

## CHAPTER TWO—

### Aaron Sheridan

From the Traverse City Eagle- Herald, March 21, 1878:

**"A sad accident occurred off the South Manitou Island on Friday, the 15th inst., resulting in the death by drowning, Mr. A.A. Sheridan, wife and infant child. They, in the company with a Mr. Anker, had been to the mainland and were returning in a small boat, and when a mile off land the boat capsized. Mr. Anker succeeded in saving himself by clinging to the boat until assistance reached him from the Island, where the accident had been noticed. The wind was blowing quite a gale at the time and it was with great difficulty that a hold could be kept upon the boat. Mr. Anker says that without doubt Mr. Sheridan could have saved himself, and that he lost his own life in the vain endeavor to save those of his wife and child. Twice was Mrs. Sheridan and child assisted upon the boat, which lay bottom side up, but owing to the high sea and the coldness of the water she was unable to retain her grasp upon the rolling treacherous boat and finally sank beneath the waves; while her husband in a last vain attempt to save her, followed her to a watery grave. Mr. Sheridan was a most worthy citizen and his death, with that of his most estimable life will be regretted and mourned by many friends and acquaintances. For twelve years the deceased had held the position of Keeper of the South Manitou Lighthouse, and his long service is proof of the satisfactory manner in which he had performed his arduous and responsible duties. The noble sacrifice of his own life speaks more eloquently than could words of ours**

**to the devotion of his wife and child. All honor to the memory of the brave man whose life was given for his loved ones.**

**A family of five boys, the oldest only eleven, remains to the care of relatives."**