



North Carolina Shark Attacks Project

Note: The following is an article that describes a shark attack that occurred on July 26th, 1870, in the Cape Fear River at Smithville, which is today known as Southport, in Brunswick County. This article appeared in the *Daily Journal*, July 31st, 1870.

THE DAILY JOURNAL
WILMINGTON, N. C.
SUNDAY, JULY 31, 1870.

Bitten by a Shark
SMITHVILLE, FORT JOHNSON, N. C.,
July 27th 1870. }

Editors Journal—DEAR SIR:—About 8 o'clock, p. m., yesterday evening, the 26th inst., while several members of Battery G. 4th Artillery, which is stationed at this place, were in bathing near the Government wharf, a young man named Giles Gordon, bugler in said Battery, had the misfortune of receiving a very severe and painful wound upon his foot from the bite of a shark, and thereby came very near losing his life. When the shark first seized the bugler, it drew him beneath the surface of the water; but, by the violent exertions of the disentangled leg, he tore the other foot from the grasp of the terrible monster and swam a few feet to the wharf, when he was assisted out of the water and taken to the hospital.

His wound was then promptly and carefully dressed by the Post Surgeon, Dr. Boyer. The Doctor thinks amputation will be unnecessary, and hopes that his patient will be able to pursue his journey home in a few weeks, his time in the army having expired.

This event will certainly prove a salutary warning to bathers in this vicinity.

Yours most respectfully. * *