

The Portage County Advocate

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THE HELMSMAN OF LAKE ERIE. — A correspondent recently proposed to devote the money collected for a monument to Knud Iverson, to perpetuate in the same manner the memory of the helmsman of Lake Erie, who lost his life by remaining at the wheel in order to run a burning boat ashore, and thus save the crew and passengers.

A subscriber at Jefferson, Missouri, sends a spirited sketch containing the account in question, cut from the *Post* of many years ago, in which the name of the helmsman is given as John Maynard. The sketch reads somewhat like a mere creation of some one's fancy, though it may be strictly true as to the main facts, and the name of the helmsman. The boat in the sketch, is called the *Jersey*. Can any of our Buffalo, or other Lake Erie readers, tell us whether the story is true? —*Phil. Sat. Evening Post*.

We have made due inquiry of those who would be most likely to know in regard [sic] to the above matter, and hasten to give our respected cotemporary [sic] the benefit of our investigations. In the first place "the memory of man runneth not back to the time" when such a boat as the *Jersey* was ever heard of in these parts. In the second, no one knows anything about "John Maynard." It is probable that the article to which the *Post* refers, grew out of a rumor connected with the burning of the steamer *Erie*, in 1841, the wreck of which has recently been raised and brought to this port. It was said, at that time, that Augustus Fuller, the Wheelsman, remained at his post, until he was burned to death, but a gentleman who was on the steamer, at the moment, tells us that this is a mistake—as Fuller's body washed ashore, in due time, and was not charred or even blackened. The *Post* is thus furnished with the answer. —*Buff. Express*

We see *Harpers Magazine* [June 1854, pp. 565-566] has the same wonderful tale about the "Jersey" and "John Maynard," the Pilot, but the magazine never gives any credit for its "omnium gatherum," in all the Editor's Table we could not tell whence it came. Our investigations were directed to find out the origin of the tale, but the *Express* has furnished the solution undoubtedly. — *Cleveland Herald*.

Capt. TITUS, the commander of the ill-fated *Erie*, in his testimony before the Coroner's Inquest, made the following statement:

"When I heard the cry of fire I walked aft to the man at the wheel and told him to put the wheel hard to South, which was done immediately, to *remain at his post*, to keep her to the shore. * * * * * I think FULLER remained at the wheel, and *never left it until burned to death*. He was always a resolute man in obeying orders."

We always supposed the above statement of Capt. Titus was correct, and never before heard that the body of FULLER was ever found.