, vest and hat had been found on the rocks on Tuesday. The lower part of his body was also found on the beach today, with trousers and boots on, but the upper part is still missing.”

**INJURY:** Fatal

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Not identified

**SOURCE:** Cape Mercantile Advertiser, May 16, 1911 edition

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Marie Levine

