



Seaside News



Wreck of Huron



Shoe from a crew member of Huron courtesy of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum

With over 2000 shipwrecks in the Graveyard of the Atlantic, the story of *Huron* alone could fill chapters. Despite storm warnings, the naval ship, referred to as “the strongest hull in the Atlantic waters,” set sail from Norfolk, Virginia, November 23, 1877. With 132 crew on board, Commander George P. Ryan took the two-year-old ship out the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay into gale force winds and powerful seas.

Built of iron, and weighing 541 tons, the steamer, *Huron*, traveled between the Gulf Stream and the dangerous Outer Banks coastline. Despite the watch changing hands like clockwork, a fatal error occurred when a bend in the coastline was not considered. Under cover of fog, with ferocious seas breaking over the vessel, it grounded.

The wreck of *Huron* saw tremendous loss of life with 103 crew drowning. Fierce winter seas prevented crew from swimming the 200 yards to shore. Due to seasonal closures of lifesaving stations, lifesavers were not available to help. The tragedy showed the need for more months of lifesaving services.

WORD SEARCH



METROPOLIS SHIPWRECK FATAL LIFESAVING
WATCH HURON SEAS GALE ERROR TONS
CREWS DROWNING LIVES STEAMER VESSEL
BAY SHIP FOG LOSS

QUESTIONS ABOUT WRECK OF HURON

1. What warnings did the Commander of Huron ignore?
2. How old was Huron when it wrecked?
3. What was the ship built out of?
4. What caused Huron to wreck and how many people died?
5. What need did the wreck of Huron and Metropolis highlight?

1. Storm warnings
2. two years old
3. Iron
4. The ship grounded, and seas swept over it. 103 people drowned.
5. The need for more months of lifesaving operations coverage.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

- Q. What do you do with a sick boat?
A. Bring it to the dock!

