The LINE-UP,

commissioned in a desperate attempt to establish the identity of an

EXTRAORDINARY MAN,

WANTED
by researchers of
an AMERICAN LEGEND.

Description,
as provided by the authorities of the Great Lakes and Erie Canal:

Name: John Maynard
Age: Old
Year of Greatest Activity: 1845
Location: Lake Erie
Occupation: Helmsman

Personal Characteristics:

a) honest & kind
b) a cheerful disposition
c) well-known: "from one end of the Lake to the other"
d) "content with his situation"
e) religious: his "love of God"
f) used to "hard labor" and "scanty pay"
g) generally able to improve the morals of "bad company"
h) enormous staying power
i) a man endowed with great physical strength and able to endure extreme pain
j) willing to sacrifice himself for others

FIRST SUSPECT:

Not an American, but a heroic Brit:

Lieutenant Robert Maynard (Royal Navy)

Heroic deed of 1718: The man who hacked off Edward Teach's head.
Teach, the "Scourge of the Spanish Main," was commonly known as
the pirate "Blackbeard [1680-1718]."

A Maynard ballad composed by an exuberant Benjamin Franklin [1706-1790] at the age of twelve:

Will you hear of a bloody battle,
Lately fought upon the seas,
It will make your ears to rattle,
And your admiration cease.
Have you heard of Teach the Rover
And his knavery on the main,
How of gold he was a lover,
How he loved all ill-got gain.

. . . .

Teach and Maynard on the quarter,
Fought it out most manfully;
Maynard's sword did cut him shorter,
Losing his head he there did die.

Found in: H. W. Brands, *The First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin*, (Anchor paperback), p. 23.

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SECOND SUSPECT:

A member of the Coroner's Inquest (August 1841),
Buffalo, New York:

Robert H. Maynard of Buffalo

JOSEPH CLARY, Foreman

E. D. Efner,	**C. C. Haddock,**
William Williams,	**N. Vosburgh,**
Thos. R. Stocking,	**S. Chamberlin,**
S. S. Case,	**R. H. Maynard,**
S. N. Callender,	**L. Storrs,**
R. Pomeroy,	**S. Mathews,**
H. R. Seymour,	**E. Hathaway,**
——Alcott.	

The "accusation" was leveled by George Salomon under the assumption that the name "Maynard" was chosen by the author of the "Helmsman of Lake Erie" because its occurrence was so "uncommon". It should be pointed out that – although the name is indeed in the list of members (as depicted above) – Maynard is nowhere recorded as even putting a question to a witness.

Robert H. Maynard was "obviously a respected citizen of Buffalo, who, during the previous year, had been a member of the board of trustees of the municipal orphanage." [- Quoted from *Fontane Blätter*, 1965, (Potsdam) No. 2, p. 30]

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THIRD SUSPECT:

A man who was instrumental in building locks for the construction of the Erie Canal and piers on the Great Lakes. A man of "remarkable physical strength" and "sterling character," well-known and with influential friends:

John Maynard [1794-1874]

Inter Ocean
(Chicago, Illinois)

Wednesday morning, March 18, 1874

Vol. IL, No. 311
(p. 4, c. 6)

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN MAYNARD

One by one they pass away. The fathers of the giant infant city, who have seen its growth of business and baptism of fire[1] Yesterday were borne to the silent repose of the dead the remains of John Maynard, one of Chicago's early settlers and one of her oldest citizens.

The deceased was the son of Captain John Maynard of the Revolutionary army, and was born in Lancaster, Pa., in 1794. Early apprenticed as a mason, he worked his prosperous way in life by integrity as a prominent and faithful contractor of public works, having built many of the public works of New York State, the canal locks at Lockport, N. Y[2]., and other points on the Erie Canal[3]. Having done his work faithfully and well, he accumulated a considerable fortune, which he invested in practical industries. But the profits of years of honorable toil were swept away in the disastrous panic of '37. Re-engaging in work in 1843, he built the second pier on the west shore of Lake Michigan, at Sheboygan[4], and did the work well. In 1853 he came to this city, and became associated with Colonel R. B. Mason, then Superintendent of the Illinois Central Railway, and was master of all heavy works at LaSalle. For the last four years the deceased had been inspector of masonry works for the Board of Public Works of this city. He was ever remarkable for his bodily vigor and physical strength, and to the last maintained the sterling characteristics that had won him the respect and esteem of his associates. He had personally known and been the friend of such honored ancients as DeWitt Clinton[5], Thurlow Weed[6] Governor Seward[7] and Millard Fillmore[8]. In life he preserved the vigor of manhood, and in the fullness of strength was gathered to the tomb of honored ancestors. His death occurred on Sunday morning, and the funeral took place from his late residence, No. 78 South Sangamon street, yesterday afternoon.

Annotations [Quotations are from Encyclopedia Britannica]

1) "**infant city" and "baptism of fire"** : "Four square miles of Chicago, including the business district, were destroyed by fire on October 8–10, 1871. Starting in the southwest, fed by wooden buildings and pavements and favored by a long dry spell, flames spread northeastward, leaping the Chicago River and dying out only when they reached Lake Michigan. About 250 lives were lost, some 90,000 people were made homeless, and almost $200,000,000 in property was destroyed."

2) **Erie Canal** : "Historic waterway of the United States, connecting the Great Lakes with New York City via the Hudson River. By the beginning of the 19th century the desirability of a transportation link between the Atlantic coast and the trans-Allegheny region was evident. Governor DeWitt Clinton of New York saw the potential in the proposal for a canal from Buffalo, on the eastern shore of Lake Erie, to Albany, on the upper Hudson, passing through the gap in the mountains in the Mohawk Valley region. In 1817 he induced the state legislature to authorize the expenditure of $7 million for construction of a canal 363 miles (584 km) long, 40 feet (12 meters) wide, and 4 feet (1.2 meters) deep. To cross the 500-foot (150-meter) rise in elevation west of Troy, the work required 83 locks. No roads existed for supply; horse and human

power alone were available. Streams were crossed via aqueducts; in several places rock was blasted with black-powder charges. Despite all difficulties, the canal was opened on October 25, 1825, by the canal boat Seneca Chief."

3) **canal locks at Lockport, N. Y**.: "Lockport lies 25 miles (40 km) northeast of Buffalo. It was founded in 1821 and grew around the series of five double locks (1847) of the Erie Canal built to overcome a difference of about 60 feet (18 meters) between the levels of Lake Erie and the Genesee River."

4) **Sheboygan**: "The city is located along Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Sheboygan River, 57 miles (92 km) north of Milwaukee. Established as a fur-trading post in 1818 by William Farnsworth, it was settled as a lumbering village in 1835; cooperage became a thriving business in the community. The city's Chippewa Indian name means "wind" or "rumbling underground," referring to the falls upriver. German immigrants played a significant role in the city's cultural and economic development."

5) **DeWitt Clinton** : "Born March 2, 1769, Little Britain, N.Y., died Feb. 11, 1828, Albany, N.Y., American political leader who promulgated the idea of the Erie Canal, which connects the Hudson River to the Great Lakes. DeWitt Clinton was the nephew of Governor George Clinton of New York. A Republican (Jeffersonian) attorney, he served as state senator (1798–1802, 1806–11), U.S. senator (1802–03), mayor of New York City (1803–15 except for two annual terms), and lieutenant governor (1811–13). As mayor of New York City, he advocated free and widespread public education, promoted legislation that removed voting restrictions against Roman Catholics, and established various public-welfare institutions in the city. He was an unsuccessful presidential candidate in 1812, being defeated by James Madison." It will be recalled that the steamer *DeWitt Clinton* was instrumental in rescuing victims of the *Erie* conflagration of 1841.

6) **Thurlow Weed** : "Born Nov. 15, 1797, Cairo, N.Y., U.S.; died Nov. 22, 1882, New York, N.Y. American journalist and politician who helped form the Whig Party in New York. Weed learned the printer's trade, worked on various upstate New York newspapers, and became a leader in the Anti-Masonic Party (1828). When the Masons forced him out of his management of the Rochester Telegraph, he started an anti-Masonic campaign paper but soon realized that anti-Masonry was not a strong enough issue for a national party. Hence he became active with the Whig organization. His paper, the Albany Evening Journal, founded in 1830 to support anti-Masonry, became a leading Whig organ. Weed allied himself with William H. Seward, a leading New York Whig, and was influential in Seward's election as governor of the state (1838). When the Whig Party disintegrated, Weed joined the new Republican Party and helped manage Seward's unsuccessful campaign for the Republican presidential nomination in 1860; he eventually became a staunch supporter of President Abraham Lincoln. In 1861 Seward, then Lincoln's secretary of state, sent Weed as a special agent to England, where he was a propagandist for the United States. Following Lincoln's death (1865) and the rise of the Radical Republicans, Weed's influence in the Republican Party declined. In 1863 he sold his paper and retired from politics.

7) **Governor Seward** : "Born May 16, 1801, Florida, N.Y.; died Oct. 10, 1872, Auburn, N.Y. U.S. politician, an antislavery activist in the Whig and Republican parties before the American Civil War and secretary of state from 1861 to 1869. He is also

remembered for the purchase of Alaska in 1867—referred to at that time as "Seward's Folly." Admitted to the New York State Bar in 1822, Seward began the practice of law the following year at Auburn. He gradually developed a taste for politics and became active in the Anti-Masonic Party in 1828, serving in the New York Senate from 1830 to 1834. At about this time he allied himself with other opponents of the Jacksonian Democrats in forming the new Whig Party. Under this banner Seward served as governor of New York for four years (1839–43), soon becoming recognized as leader of the antislavery wing of the party."

8) **Millard Fillmore** : "Born January 7, 1800, Locke Township, New York, U.S. died March 8, 1874, Buffalo 13th president of the United States (1850–53), whose insistence on federal enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 alienated the North and led to the destruction of the Whig Party. Elected vice president in 1848, he became chief executive on the death of President Zachary Taylor (July 1850)."