

Bon Voyage May 10, 1910. Crew and Passengers. 4 lost lives. 31 saved.

On fire at 7.30 p. m., about 6 miles NW. of station. Surfmen immediately started for the scene in tow of a tug and, on arriving, found two tugs already there, but they were unable to extinguish the flames, which completely enveloped the steamer. The tugs had picked up from the water two persons, and surfmen transported thirty-one persons, who had swum from the burning vessel to the shore, about 75 yards distant, to the tugs, which took them to the station, where they were given dry clothing from the stores of the Women's National Relief Association and sheltered for the night.

The master reported that four passengers were missing, and surfmen and the tugs searched for them until after midnight. On the next two days surfmen searched for bodies and found three, which they turned over to the coroner. The fourth body was found on the 15th about 12 miles from the scene of disaster. Hebrew citizens of Hancock, Michigan, bestowed gold medals upon Keeper McCormick and each member of the life-saving crew for meritorious service in this case. (See newspaper extract under caption "Letters of acknowledgment.") USLSS Annual Report 1911.

The following is an extract from an item which appeared in the Daily Mining Gazette, of Houghton, Michigan, on October 27, 1901.

*Hancock Hebrews award medals to Captain McCormick and his men for gallant conduct.*

The Hebrews of Hancock have secured valuable gold medals and pins, suitably inscribed, which will be presented to Captain McCormick and the crew of the lifesaving station to-day. The medals are in the shape of a 6-pointed star, and are presented to the life-savers for their gallant conduct in recovering the bodies of the four Hebrews who were drowned on the steamer *Bon Voyage*, which burned off Red Ridge some few months ago, the conduct of the life-saving crew having been very gallant upon that occasion. They faced the danger of being wrecked in the storm, and only after a diligent and difficult search recovered the bodies of the four people. The large medal, which is about 2 inches long, will be presented to Captain McCormick. The following words are inscribed upon it: "From the Hebrews of Hancock; thankful for bravery."

Those presented to the crew are of the same design, but smaller.

It is not the intrinsic value which makes these medals worth having, but what they represent, and Captain McCormick and his men will long cherish the tokens.