



The Sheridans

A Tale of Two Brothers & Their Sons

There are many stories about island people, some humorous, some tragic, some humorous and tragic. Among the tragedies, the story of Aaron and Julia Sheridan is preeminent, perhaps almost legendary. Even those most casually interested in island lore will have heard that tale, but few will have ever heard about where it began, or how it actually ended up. So here, as the late Paul Harvey would have said, is 'the rest of the story.'



The Sheridans were of Irish stock, although their ancestry in America evidently began with the parents of Joseph Sheridan, English immigrants who are thought to have landed at Exeter, Rhode Island in the early 1700's. Joseph produced a son named Allan. Allan grew up and married Dorcus Button,¹ with whom he would have eleven children. Their eldest was daughter Roxy, then son James, followed by Permillia, William, Emline, Hannah, a baby girl lost at birth, then Harriet, Mary Ann, finally another boy Levi, and lastly, Caroline.

During their child-rearing years, Allan and Dorcus moved progressively westward, from West Greenwich, Rhode Island, to Albion, in Oswego County, New York, at the east end of Lake Ontario. Having had a large family, relocating repeatedly, their eldest son evidently being a tenant farmer at age fifty², daughter Hannah a maid³, and their youngest son winding up as an under-employed farmhand late in life;⁴ these aspects of the family's story suggest that the Allan Sheridans were probably never very prosperous.

It might have been the experiences of itinerancy and deficiency during their early years that cultivated a closeness between the two eldest sons; a dependence upon each other for acceptance and support. Or perhaps it was because James and William, the second and fourth-born, grew to adulthood in the company of the seven sisters.⁵ When little Levi finally came along, his two big brothers were already in their twenties. Whatever engendered the companionate climate between the two brothers, it was destined to influence how the rest of their lives would play out.

James, the oldest brother, was born in September of 1800, at Chesterfield, Hampshire County, in Massachusetts.⁶ As a young man, he learned the carpentry trade, and married at age twenty-four. His bride was Betsey Fisk, youngest daughter of Aaron and Tabitha Fisk also of Chesterfield. She was three years older than he. They had two children; daughter Harriet Lobine Sheridan was born in Chesterfield in 1831 and, three years later, their only son, Aaron A., was born in Oneida County, New York.⁷ In February of 1852, after twenty-eight years married to James, Betsey passed away.⁸ She was laid to rest in West Monroe, New York, leaving her two children, twenty year old Harriet and sixteen year old Aaron, alone with their 51-year old widowed father.

William, born in 1806, was six years younger than James. He was also six years younger than Lucy Tryon, the woman he married in 1826. Their first child, Almira Jane, was born in 1829. Then, for the next ten years, there would be another child every two years: Andrew J. in 1831, Lucyann in 1833, William in 1835, Lyman F. 1837, and Newbury B. in the spring of 1839. The baby of the family, Harriet L., broke the pattern, coming in 1844, three years late, as it were. All were born in western New York State, not far from the east end of Lake Ontario.

The arrival of the Sheridans in the Leelanau area, and the order in which they came, is not documented, but brothers James and William, and their sons Aaron, Lyman and Newbury, all apparently appeared during the 1860's.

Lyman was evidently the first to come, possibly in the company of his older brother's wife in July of 1860, settling briefly at Meegere; probably the present day site of Elk Rapids, Michigan.⁹

James' whereabouts from the time of Betsey's death until his showing up on South Manitou Island with son Aaron is uncertain. When Betsey passed on, the family apparently soon broke up, with Harriet going to Adams Township, Illinois to live with her older cousin, Laura (Fisk), who was married to merchant Eli Kinne.¹⁰ In the spring of 1861, Harriet married the widower George Ismon,¹¹ who was also a merchant, and they moved to the nearby town of Sandwich, Illinois.

The *Fiske and Fisk Family* genealogy book includes a comment claiming that James was a Civil War veteran (assuming that "late war" in 1896 referred to the Civil War.) Some war records suggest that "James Sherdon" (a.k.a. James A. Sheridan) joined the 101st New York Infantry at Constantia, Oswego County, New York in September of 1861,¹² although that James evidently gave his age as forty-three, whereas James' actual age would have been sixty-one. While there were lots of "James Sheridans," and probably some who were indeed forty-three, it is quite likely that this was indeed James A., son of Allan. James had indeed lived in or near Constantia, at least up to the time of Betsey's death. While there is no record of him there in the 1860 census, neither is there any evidence of any other James Sheridan in that area during this time. So James probably just lied about his age.

As a rule, the cut-off age for Civil War enlistments was forty-five, but it was not unusual to discover older men among new recruits. Their reason for signing up was probably money, rather than patriotism or a fervent desire to save the Union.

Always hard pressed for troops but, with the sins of European conscription practices still so fresh in the memories of America's immigrant families, a military draft was politically impossible. The federal government therefore employed a "carrot and stick" strategy, frequently threatening conscription, while also offering enlistment bounties and good pay. Pressed by the federal government to supply enlistees, state governments also offered incentives, while leaning on local governments to help fill the quota being imposed on them by Washington. Thus local governments also sometimes



offered enlistment bonuses. Enlistees could sometimes collect bonus money from all three levels of government ... \$50, \$200, \$300 and \$1,000 ... and occasionally private prizes were also offered. Thereafter, the pay for service with the Union army in 1862 for a three-year enlistment was \$596 per year, with guaranteed paydays every two months, and with all other expenses paid. In August of 1862, the newspaper *Wisconsin Pinery* urged the youth of the town to enlist by writing ...

"There are many young men in our town and vicinity idle; a good opportunity is now offered them to serve their country and at the same time fill their empty purses."

James' younger brother William followed his example two months later, joining the 24th New York Infantry at Sandy Creek, New York, and being similarly disingenuous about his true age.¹³

James lasted fourteen-months before being discharged for medical reasons at Fort Monroe, Virginia. William made it only seven, being similarly discharged at Alexandria, Virginia.

As the casualties mounted, the bounties increased. That was probably the enticement which moved William to enlist again in 1863, this time joining the 16th New York Artillery at Albion, New York. That tour lasted fifteen months before he was again discharged for disability, at Willet's Point in New York Harbor.¹⁴

Meanwhile, Newbury also decided to give the Army a shot, joining the up with the 14th New York Artillery at Albion in December of 1863. He lasted only about seven months, his exact departure date not known, since he deserted.¹⁵ He disappeared from Petersburg, Virginia sometime between the "Battle of the Mine Explosion" and "Battle of the Weldon Railroad." Desertions were not uncommon then; the 14th went into battle in May of 1864, and between then and Newbury's departure, its losses numbered 585, of which 116 were listed as "missing."

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James' son Aaron had a more distinguished service record. He enlisted in the Union army at Northville, Illinois in May of 1861, joining the 13th Illinois Infantry. He was mustered out with his regiment three years later at Springfield, Illinois in June of 1864. His unit had served its time, distinguishing itself in some of the war's most historic engagements, from southern Illinois to Missouri to Mississippi, and with Aaron having suffered an injury leaving one arm permanently disabled. Nine months later, on the first day of spring, he and Julia Moore of Bristol Township, Illinois were married.¹⁶ He was twenty-nine; she nineteen.

In July of the next year, 1866, Aaron was appointed Keeper of the South Manitou Island Light Station. He and Julia moved to the island, taking up their duties there on the 21st of that month. Aaron's father James, soon followed. Father and son filed land claims two years later; Aaron filing a cash-sale entry for 80-acres on the upper west side of Lake Florence,¹⁷ James filing a homestead claim on the adjoining 73-acres at the

lake's north end,¹⁸ and thus the two of them became land-owners and farmers. Probably always Aaron's willing helper right from the start, the Lighthouse Service recognized Julia with an appointment as 1st Assistant Keeper six years after their arrival on the Island. Aaron and Julia had six children there; all boys ... Levi, George, James, Alfred, Charles, and Robert. The elder James passed away at age 70, in January of 1871, and was laid to rest in the little cemetery near Burton's Wharf by the bay.

In March of 1878, tragedy came to the island. Aaron, Julia and their infant son Robert drowned when their little sailing boat capsized in rough seas while attempting a return from a voyage to Glen Haven. The five remaining Sheridan boys, ages three through eleven, were left as orphans. Julia's half-sister came to the island to pick up the boys, and took them back to their grandparents in Bristol Village, Illinois, where they would spend the rest of their childhood. Aaron's cousin Lyman Sheridan, a former island resident then living near Port Oneida on the adjacent mainland, but still involved in commercial fishing at the island, was recruited to take over at the Light Station.

This was the stuff island legends were made of, and the story of the Sheridans is still told to those who visit each summer. Over the years the drama of the tragedy has been embellished by the story-tellers, with the boys supposedly having been in the tower watching life, as they'd known it, come to an end as the small keeper's boat, probably a Mackinaw boat, lost its battle with the high seas, giving up its passengers, their parents and baby brother, to the angry waves. Others told about the boys walking the beach for days following the disaster, tearfully calling for their lost parents in hopes that the Lake would give them back. But their bodies were never recovered, so their remains still lay somewhere out there in the depths of the Manitou Passage.

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Lyman Sheridan probably spent no more than a single season at Meegere (Elk Rapids,) possibly moving on to South Manitou Island to try his hand as a fisherman.¹⁹ In August of 1862, he married Mary Agnes McCollum in Glen Arbor,²⁰ and filed a claim for a 160-acre homestead probably not long thereafter.²¹ While that would have made Lyman a homesteading farmer, his primary occupation remained commercial fishing, most of which was done in the vicinity of South Manitou Island.^{22 23}

The homestead was on the southern boundary of the survey township, about 3-1/2 miles due south of Bass Lake, and one quarter-section west, which is today the east end of Parcias Trail.²⁴ The family probably lived there until the spring of 1878, when Lyman took over as Keeper of the South Manitou Island Light Station, with an annual salary of \$575. In compliance with U.S.L.H.S. policy, the Keepers' Quarters was then the family home for the next four years. In 1882 Mary fell victim to consumption (pulmonary tuberculosis). Attributing her condition to the island's moist environment, Lyman resigned in June and the family moved back to the mainland



but, unfortunately, Mary died three months later.^{25 26} The Aaron/James Sheridan home place on the island, which had not been farmed for five years, was sold off the next year.

Lyman, left with four children between the ages of five and seventeen, remarried three years later, wedding the widow Frances (Kellogg) Kelderhouse.²⁷ Frances had also been left with young children, hers between the ages of one to eleven, so this marriage created a blended family, probably with four children from either side.

In the years that followed, Lyman engaged in a variety of activities besides fishing and farming. In 1876 he had become involved with William H. Crowell in the shoe peg factory at Maple City,²⁸ just east of his homestead. That evidently sparked an interest in manufacturing. After marrying his second wife, Lyman and family operated a general store near “the narrows” between Glen Lake and Little Glen Lake, where he is also said to have manufactured a washing machine sold under the brand name *Ladies Friend*. Later, he was involved with the manufacture of a fire escape system, basically a ladder and pulley affair, having been assigned rights to its patent by inventor Kasson Freeman in exchange for the manufacturing services he provided.²⁹ In the early 1900’s, Lyman served as Justice of the Peace for Glen Arbor Township.^{30 31} He had also served on the Leelanau County Board of Supervisors, representing both Cleveland Township and Glen Arbor Township.³²

Frances passed away at home in 1921.³³ Lyman, then in his eighties, went to Chicago to live with his son Fred.^{34 35} He died there in April of 1923. His remains were returned to Glen Arbor where, after his funeral, he was laid to rest.

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William E. Sheridan, Lyman’s father, and his younger brother, Newbury B. (“Newton”) Sheridan, probably came into the area in the mid-1860’s, after Newbury’s unauthorized departure from the Union army.

Newbury evidently started out as the family’s bad boy. The census taker for 1860 in Albion, New York,³⁶ listed him as a felon, convicted of burglary. As a matter of pure conjecture, it wouldn’t seem like that information would have been readily volunteered, so it was probably commonly known in the small community, and entered of the enumerator’s own volition. Newbury, then 21, was living with his family, which at that time included his father William, mother Lucy, and older brother Lyman. William was shown as being employed as a carpenter; Lyman as a day labor, but no employment was listed for Newbury, which would not be surprising given the stigma of being an ex-convict.

As the Civil War heated up, it became profitable for men to join the army, and both William and Newbury probably took advantage of that. William joined up twice, lying about his age, and was twice discharged early on account of his not being physically up to the rigors of service. Newbury joined up during his father’s second enlistment in 1863, but walked away seven months later, becoming a deserter, and probably also a

“bounty jumper.” Although desertion was not uncommon on either side in the early years of the war, by 1864 patience had worn thin. To entice deserters to return to their units, the army promised amnesty for those who did and the direst consequences (a firing squad plus a free casket) for those who did not.³⁷

It’s likely that the family’s standing in Albion sunk to a new low upon Newbury’s unexpected return, and that might have prompted them to seek a fresh start elsewhere. So they came to the place where their older son had successfully established himself as a reputable member of the community, a frontier location, as it were, and Newbury became “Newton.” Both William and Newton filed applications for homesteads in Cleveland Township, and both received land patents in the spring of 1873. Since the process between application and final proofs under the Homestead Act was typically seven years, these Sheridan’s probably came to Leelanau County in the mid-1860’s.

William, formerly a carpenter, became a farmer, living alone with his wife Lucy. She died just after New Years of 1877, having been severely burned.³⁸ Following her death, William moved in with Newton, Mary Ann, and his eight grandchildren, including step-grandson William Cuttin.³⁹ Ten years later, at 85-years of age and in failing health, he was taken to the Veterans Home in Grand Rapids, where he died in October of 1891. He was laid to rest in the Veterans Home Cemetery, under a Civil War Veterans’ headstone.^{40 41}

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When Newton arrived in the area, it was with a young wife and two small children.⁴² There’s no record of his marriage to Arcia, who was probably seven years his junior.^{43 44} Their oldest, Herbert, was born in New York in August of 1863 to a seventeen-year old mother,⁴⁵ so presumably Newton and Arcia were married at least several months before that. Sister Clara, also born in New York, came two or three years later, in 1865 or ‘66.⁴⁶ Thinking again of the dates associated with the homestead claims previously mentioned, it would appear that Newton came with his young wife and children, and his parents, in the mid-1860’s, probably sometime in 1866.

Evidently, Newton originally went out to South Manitou Island, joining his brother Lyman as a commercial fisherman. Newton was also a cooper, who made and sold barrels to other fishermen.⁴⁷ The family didn’t remain on the Island very long, since Arcia died in July of 1867.⁴⁸ She was taken to the mainland for last rites, and buried in the Kelderhouse cemetery at Port Oneida.⁴⁹ Not long after her passing, Newton remarried, wedding Mary A. Bell in November of that year.⁵⁰ Mary was accompanied by her seven-year old son William Cuttin,^{51,52,53,54,55} increasing the family to five.

If Newton, listed as a Civil War deserter in New York, had come to the northern Michigan frontier to evade the threat of military justice, his worries ended with President Andrew Johnson’s Christmas amnesty proclamation of 1868, which granted an unconditional amnesty to all participants in the Civil



War. In the coming years, he and Mary Ann would have six more children.⁵⁶ He continued his commercial fishing and barrel-making, providing shipping containers for both fishermen and farmers on the islands and the mainland. As their sons grew up, they learned the trades, becoming fishermen and coopers in their own right.

The head of a fine large family, Newton is said to have been instrumental in building the original schoolhouse in Empire, and the first schoolhouse on South Manitou Island, a small structure located approximately opposite the existing schoolhouse building. He also served as a Trustee for Glen Arbor Township⁵⁷ and evidently also as the Township Clerk.⁵⁸ His story is yet another example of how wild young men often grow up to become assets to their family and community.

Newbury Button Sheridan lived 73-years, passing away on the first day of June in 1912.⁵⁹ He and Mary Ann had been together for over 45-years. She followed her husband in death a year and a half later.⁶⁰ Both found their final resting place in the Kelderhouse Cemetery at Port Oneida.



Upon the loss of their parents Aaron and Julia, the five Sheridan orphans were taken to Illinois, where they grew up in the home of their maternal grandparents.⁶¹ In June of 1880, the U.S. House of Representatives of the 46th Congress received a recommendation on the bill HR2945 from the *Committee on Invalid Pensions* to grant a gratuity pension to support the boys until they came of age, based upon findings that Aaron and Julia were traveling on U.S.L.H.S. business at the time of their deaths, and in a government vessel known to be much less than seaworthy.⁶² So Aaron and Julia's surviving boys were provided for, and would grow up with family. But they would be revisited by tragedy twice more in their adult lives.

The lives of the youngest three boys were, more or less, ordinary. Third son "Eddie" (James Edward Sheridan,) started out as a saloon keeper in Chicago, then worked as an electrician for the Chicago street car system until his retirement. He married the widow Louise Hoffman in April of 1900,^{63, 64} who had two children by her former marriage. He fathered a single child, his son Grant S. Sheridan, who was also a railroad worker, employed as a "train rider." Eddie died at age seventy-seven in Florida.

"Alf" (Alfred Adolph Sheridan,) the forth-born son, became a light keeper, although his career was short. He served initially under his Uncle Edwin at the Gross Point, Illinois Light Station, but resigned after serving only one year.⁶⁵ He married late in life, wedding Irma Trish in April of 1920.⁶⁶ The couple then went west to Oregon, where over the years he worked as a carpenter for the railroad and a grassland farmer, she as Postmaster of Rockville, Oregon.^{67, 68} He lived to be older than any of his brothers, passing away in neighboring Idaho in November of 1954, at the age of 82. Although he had married, he never had any children of his own, and died a widower.⁶⁹

The youngest of the Sheridan orphan boys was "Charlie" (Charles Aaron Sheridan.) After bumping around in the Chicago area for a while, he learned the barber trade in his early twenties, and ran barber shops during most of his life, in Chicago and in west Michigan.^{70, 71, 72} He was twice married, the first time to Lillie Hiskey in Kendall County, IL in the Spring of 1904. They had a single child, Charles Russell Sheridan. Unfortunately, Lillie died five years after their marriage,⁷³ leaving Charles with their three-year old son.⁷⁴ Three years later, Charles married again; the bride was Saugatuck, Michigan native Irene (Weible) Ten Houten, then of Lawton, Michigan, where they were married.⁷⁵ Charles passed away at Wayland, Michigan in January of 1945.⁷⁶ Irene died late in 1967 at Douglas, Michigan.⁷⁷ They had divorced.



"Eddie", "Alf" and "Charlie" were still young men when tragedy came calling again.

Levi (Levi Fisk Sheridan,) the oldest of the boys and who then called himself "Fisk," would die on December 15, 1893 in the infamous collapse of the "Big Four" railroad bridge, being built to span the Ohio River between Louisville, Kentucky and Jeffersonville, Indiana.⁷⁸ He was 27, single, and had been newly hired just a few days prior to the disaster which took the lives of twenty-one bridge workers. The next eldest, George, spent months in the area attempting to recover Levi's body, but his remains were never found. The "Big Four" bridge project had not been going well, and by the time Levi hired on, it was already in financial trouble, having gone into foreclosure the year before. Bridge collapses were not unheard of at the time, but this event was enough to cripple the already troubled project. It was ultimately taken over by the "Big Four Railroad," there never having been any chance of financial recovery for the families of the dead and injured.⁷⁹

George (George Henry Sheridan,) the next oldest, after returning from Louisville broken-hearted and empty-handed, would eventually follow in his father's footsteps, becoming a Lake Michigan Light Keeper. His assignments included several southern Lake Michigan Light Stations, including South Chicago, Michigan City, Indiana, and the Kalamazoo River Light Station at Saugatuck, Michigan. He and his wife Sarah⁸⁰ had three sons; Joseph and James, born at the Michigan City Station, and George Francis at the Saugatuck Station. George and Sarah served at Saugatuck for five years, until in the fall of 1914 the Service decided to decommission that station, and sent orders transferring the family to St. Joseph, Michigan. George had been struggling with depression for a while before that, spending time in treatment at Evanston, Illinois while Sarah and the boys tended the light. With the station shut down in October of 1914, the family spent the winter in Saugatuck, anticipating the move to St. Joseph. In the spring, George decided to give treatment another try, and left by train, stopping along the way at the Gross Point, Illinois Light Station, where his Uncle Edwin J. Moore was Keeper, and where his brother Alfred had served as Assistant Keeper several years before.



A few days later, on Wednesday, March 24, 1915, George was found in the Keeper's boathouse near the beach. He had hung himself.⁸¹



So the five orphan boys of Aaron and Julia Sheridan grew up into adult lives that had little in common: Levi the adventuring fortune seeker, George the melancholy light keeper, Eddie the most ordinary, a blue-collar street car electrician, Alf the steward of grazing land in the Rocky Mountains wilderness, and Charlie the gregarious town barber.

It isn't likely that any of the Sheridans who came to the northwest Michigan frontier expected to be remembered among its notable pioneers. But fate often takes the helm, steering lives onto new courses towards unknown destinations. Whatever their original reasons for coming, these Sheridan generations left their mark on what would eventually become a National Park, leaving legends and stories about South Manitou Island and the adjacent mainland that will be told to their fellow Americans in future generations for as long as the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore endures.



Editors Note: This essay is a compilation of information from a variety of historic texts and Internet resources. While information from these sources is not always in agreement, the information contained in this work represents an earnest attempt to remain faithful to the facts, or what was probable given the times and the circumstances of the events.

References

- ¹ *Early Connecticut Marriages Prior to 1800 – as Found on Ancient Church Records – Prior to 1800*, Frederick W. Bailey, Third Book, pg 132.
- ² 1850 U.S. Census for Constantia, Oswego County, New York
- ³ 1860 U.S. Census for Parish, Oswego County, New York
- ⁴ 1880 U.S. Census for Amboy, Oswego County, New York.
- ⁵ Sheridan Family Tree, Ancestry.Com, Allsyn27
- ⁶ Marriage record – Betsy Fisk (1824)
- ⁷ *Fiske and Fisk Family*, Frederick Clifton Pierce, 1896, pg 266 (n280)
- ⁸ Grave Record - West Monroe Cemetery, West Monroe, Oswego County, NY
- ⁹ The 1860 U.S. Census for Meegeree, Antrim County, Michigan reports that on July 19, 1860, Lyman, a laborer age 24, was living as head of a household, with Eveline Sheridan, 22, and child William, 1-yr old. A month earlier, in June of 1860, Lyman was still living at home with his parents and brother Newbury, while brother Andrew J. Sheridan, then a day laborer, was living alone in Albion with his five-year old son, Charles. Thus, it would seem that Lyman left Albion some time between the end of June and the first week or two of July in 1860. Eveline was married to Lyman's older brother Andrew in 1851. She later returned to Albion, Oswego County, New York, reuniting the family and remaining with Andrew until her death, some forty to fifty years later. No explanation has been discovered for the situation in the summer of 1860. ("Meegeree" was probably present-day Elk Rapids, Elk Rapids Township formerly being named "Meguzee" or "Meegisee," an Indian word meaning "Eagle." The population of Meegeree in 1861 was only 179, most of it in Elk Rapids, which at the time was a center of lumbering and mercantile activity. [Ref: <http://www.elkrapids.com/Township/EARLYHISTORY/History-Index.htm>])
- ¹⁰ 1860 U.S. Census for Adams Township, Illinois
- ¹¹ Ibid. 7
- ¹² *Rosters of the New York Infantry Regiments during the Civil War*, 101st NY Infantry Regiment, pg 403; York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center (<http://dmna.state.ny.us/historic/reghist/civil/rosters/rostersinfantry.htm>)

- ¹³ Ibid. 12, 24th NY Infantry Regiment, pg 646; York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center
- ¹⁴ Ibid. 12, 16th NY Artillery Regiment, pg 828; York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center
- ¹⁵ Ibid. 12, 14th NY Artillery Regiment, pg 736; York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center
- ¹⁶ Marriage Record – Aaron Sheridan & Julia Moore; March 21, 1865
- ¹⁷ Land Patent 3796 – Aaron A. Sheridan, July 1, 1869 (filed date was April 2, 1968 – proofs filed posthumously following abandonment notice (which see), probably by son Aaron A. Sheridan.)
- ¹⁸ 1874 Land Patent 1689 – James A. Sheridan, September 15, 1874 (filing date was April 21, 1868)
- ¹⁹ *Beautiful Glen Arbor Township – Facts, Fantasy and Fotos*, Robert Dwight Rader, Glen Arbor History Group, 1977, pg 39
- ²⁰ Marriage Record – Lyman F Sheridan/Mary Ann McCollum, August 6, 1862

Note: Mary's real or preferred name, based on her death certificate, Lyman's death certificate, and children's marriage records, was Mary Agnes McCollum. Other variations found in the records are "McCullom," "McClellan," and "McCallum"

- ²¹ 1869 Land Patent 250 – Lyman F. Sheridan, November 1, 1869. (Since homestead applications typically preceded Land Patents by about seven years, the filing date was probably sometime in late 1862.)
- ²² 1870 U.S. Census for Glen Arbor Township, Leelanau County, MI, pg 7
- ²³ Ibid. 19 (commercial fishing location was South Manitou Island)
- ²⁴ Plat Ownership Map, Cleveland Township, Leelanau County, Michigan – date unknown. The locations of the original Sheridan holdings are. Lyman F. Sheridan: the SE1/4 of Sec 32, 160-acres at the bottom of the map marked "M A Sheridan." William E. Sheridan: the NE/14 of Sec 17, 160-acres due north of Lyman's homestead and west of Bass Lake, marked "J Becker" and "A J Bowen." Newton B. Sheridan: Lot 4 of the SW1/4 of Sec 9, and the NW1/4 of the SW1/4 of Sec 9, 81.2-acrea on the northwest shores of Bass Lake, market "Jos. Kinchens" and "J B."
- ²⁵ Leelanau County Deaths for the Year Ending December 31, 1882 – Mary Agnes (McCollum) Sheridan

"In Memoriam" (*Grand Traverse Herald*, September 20, 1882)

Mrs. Mary A. Sheridan, wife of Lyman Sheridan, died Sept. 15, 1882, after a long and painful illness of that dreadful disease consumption. She was patient and resigned through all her sickness, with a firm belief in her Heavenly Father 'That he doeth all things well.'

For nearly five years she has lived on the south Manitou Island with her husband, who was light house keeper, but the moist air being too strong for her lungs her husband took her to Elgin, Ill., where she was treated by the best of doctors but to no avail. He then brought her to Glen Arbor, where she was tenderly cared for by her relatives, but death was the victor and she passed away easily, As a candle burns down in its socket.

She had been married twenty years, and leaves a husband and four children to mourn her loss. She was a faithful wife and mother. Her loss will be mourned by many friends.

*'He gave and took away,
And cheerfully may we say,
Blest be his name,*

*Though earthly comforts die,
The Lord, who rules on high,
Our helper ever nigh, Remains the same.'*

- ²⁶ "Keepers of the South Manitou Island Light", Phyllis L. Tag, Great Lakes Lighthouse Research, URL: <http://www.terrypepper.com/lights/michigan/southmanitou/keepers.htm>
- ²⁷ Marriage Record – Lyman F Sheridan/Frances M. (Kellogg) Kelderhouse, Maple City, August 27, 1885
- ²⁸ Note: Shoe pegs are short wooden nail used for fastening the uppers to the soles of boots and shoes, the preferred material being maple. Discovering a large stand of maple trees at a place in Kasson Township south of Lime



Lake, William Parks and J.T. Sturtevant built a shoe peg manufacturing facility there in 1866. The settlement that grew up around it was called "Peg Town" until a post office was organized, and an official name was chosen: "Maple City." After operating nine years, the shoe peg factory was sold to William Crowell. Lyman Sheridan had part interest in the business, possibly as compensation for running the facility. It was destroyed by fire in 1880.

- ²⁹ *U.S. Patent 301,441* – Fire Escape, Kasson Freeman, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Assignee: Lyman F. Sheridan, Glen Arbor, Michigan
- ³⁰ *Ibid.* 19, pg 68
- ³¹ *The Traverse Region, Historical and Descriptive, with Illustrations and Scenery and Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers*, Chicago, H. R. Page & Co., 1884, Lyman Sheridan topic, pg 246.
- ³² Grand Traverse Herald, November 2, 1871, Re: County Government Meetings and Actions
- ³³ Death Record – Frances Sheridan, September 1, 1921, Glen Arbor, Leelanau County, Michigan
- ³⁴ Death Record – Lyman Francis Sheridan, April 3, 1923, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois
- ³⁵ Death Notice – Traverse City Record Eagle, April 5, 1923
- ³⁶ 1860 U.S. Census, Albion, Oswego County, New York, pgs 26 and 27.
- ³⁷ Harpers Weekly, September 26, 1863, pg 622, "The Execution of Deserters"
- ³⁸ Death Record – Lucy Sheridan, January 5, 1877
- ³⁹ 1880 U.S. Census – Glen Arbor Township, Leelanau County, Michigan
- ⁴⁰ Burial Record – William E. Sheridan, October 14, 1891
- ⁴¹ Civil War Veteran Headstone and Record – William E. Sheridan
- ⁴² 1870 U.S. Census – Sleeping Bear Township, Leelanau County, Michigan
- ⁴³ Note: There are two possibilities for Arcia (sometimes "Arsha" or "Archia") Sheridan: Arcia Fillmore (incorrectly shown as "Fillmon" on the 1850 U.S. Census), was born in Ellisburg, Jefferson Co., NY, the second child of Orson B. Fillmore and Susanna Lyons, he of Ellisburg, Jefferson Co., NY, she of unknown parentage, but reportedly born in "New York." The 1850 Census for Ellisburg lists Orson B. Fillmore, a Carpenter and Jan(itor) as the father, and "Ann" as the mother of two children, son Amaziah, age seven, and daughter Arcia, age four. The census was taken in October 14, 1850. Arcia's grave marker in the Kelderhouse Cemetery at Port Oneida indicates she was 21 years 10 months 18 days old at the time of her death, indicating a birth date of August 28, 1845, which does not correspond with her reported age on the census. Assuming the date was otherwise correct, the year of her birth would have been 1846. The recorded name for her mother, "Ann," was probably a nickname for "Susanna" (a biographical sketch for her brother Amaziah supports this assumption.) No evidence has been found to support the middle initials in the name "Arcia A L Fillmore," which appear in some genealogical websites. Further tracking becomes difficult, since her mother Susanna died in 1852, and Orson died in 1862. Brother Amaziah served in the New York 10th Heavy Artillery from 1862 to 1865, which might have been the connection to Newton Sheridan, who served in the New York 14th within that period.
- The person "Flora Alcey Arcia Fillmore," sometimes reported as Newton B. Sheridan's wife, is a different entity, also born in Ellisburg in 1845, but to Sylvanus and Olive Fillmore, with an earlier birth date, since her age is reported as five on October 15, 1850 (therefore born between October 16, 1844 and October 15, 1845). According to the Jacquelyn J Sorby Family Page (<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=jsorby&id=134701>), she married a husband named "Smith," which union produced a single child named "Inez Bell Smith."
- ⁴⁴ Biographical Sketch – Amazia A Fillmore, brother of Arcia (Fillmore) Sheridan
- ⁴⁵ 1900 U.S. Census – Glen Arbor Township, Leelanau County Michigan, giving Herbert N. Sheridan's birthplace and date
- ⁴⁶ 1884 Marriage Record for Clara Sheridan. Clara Sheridan was married to Charles Gibson ("Gilson") in Charlevoix County on September 14, 1884, giving her age as 18. Therefore she would have been born between September 15, 1865 and September 14, 1866.
- ⁴⁷ *Ibid.* 19, pg 39

- ⁴⁸ Death record for Arcia Amelia Sheridan, July 16, 1867, Glen Arbor Twp, Leelanau County, Michigan
- ⁴⁹ Burial record for Arcia Fillmore Sheridan, Kelderhouse Cemetery, Port Onieda, Michigan
- ⁵⁰ Marriage Record not available
- ⁵¹ Death record for Mary Ann Sheridan, establishing maiden name as Mary Ann Bell, birth date as 1837 and location as Maryland.
- ⁵² *Ibid.* 36 1880 U.S. Census lists William W. Cuttin at "step-son" of Newton Sheridan.
- ⁵³ 1900 U.S. Census for Charlevoix, MI – William W. Cuttin gives birth date of September 1960, and birthplace as Illinois.
- ⁵⁴ 1860 U.S. Census for Chicago, IL – John H. Cutting, a "painter," and "Mary A." living together
- ⁵⁵ 1861 Civil War Record for John H Cuttin, a former "painter"; killed in September 1861 railroad accident

Note: It would appear that William W. Cuttin (or "Cutting"), step-son of Newton B. Sheridan, was the son of John H. Cuttin and Mary Ann Bell, born in Chicago, Illinois. While most available references for Newton's second marriage list the bride's name as "Mary A. Bell," an official record of the marriage has yet to be discovered, so the name she actually used at that time is not known. She was probably the widow of John H. Cuttin.

- ⁵⁶ Birth records of last six children of Newton and Mary Ann Sheridan
- ⁵⁷ *Ibid.* 19, pg 81
- ⁵⁸ Death certificate signed by N.B. Sheridan, Registrar, on April 23, 1906
- ⁵⁹ Death certificate, Newton B. Sheridan, June 1, 1912
- ⁶⁰ *Ibid.* 48, January 17, 1914
- ⁶¹ 1880 U.S. Census – Bristol, IL; Henry Moore household
- ⁶² *Reports to the Committees of the House Of Representatives for the First and Second Sessions of the Forty-Sixth Congress, 1879-1880*, Volume V, Report No. 1669, "Heirs of Aaron A. Sheridan"
- ⁶³ 1900 Marriage License – Edward J. Sheridan/Louise Hoffman, Chicago, IL
- ⁶⁴ 1910 U.S. Census – Chicago, IL, Edward J Sheridan household
- ⁶⁵ "Keepers of the Grosse Point Light", Phyllis L. Tag, Great Lakes Lighthouse Research, URL: <http://www.terrypepper.com/lights/michigan/grossepoint/keepers.htm>
- ⁶⁶ 1920 Marriage License – Alfred Sheridan/Irma Trish, Chicago, IL
- ⁶⁷ 1920 U.S. Census – Multnomah (Portland), Oregon
- ⁶⁸ 1930 U.S. Census – Rockville, Oregon
- ⁶⁹ *Ibid.* 63, pg 150
- ⁷⁰ 1900 U. S. Census – Yorkville, IL, Charles A. Sheridan, barber
- ⁷¹ 1818 WW-I Draft Registration Card, Charles A. Sheridan, barber, Newago, MI
- ⁷² 1830 U.S. Census – Newago, MI, Charles A. Sheridan, barber
- ⁷³ Sue Populorum family tree - <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/18172702/person/618840153>
- ⁷⁴ 1910 U.S. Census – Bristol, IL, Charles A Sheridan and son living with the Hiskey family
- ⁷⁵ 1903 Marriage Record – Charles A. Sheridan/Irene VanHouten, Lawton, MI
- ⁷⁶ 1945 Death Record – Charles A. Sheridan, Wayland, MI January 21, 1945
- ⁷⁷ 1967 Death Record – Irene Sheridan, Douglas, MI, November 12, 1967
- ⁷⁸ The Salt Lake Herald, Saturday, December 16, 1893, pg 1
- ⁷⁹ The New York Times, September 18, 1992; foreclosure notice, "Big Four" railroad bridge.

Note: According to *Baird's History of Clark County, Indiana*, the "Big Four" railroad bridge venture was originally conceived by leaders and entrepreneurs in Louisville and Indiana, who formed the "Louisville and Jeffersonville Bridge Company." Already having financial difficulties, with work slowed as vendors withheld materials and services for lack of payment, the December 1892 disaster ruined the consortium. The project was subsequently taken over by the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad Company, also known as the "Big Four Railroad Company," its originally-intended customers, with no assumption of liability for previous L&JBC operations. It was finally completed and opened in September of 1895. \$3-million in bonds were sold to support the completion of the project, making history as one of the largest individual deals ever consummated up to that time. The bridge has long since been decommissioned, but is being restored as "the World's Longest Footbridge," and a memorial to those who died there.

- ⁸⁰ 1905 Marriage License – George H Sheridan/Sarah Unwin, Chicago, IL
- ⁸¹ "Remembering, A History of the Sheridan Family, Stephen Sheridan, 2009, pg 165