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**Gene Warner
c/o Manitou Islands Memorial Society
P.O. Box 177
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March 22, 2006

**Re: Aaron Sheridan,
Lighthouse Keeper**

Dear Gene,

You mentioned you might wish to write a story for the summer issue of the Memorial Society's newsletter so I am enclosing some materials and pictures, some of which you might use. Since I am currently in the throws of writing a "Family History" for the family I thought I would enclose a couple chapters which bear on Aaron and the family on South Manitou. These are only first drafts but they convey the information you might enjoy. I'm sure there is more here than you will need (or perhaps would even want) but you can use what you like.

I have the originals of all the pictures so please keep these. My favorite picture is the group picture of the "barn raising" on the Sheridan farm that was sent to me by Myron Vent in 1985. The caption of the original picture reads "This is the Sherridan farm, just put up a new barn." I exchanged several letters with Mr. Vent in the early 1980's which are detailed in the chapter entitled "The Letters" which is enclosed. I discovered that Myron Vent's aunt Katherine Hutzler was the babysitter for the 5 young Sheridan boys who were left at the lighthouse when



Aaron and Julia left on their trip to the mainland that ultimately led to their drowning. The barn raising picture has always fascinated me because of the number of the "islanders" in the picture. It must have been taken sometime between 1870 and 1878. None of the people are identified in the picture, although I believe the couple standing with their hands on the railing are the Hutzlers and that Aaron is seated holding his cap in the air.

Chapter Seven which is enclosed is interesting because it contains some of the letters that are exchanged between Aaron and the Lighthouse District Office during his tenure. He had a few problems-- like when the light went out and he was "reported." Also he had problems with the fog signal boiler that are described.

Things are on track for this summer. The V.A. has approved and ordered Aaron's memorial stone and a monument company in Holland is producing a copy of the same stone for Julia and Robert. I have informed Dusty, although she has already said the V.A. stone would be approved, no problem. So we are really looking forward to the end of July outing at the Island.

Gene, I wish to thank you again for your interest and your help in getting this project accomplished. If there is anything else you would like from me, just send me an e-mail.

Yours truly,

Steve
Steve Sheridan