

HEIRS OF AARON A. SHERIDAN.

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JUNE 4, 1890.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. MASON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT :

[To accompany bill H. R. 2945.]

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2945) granting a pension to the heirs of Aaron A. Sheridan, beg leave to report :*

It appears from the evidence filed in the case, that the said Aaron A. Sheridan, deceased, was the light-house keeper on South Manitou Island, State of Michigan, who was drowned with his wife and a child while returning to the island from the mainland March 15, 1877.

Christian Anderson in his affidavit says :

They went for the purpose of taking over government mail or papers, as I understood, and were drowned by the capsizing of the boat on their return. I was with them when they were drowned ; I went with them on the trip to assist in handling the boat ; I have always been used to boats, and I consider this boat unsafe and entirely unfit for the station. She has always been considered a dangerous boat and one that could not stand a heavy sea.

Other witnesses corroborate Anderson's statement, and one of them says that the Light-House Department had promised to provide another boat which would be safe, but failed to do so.

The deceased left five minor children of tender years without means of support, who are now under the guardianship of Orson Dolph, of Bristol, Kendall County, Illinois.

Your committee are of the opinion that the case possesses merit, and that a gratuity pension should be allowed for the maintenance of the children until the age provided by law, and therefore report favorably upon the prayer of the petitioner, and recommend the passage of the bill (H. R. 2945) granting a pension to the heirs of Aaron A. Sheridan.

