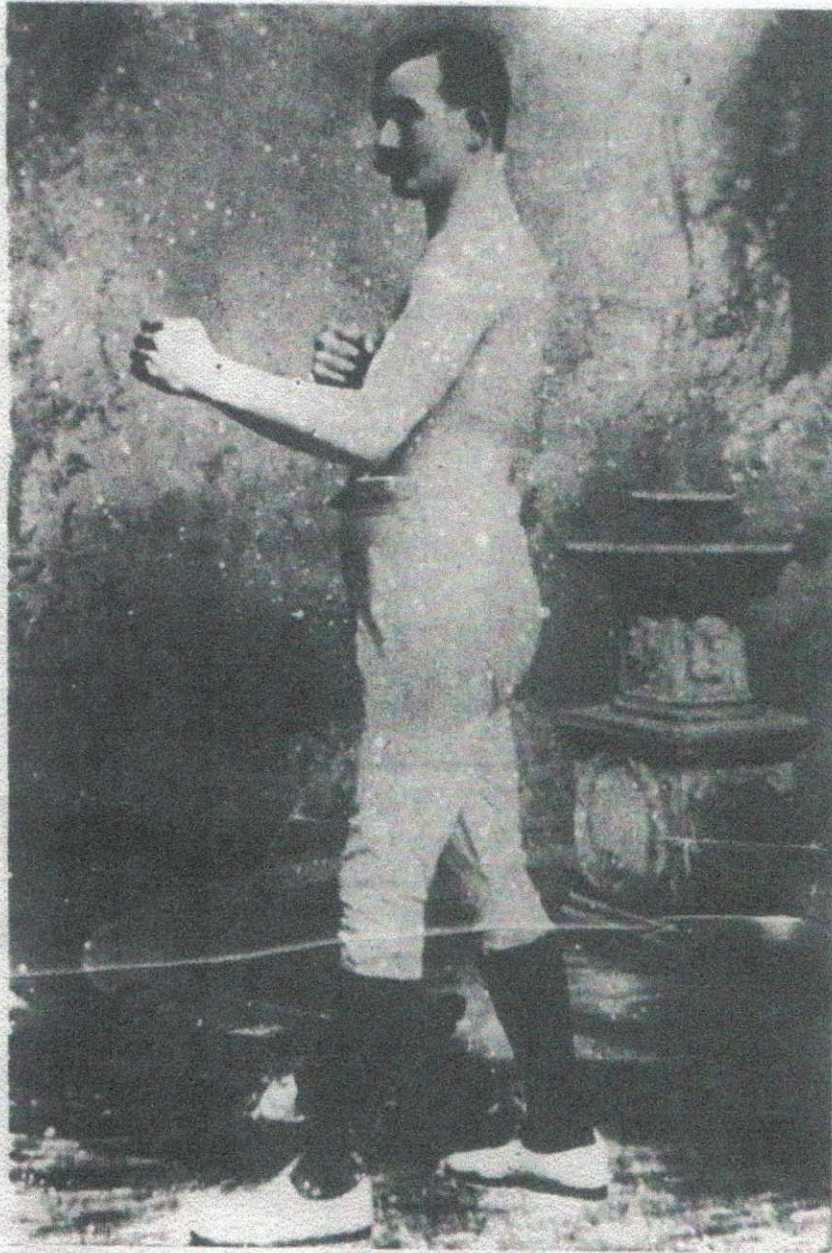


PETER MAHER-- A REASSESSMENT



MANY RECORDS OF THIS FIGHT SHOW A KO WIN OR SPEAK OF JACKSON BATTERING MAHER, THIS WAS NOT THE CASE HOWEVER SOME OBSERVERS OF THE CONTEST SPOKE OF THE IRISHMAN'S LACK OF CONDITIONING WHICH WAS OFTEN TO FLARE UP DURING HIS CAREER.

PETER REDEEMED HIMSELF SOMEWHAT WITH A 6 ROUND KO OF ALF BOWMAN, THE 1889 ENGLISH AMATEUR CHAMP FOR A PURSE OF £50 IN DUBLIN IN THE AUTUMN OF 1890.

1891 SAW MAHER'S SECOND STEP UP IN CLASS AND IT WAS MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL.

PETER MAHER-- A REASSESSMENT

GUS LAMBERT CANADA

BORN 1860, 5-7 1/2 WT. 13-4

NOTED WRESTLER

LAMBERT HAD STAYED BY RUGGED MEANS AGAINST JACKSON THE PREVIOUS YEAR TO WIN \$100 AT TROY NY.

CHARLIE MITCHELL TRAINED LAMBERT FOR THE PROPOSED 12 ROUND FIGHT AT THE PELICAN CLUB, LONDON WHILE PETER WAS SECONDED BY ALEC ROBERTS AND DICK ROBERTS AND TRAINED TO 11 STONE 12 LBS BY GEORGE BAGNALL AND PATSY CREGAN MAHER FLOORED HIS OPPONENT THREE TIMES AND HAD HIM COUNTED OUT IN 1 MINUT 15 SECONDS. THE PRIZE FOR THE VICTOR WAS £125 PURSE WITH A £200 SIDES TAKE, FOUGHT FOR BEFORE 700 MEMBERS.

MAHER PROMPTLY CHALLENGED JEM SMITH FOR THE ENGLISH HEAVY TITLE BUT NEITHER THAT OR A PROPOSED PELICAN CLUB BOUT WITH JOE MC AULIFFE TOOK PLACE, THE LATTER STOPPED BY THE AUTHORITIES. AMERICA BECKONED AS IT DID FOR SO MANY IRISH IN THOSE DAYS AND THE GREAT AMERICAN MANAGER BILLY MADDEN BALLYHOODED PETER WITH A BRASS BAND PLAYING "HAIL TO THE CHIEF" ON A TUG ESCORTING MAHER INTO NEW YORK HARBOUR ON OCTOBER 7th

He quickly went to work JACK "Bubbles" Davis been defeated in 4 rounds in Philly and next up was Jim Daly, "Muldoon's unknown".

Daly was born in Philly in 1867 and was pretty successful in the area drawing with the likes of Jack Fallon and Denny Kelleher. He also held wins over good men like Bill Gabig, Tom Kelly, Mike Boden, Jack Stewart, Patsy and Larry Farrell.

Only the top notchers beat him such as Bob Fitz (1890) and Denver Ed Smith (also 1890, stopped by police). His only other defeat when he fought Maher was as a result of a broken arm versus Kelleher but Maher hammered him out of the ring for a 1st round ko.

Next up was the useful Jack Fallon.

Fallon held an admittedly dubious decision over Tom Lees, Jem Smith had also been defeated while George "the fighting marine" Lablanche and the afore-mentioned Jim Daly had been held even. After losing to Peter Jackson, the great coloured fighter took Fallon on as a sparring partner and he gained great experience on Peters European tour but it was to no avail as Maher marked his New York debut with a 2nd round ko.

Maher closed out 1891 with two one round ko's on the same date over two journeymen Jack Smith and Sailor Brown.

1892 started with a one round ko of another journeyman in Philadelphia, but some confusion abounds as to just who bit the dust Joe Godfrey (ring record books) or Fred Woods (Billy Edwards) and Peter was deemed ready for his big American test.

Bob Fitzsimmons was the opponent, himself on the way to the heavyweight title having annexed the middle title from another Irishman Jack Dempsey the previous year.

Purse for the fight was \$10,000 with the lions share of \$9,000 going to the victor.

Madden Jack Fallon and Gus Tuthill were in the Galwayman's corner as he rushed out in round one and nearly forced Fitz through the ropes. His success was to be short lived however as the six pounds lighter, at 170 lbs Cornish born Newzealander quickly turned the tables. A left hand counter flattened Maher and bloodied his lip but the see-saw battle continued in a tremendous opening round as an over confident Fitz was put to his knees by a desperate left an on rising caught a big right only to be saved by the bell while been pummelled on the ropes. Saved by the bell been the apt term as Joe Choynsky, seconding Fitz, managed to ring the bell early to save his fighter. Fitz made no more

PETER MAHER-- A REASSESSMENT

mistakes boxing at a distance, breaking Maher's nose in route to a 12th round win as Peter stayed on his stool

Mike Monaghan was the sacrificial lamb as Maher made a quick return with a one round knockout in Philadelphia later that same month. Next up was to be another big test with the opponent the outstanding Australian Joe Goddard.

Joe Goddard-the barrier champion

Born 1861

Ht. 6-0 wt. 187lbs

Wins over Joe Choynsky, Mike Dooley, Owen Sullivan, Joe Mc Auliffe, Jack Ashton, Australian Billy Smith and Joe Butler coupled with draws with Peter Jackson and Tom Lees marked Goddard out as one of the top men in the world along side Paddy Slavin, Fitz Jackson and Corbett, the champion.

Maher weighed in at 175lbs but rumours on a poor attitude to training persisted. His then manager Dave Holland was later quoted in "The Referee" Sydney as saying that his man was overawed by Goddard and quit near the end of the third round when caught with a good wallop. This bout at Coney AC netted the winner \$7500, the losers share \$1,000.

Strangely the bout was the last really good performance from The Barrier Champion while it seemed to signal a wake up call for Maher who suffered only one loss in 25 fights against the cream of heavies until Goddard did the trick again in 1898.

1893 saw a step back in class. Val Flood was dismissed in 4 rounds for \$1000

and Ike Hayes went in one. Then in San Francisco on 26th of September Tom

Johnson and Nick Burley both went in one.

The win over Burley looks better now with time, the middleweight going on to defeat Paddy Slavin, Fred Morris, Ike Hayes and Choynsky though the latter and Slavin were well past their sell by date. Draws with George Godfrey and Charlie

Strong would also be registered. When beaten by Maher he had just given Tom Sharkey a good go of it and was coming of a win over Frank Craig.

The year was rounded off with a four round draw with Big Joe McAuliffe.

Joe McAuliffe

Born 1864

Ht. 6-3 1/2 wt. 220

Winner over Paddy Ryan, Frank Glover, Tom Lees, Jim Daly, and Pat Killeen

1894 This good showing led to a match with the great coloured fighter George Godfrey.

George Godfrey-Old Chocolate

Born 1853

Ht. 5-12 1/4 wt. 176

Winner over Joe Lannon, Jack Ashton, Patsy Cardiff, Ed. Smith and just off a draw with Steve O'Donnell.

The bout was held at the Casino in Boston in front of 3000 spectators with the gate going to the winner. Peter's seconds for the fight were Jack McAuliffe, Billy Hennessy, and Jerry Marshall. The Boston Daily Globe recorded that Maher was much improved and in better condition than in some previous contests and flogged his older opponent in the 2nd before putting him down 3 times in the 6th to secure his win in a lively affair.

Another coloured fighter was next in line for the Irish champion.

Frank Craig -The Harlem Coffey Cooler

BORN 1870

Ht. 5-10 1/4 wt. 165

Winner over Fred Woods and Fred Morris

HEIGHT	5-11
WEIGHT	190
CHEST	40
CHEST(EXP)	42
WAIST	31
BICEPS	13
REACH	73
NECK	17
THIGH	23
CALF	16
WRIST	6 1/2
FOREARM	10 1/2

PETER MAHER-- A REASSESSMENT

The bout at the Music Hall, Boston resulted in a bizarre finish in round two when an uppercut to the neck pulverised the New Yorker who had had the best of the first round against the plainly out of condition Maher who looked to be 190 pounds despite having no less than 5 corner men, Billy Hennessy, Patsy Kerrigan, Sam Fitzpatrick, Frank Keaveney and Tom McMannus. 2500 people watched the fight including the great John L. Sullivan who was the first to congratulate the winner. Craig went on to gain much fame in England.

Joe Butler

Ht. 6-0 1/2 wt. 175

Winner over C.C. Smith, Ed. Binney, Frank Craig.

Billy Edwards "Legendary Boxers of the Golden Age" recounts his next victim as Joe Butler, yet another coloured boxer. Maher more than any other white fighter of the turn of the century can claim to have mixed with all the top Negroes. As well as his last two victims there was the bout with Jackson and later on he would cross gloves with C.C. Smith and George "Klondike" Haynes. Butler was well beaten over 4, possibly no decision rounds but went on to defeat such stars as Bob Armstrong, Henry Baker, Ed Dunkhorst, and Jack McCormick.

October saw two quick wins over Peter Courtney, in three rounds for the gate and then he made Courtney quit in two in a return. Courtney only claim to fame is as the opponent to Jim Corbett in the first filmed fight when Corbett disposed of the New Jerseyman in 6 rounds the previous month.

The next year 1895 saw our man under take a vaudeville tour before he saw his stock go down again as a result of his February clash in the Suffolk Athletic Club, Boston before 2,000 followers with the Australian Jim Hall.

Jim Hall

Born 1868

Ht. 6-0 1/2 wt. 170

Winner over Bob Fitz, Alec Greggains, Ted Pritchard and Paddy Slavin

This bout was arranged as a six round draw if both men were on their feet at the finish at best this led to a harmless exhibition with the only excitement a third round dropping of Hall. "The Boston Herald" on the next day declared it a fake and this charge was to be heard again in Maher's career.

Jerry Slattery who had the previous year won on a foul over C.C. Smith but had accomplished little else was taken care of in one in Baltimore while the same fate befell Bob Marshall at the Atlantic A.C. on Coney Island.

A RETURN TO IRELAND was the next move after a three round exhibition with the aging Dominick McCaffrey, an old opponent of John L. and James J. Corbett.

Some difficulty was encountered in getting the returned hero's manager, then J.J. Quinn of Philadelphia to allow him to box at all in Dublin as a "title" fight had been arranged with Steve O'Donnell on his return to America. However he finally agreed to let Peter Johnson 6 foot 2 inch Londoner of 25 years tackle his charge in an attempt to collect £25 for staying the distance of 4 rounds. A large crowd gathered at Tony Sages promotion in Leinster Hall. Maher's corner men Peter Lowrey and J. Taffe hardly earned their crust as Johnson was knocked cold in 25 seconds. The Irish press were greatly taken with the improvement shown by their champ since he left their shores remarking on his much improved ring general ship. Another exhibition was scheduled the following night with Dan Kenny but I have been unable to find any reference to it.

PETER MAHER-- A REASSESSMENT

George Shanky was dismissed in one in Pittsburg as you would expect of an unknown before Peter hooked up with the great Joe Choynski for one of his greatest wins.

Joe Choynski

Born 1868

Ht. 5-10 ½ wt. 167 lbs

Winner over Frank Glover, Billy Wilson, Mike Dooley, Owen Sullivan, Joe Godfrey, Jerry Slattery, George Godfrey, Billy Woods, C.C. Smith, Jack Fallon, Jim Hall and Joe McAuliffe (3 months before the Maher fight)

He would go on to beat men like Ed Smith, O'Donnell, Maher himself, Ed Dunkhurst, the great Jack Johnson and Frank Childs to name but a few, as well as holding Jeffries and McCoy even.

Maher was in good shape for this bout at 173 pounds at the Broadway A.C. New York. Seconded by Pete Burns, Peter Lowery and Jack Quinn the bout was scheduled for twenty but the Irish lad needed only two minutes five seconds of round six to knock the Californian senseless with a stupendous right. "The New York Clipper" November 21st stated "a more determined, earnest engagement of continuous fighting . . . has never been witnessed" and Maher "has improved in boxing ability since he was last seen in public here" "The Examiner", San Francisco said "Maher's gameness, which has always been questioned, will suffer no more, as he displayed the purest kind of grit" in turning around five rounds of been outfoxed to floor Joe three times in the final round. An interested spectator was President Roosevelt and he complimented both fighters on their condition and called the finishing punch the hardest he ever saw.

Next up (on Christmas Day, no less) was one Steve O'Donnell—remember him?

They weighed in fit and healthy Maher at 177 and his foe at 181 for their contest at The Greater New York A.C., Coney Island. The set-to was to be over twenty rounds but again Maher tore up the script dropping his nervous victim twice with powerful left-handers for a ninety second finish in front of 3,500 fight fans. Steve's chief second Billy Madden, his own former mentor, warmly congratulated him. On the afternoon Lowery, Quinn and Burns again did the honours for Peter.

A quick start to the 1897 saw the outclassed George Geis put away in three in Pittsburg before tangling with the useful Negro C.C. Smith in Buffalo on March 5th. (Some people record the date as 15th February but as that is the date of their 1898 bout I favour the March date)

C.C. Smith - The Black Thunderbolt

Ht. 6-0 wt. 220 lbs

Born unknown

Winner over Prof. Hadley, Jem Stewart, Jerry Slattery, Frank Craig, Steve Taylor, and Bob Gabig plus a draw with George Godfrey.

This was by all accounts a right good fight with the honours going to Maher over six rounds though some claims are made that it was a draw.

Maher was on a run now and what better way to extend it than meet his old foe again . . . you've guessed it, Steve O'Donnell.

The Quaker Club, Philadelphia was the venue and this time O'Donnell put up a sterner performance only after a near repeat of the first bouts when he bit the dust twice in the opener. He even managed to drop Maher in the third but paid for this in the sixth and final round when only the bell saved him from a

PETER MAHER-- A REASSESSMENT

certain ko after a hard right had put him down. No official decision was given but it was obvious who the victor was.

June 7th beckoned and on it the most riotest fight of Maher's career.

Tom Sharkey

Born 1873

Ht. 5-8 1/2 wt. 185 lbs

Winner over Nick Burley, Jim Williams, Australian Billy Smith and Bob Fitz (on a foul) Also a draw with Corbett and at this time he was unbeaten.

This battle of perhaps the two finest Irish big men of all time (with the possible exception of Jim Coffey) lived up to all expectations and more. Sharkey, like his opponent had won a very tenuous claim on the World title as his win over Fitz had been billed as for the crown. He battled hard against his compatriot and almost had him out in the sixth round battering Maher to the canvas. However the tide shifted dramatically in the seventh as Maher caught Sailor Tom with a magnificent shot. However if Peter Maher was one of the hardest hitters ever then the man he hit was one of the toughest hombres of them all as he jumped to his feet "like a maniac" wrote Corbett in the "Chicago Tribune" as recounted by Patrick Myler in his excellent book "The Fighting Irish". He was attacking Maher when the bell went and continued to do so hitting Choynski (his own corner man) and splitting one of Maher's men also. A rope had to be employed to calm the enraged sailor down and the police stopped the affair a draw been given as the decision, which should undoubtedly have been a disqualification win for the Galwegian.

No wonder a long break was taken before meeting up with Yank Kenney in 1898. Three years previous Kenney had beaten Gus Ruhfin in 16 rounds for his best ever win and was an imposing figure. The "Chicago Tribune" said that when at the Arena, Philadelphia "Kenny took off his bath robe and exposed his big bunches of muscle there were prolonged "O's" from all over the house. In ring costume he looked like a giant and Maher was somewhat dwarfed in comparison". The "O's" were soon for a different reason as Maher dropped Kenney three times in the opening two minutes, on the final occasion a terrific right hand sending the New Yorker under the bottom rope to be counted out by referee Schlichter.

C.C. Smith was trotted out in Philadelphia and this time succumbed in three rounds to be followed by old adversary Steve O'Donnell also in Philly. This time the persistent Aussie got through the first before the coup de grace was put on him in Round 2.

If Peter had the Indian sign on O'Donnell then Joe Goddard had the same on our man. Friday the 13th of May was the unlucky date as they resumed hostilities. The Arena, Philadelphia the venue, but this time figured to be different. Maher was on the crest of a wave while Joe was on a losing streak. Jeffries, Van Buskirk and Sharkey had all just beaten him while Peter Felix, Harry Laing and Denver Ed Smith had also overcome the one time contender since his first battle with Maher. The scheduled six rounder was over in one minute 42 seconds as the plainly out of condition Irishman was caught with a sort of pivot punch that knocked him cold and gave 60 percent of the gate to Goddard. Peter finally got revenge over Goddard at The Lennox Club, New York two months later with an 8 round ko but major damage had been done to his title aspirations. The last fight of 1898 saw Maher encounter one of the giants of the ring of his era, Ed Dunkhorst.

Ed Dunkhorst

Born 1893

Ht. 6-3 1/2 wt. 230 lbs

Winner over "Stockings" Conroy, C.C. Smith and drew with Bob Armstrong and Jim Hall.

PETER MAHER-- A REASSESSMENT

"The Human Stockcar" was one of the most imposing big men of that time but he was bested in six.

1899 was to be a very good year starting with a win over the tough Tom Conroy who carried the interesting nickname of "Stockings"! Conroy was a more than useful performer who had defeated O'Donnell (F 17) and drawn with Bob Armstrong and would go on to beat Armstrong and draw with Frank Childs. He finally went under after seven torrid rounds.

St. Patrick's Day saw Charlie Stevenson presented as a present to the Irishman, been put away in two in Philly. A more difficult opponent was on the way.

Gus Ruhlin

Born 1872

Ht. 6-1 ¾ wt. 190

Winner over O'Donnell, McCormick, Dunkhorst and in his fight before this Goddard.

This was one of the great fights of the time between two evenly matched contenders one on the up, the other fighting to stay in the top echelon and after twenty epic rounds the nine pounds lighter (190-181) Maher secured a well deserved draw. Mike Morrissey was dispatched in one in New York one of an impressive twenty one first round victims that would be amassed in Peters career total. Next up was to be another outstanding victory.

Joe Kennedy

Ht. 6-2 wt. 220 lbs

Winner over Jack Stelzner and just three months before this Maher fight he beat Gus Ruhlin over twenty.

This win in two stanzas put our man right back in the title shake up and Kennedy would advertise the form by drawing with top men Frank Childs and Hank Griffin inside the next year. Ed Dunkhorst had another go to round off the year and was summarily dispatched in the opener before his home crowd in Syracuse.

New Years Day 1900, the turn of the century was to see the fight that effectively remove Maher from championship contention-his opponent Charles

"Kid" McCoy

Born 1873

Ht. 5-11 wt 160

Winner over Creedon, Burley, Ruhlin, Goddard, Choynski, O'Donnell and McCormick.

The clubhouse at Coney Island was the venue and "The New York Tribune" summed up the contest as follows "Maher is a heavy hitter, but a deliberate thinker and slow in his movements. His footwork cannot be compared with that of his conqueror. Maher resembles many of the fighters of the old school, while McCoy is up to date." The Kid floored Maher for a count of two in the opener and again for four in the next but Peter fought gamely and had the best of the forth before McCoy knocked him cold in round five. Afterwards it was revealed that there were extenuating circumstances to explain Maher's defeat. Just prior to the start of the bout he had received a telegram informing him of the death of a family member back home in Ireland. This turned out to be a hoax perpetrated by the Kid who was never short of a trick.

Joe Choynski was not an easy choice as a comeback opponent when they clashed at the Second Regiment Armory in Chicago. Since their first clash Joe had defeated Ed Smith, Ed Donkhorst, Jack McCormick, Jim Hall and Steve O'Donnell and held Sharkey, Jeffries and McCoy even.

PETER MAHER-- A REASSESSMENT

This time Choynski fought clever and at a distance using his superior boxing skills and conditioning ("Maher blowed like a porpoise at the end of every round"-the Chicago Tribune) to fashion a win. He even resorted to dropping to the canvas in round two to avoid punishment and fully deserved referee Hogan's decision after six hard fought rounds. Choynski suffered a surprising defeat to welterweight Joe Walcott in his next fight but only because he fought with busted ribs, a legacy of the Maher fight. Interestingly this is the only one of Maher's 15 losses that went the distance!. Old foe Tom Conroy lost on a fifth round foul and an even older foe Steve O'Donnell was dispatched at the Broadway Club in, you've guessed it, one round. Time, this time, was one minute forty-eight seconds as referee Charlie White rescued the helpless Aussie after three knockdowns in the optimistically scheduled 25 rounder before a sparse attendance. Maher continued his recuperation with another tough opponent.

"Klondike" Haynes

Ht. 6-0 wt. 210 lbs

Winner over Childs, Henry Baker, Ed Martin, the great Jack Johnson and Joe Goddard. He was fresh after a draw with Johnson in their second clash.

The Negro was one of the most formidable of all fighters at the time and our mans five round victory at Trenton was one of his best ever performances. He followed it up with another accomplished win over Jim Jeffords in two. It was Jim who wrote finis to Peter Jackson's career with a 4 round ko in 1899 and who would go on to best Gardner and Ruhlin in no decision affairs.

Gus Ruhlin again in a six round no decision affair at the Penn Arts Club was next with honours even. A crowd of 4,500 paid in giving both men over \$3,000, Peter Lowery and Spike Sullivan seconding Maher with Tom Sharkey holding his ice pack.

1901 was a quite year, just two bouts both with Jeffords. The first was a 6 round no decision affair while in the other Jeffords again went in round two as t he went toe to toe with Maher at the Eureka Club, Baltimore and lost. The first round was even and in a wildly exciting second first the bigger Jeffords then Maher hit the deck before two vicious rights one to the body, one to the chin ko'ed Jim in one minute four seconds.

1902 was the beginning of the end ,starting with an ignominious no contest against Tom Sharkey both been thrown out in the third for not trying. Also at this time reference was made to the two been arrested prior to the "fight." This was followed up by a crazy decision to tackle Gus Ruhlin again. Crazy because Peter was just marking time as The National Sporting Club, London had requested his services for the coronation tourney, in which he was to tackle Sharkey for the Heavyweight championship of Ireland. Maher never dreamed of defeat and as was quiet usual entered the ring "soft" around the middle. After a titanic struggle Ruhlin emerged as the winner flooring his opponent twice in the second, the last time with a blow to the affore-mentioned "soft" stomach.

Tough Fred Russell followed in a no decision fight and then a ko in one over Jim Jeffords. Two more no decision contests were entered into with Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, soon to be World Lighthheavy champ. By all accounts these set to' were pretty even O'Brien hitting the deck in the second affair at the Penn club.

Three ko defeats followed to useful middle Kid Carter, Joe Choynski and fellow Irishman George Gardner, also on his way to the lightweight title. Only a bizarre foul victory over oft beaten Joe Grim 'at the Industrial Hall, Philly brought any respite. Maher's next fight was clouded in controversy. Jack Munroe, 5-11 1/2 ,208 pound miner on his way to a title clash with Jeffries was the opponent and he duly beat the way past it Irishman who succumbed to a forth round onslaught. However "The Police Gazette" had no doubt that when Maher flattened Monroe in the first round he could have pressed home his advantage and won easily and declared the fight to be a "fake".

1904 saw a win over Jim Jeffords and a six round no decision hammering of poor Joe Grim that "would have killed an ox" followed up by three fights with Jack Williams, two of them lost by early knockouts and another early exit to Fred Cooley. 1905 saw Maher's last victory a ko win over old adversary Joe Butler. I can find no record of any contest for 1906 but "The Boston Globe" April 27th states that the "foul blow that Peter Maher received in a fight last week has proved more serious than at first supposed". 1907 saw an April Fools Day loss to former World champion the underrated Marvin Hart while in his last fight in 1908 he lost in two to Kid McCoy. Maher worked in the famed Jack Skelly's bar in New York and later as a night watchman before he passed away in Baltimore in 1940.

So how do we rate Peter Maher?

I think his record and longevity puts him above other big hitters like Curtis Sheppard, Bob Satterfield, Jeff Merritt even Ernie Shavers. He fought 41 times against the top thirtyfive fighters (1890-1905) covering the three decades he operated in, losing only thirteen times, seven of these after 1901 when he was just marking time. It can easily be argued that he was better than Sharkey, Choynski, Ruhlin, Godfrey, Slavin, Klondike, Smith and his form against O'Brien and Jeffords puts him nicely up there with the 1900-1910 guys. As can be seen from a chart below of Mike Paul's outstanding work of retrospective computer ratings based on actual results he remained in the top ten for almost ten years.

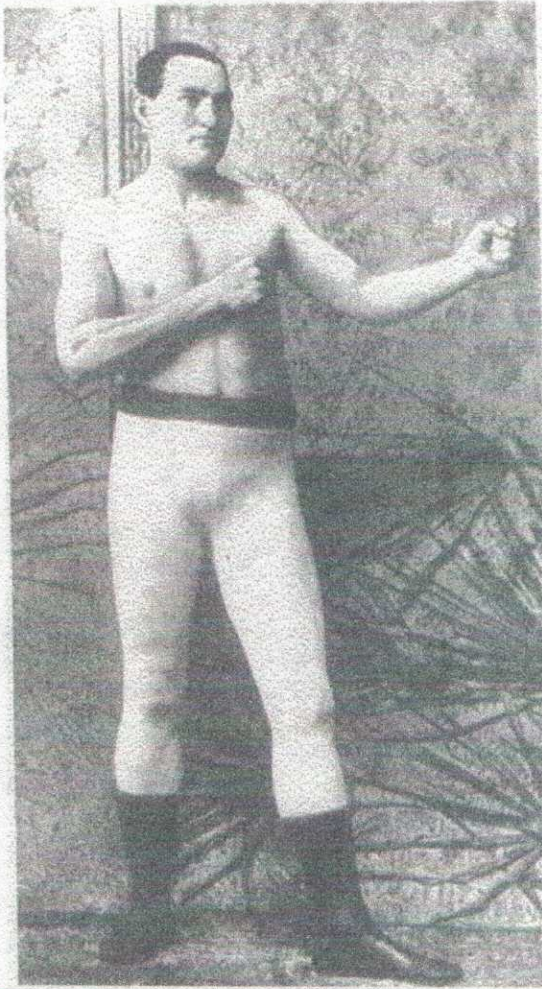
1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
CORBETT	MAHER	MAHER	MAHER	JEFFRIES
ED SMITH	JACKSON	ARMSTRONG	FITZ	SHARKEY
FITZ	ARMSTRONG	SHARKEY	SHARKEY	MAHER
MAHER	ED SMITH	CORBETT	DOOLEY	MC COY
DOBBS	HALL	FITZ	CHOYNSKI	RYAN
CHOYNSKI	FELIX	FELIX	CORBETT	RUHLIN
WATSON	GALLAGHER	GODDARD	RUHLIN	CHOYNSKI
GODDARD	HILL	MC WINTERS	JEFFRIES	CORBETT
ARMSTRONG	RYAN	JEFFRIES	WILLIAMS	CHILDS
LAING	W. JOHNSON	CREEDON	MC COY	FELIX

1899	1900	1901	1902
JEFFRIES	JEFFRIES	JEFFRIES	JEFFRIES
SHARKEY	FITZ	ROOT	RUHLIN
MAHER	RUHLIN	MC COY	FITZ
RUHLIN	ROOT	MAHER	RYAN
MC COY	MC COY	RUHLIN	ROOT
RYAN	MAHER	GARDNER	GARDNER
FITZ	CORBETT	DOOLEY	J. JOHNSON
CHOYNSKI	WALCOTT	CHILDS	DOHERTY
DOOLEY	RYAN	RYAN	O, BRIEN
FINNEGAN	CHOYNSKI	CHOYNSKI	MC COY

several at number one. So to conclude I rate Maher as one of the greatest never to win the crown and at 175 pounds, how about a dream bout with Bob Foster?. Don't blink!!

TOP 35 FIGHTERS 1890--1905		MAHER RECORD AGAINST		
		W	L	D/N D/ NC
1	JEFFRIES	-	-	-
2	FITZ	0	2	0
3	JACKSON	0	1	0
4	CORBETT	-	-	-
5	SHARKEY	0	0	2
6	<u>MAHER</u>	NOT APPLICABLE		
7	HART	0	1	0
8	GODDARD	1	1	0
9	RUHLIN	1	1	2
10	SLAVIN	-1	0	0
11	CHOYNSKI	1	2	0
12	MC COY	0	2	0
13	MARTIN	-	-	-
14	CHILDS	-	-	-
15	O'BRIEN	0	0	2
16	GODFREY	1	0	0
17	MC AULIFFE	0	0	1
18	KLONDIKE	1	0	0
19	ARMSTRONG	-	-	-
20	GARDNER	0	1	0
21	ROOT	-	-	-
22	SCHRECK	-	-	-
23	ED SMITH	-	-	-
24	HALL	0	0	1
25	C.C. SMITH	2	0	0
26	O'DONNELL	5	0	0
27	FERGUSON	-	-	-
28	GRIFFIN	-	-	-
29	MONROE	0	1	0
30	KENNEDY	1	0	0
31	BUTLER	0	0	2
32	CARTER	0	1	0
33	DUNKHORST	2	0	0
34	CONROY	2	0	0
35	MC CORMICK	-	-	-
TOTALS		18	13	10

PETER MAHER-- A REASSESSMENT



SOURCES

**MIKE PAUL-RATINGS AND
CUTTINGS**

**TRACY CALLIS- RECORDS
RING RECORD BOOK**

"THE FIGHTING IRISH" P. MYLER

THE CYBER BOXING ZONE

**BILLY EDWARDS "GALLERY OF
CHAMPIONS"**

NEWSPAPERS;

NEW YORK CLIPPER

NEW YORK WORLD

NEW YORK TRIBUNE

POLICE GAZETTE

THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

THE BOSTON HERALD

THE BOSTON GLOBE

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

THE PHILADELPHIA RECORD

THE LOS ANGELES DAILY TIMES

THE REFEREE, SYDNEY (AUSTRALIA)

THE FREEMANS JOURNAL, DUBLIN

STEVE

O'DONNELL

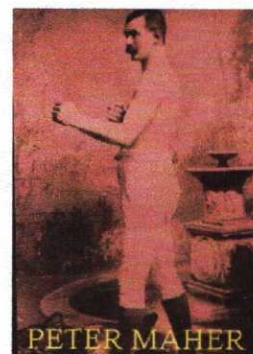
FIVE TIME LOSER TO

MAHER.

**PETER MAHER - A
REASSESSMENT
BY MATT DONNELL**

BORN: March 16, 1896; Gunnode Tuam, Galway, Ireland
Died: July 22, 1940, Baltimore, MD.

After his long career, Maher worked as a night watchman
New York.



in

PRO RECORD

Fights	Won	Lost	Draw	ND/EX	NC	KO/TKO
90	57	16	4	12	1	41

1888

---	J.E. SULLIVAN	DUBLIN	KO 1	AMATEUR
---	MARTIN O'HARA	DUBLIN	KO 2	AMATEUR
---	ROBERT HAIR	LONDON	L 4	AMATEUR ENG. AM.CHAMP 87/88
---	TIM O'DOHERTY	DUBLIN	W 3	PRO DEBUT-POLICE STOPPED
27 AUG	JOHN SEENAN	DUBLIN	KO 5	IRE.MIDDLE CSHIP £20 ROTONDA
---	JACK WALLIS	DUBLIN	W 3	J.L.SULLIVAN TOURNEY
---	TOM WATERS	DUBLIN	W 3	J.L.SULLIVAN TOURNEY
---	LARRY DREW	DUBLIN	W 3	J.L.SULLIVAN TOURNEY

1889

24 DEC PETER JACKSON DUBLIN LRET 2 LEINSTER HALL

1890

27 AUG ALF BOWMAN DUBLIN KO 6 £50 ENG.AM HT.CHAMP' 89.165-156

1891

7 FEB	GUS LAMBERT	LONDON	KO 1	PELICAN CLUB
21 OCT	BUBBLES DAVIS	PHILADELPHIA	W 4	ARIEL DAVIS DOWN AT FINAL BELL
23 OCT	JIM DALY	PHILADELPHIA	KO 1	ARIEL CLUB.2min48sec SCH.3 RDS
31 OCT	JACK FALLON	NEW YORK	KO 2	NIBLO CLUB .CROWD INTERFERED
? NOV	JIM DOLAN	PROVIDENCE	SCH	AC OLNEYVILLE \$1000-RESULT ???
17 NOV	TOM LYNCH	BUFFALO	KO 2	
17 DEC	JACK SMITH	NEW YORK	KO 1	BILLED EX ENG AM HEAVY.38sec
17 DEC	SAILOR BROWN	NEW YORK	KO 1	SAME DATE.DOWN 3 TIMES.92sec

1892

16 JAN	JOE GODFREY	PHILADELPHIA	KO 1	(OR FRED WOODS ?)
2 MAR	BOB FITZSIMMONS	N'ORLEAN	LKO 12	OLYMPIC CLUB 176-170
21 MAR	MIKE MONOHAN	PHILADELPHIA	KO 1	
8 DEC	JOE GODDARD	BROOKLYN	KO 3	CONEY, IS £5000 175-187

1893

26 JUN	VAL FLOOD	INDIANA	KO 4	ROBY £1000-200
7 AUG	IKE HAYES	MONTANA	KO 1	HELENA
26 AUG	TOM JOHNSON	S'FRANCIS	KO 1	
26 AUG	NICK BURLEY	S'FRANCIS	KO 1	SAME DATE AS ABOVE
7 OCT	JOE MC AULIFFE	S'FRANCIS	D 4	

1894

?	TOM LYNCH	BUFFALO	KO4	
28 MAR	GEORGE GODFREY	BOSTON	KO 6	GATE CASINO
16 JULY	FRANK CRAIG	BOSTON	KO 2	GATE MUSIC HALL
5 OCT	PETER COURTNEY	HOBOKEN	W 3	GATE
27 OCT	PETER COURTNEY	PHILADELPHIA	W 2	QUIT

1895

---	GUS RUHLIN	AKRON	W 3	PROBABLY EARLY 95
22 FEB	JIM HALL	BOSTON	D 6	SUFFLOLK A.C.
10 MAY	JERRY SLATTERY	BALTIMORE	KO 1	
20 MAY	BOB MARSHALL	BROOKLYN	KO 1	CONEY, IS
15 JUNE	DOMINICK MC CAFFREY	LONG ISLAND	ND 3	
16 AUG	PETER JOHNSON	DUBLIN	KO 1	6-2 LONDONER
26 AUG	PATSY GREGSON	GLASGLOW	KO 4	SCOTLAND
11 NOV	STEVE O'DONNELL	MASPETH	KO 1	EMPIRE AC; 63 SEC.

(Promoted World Heavyweight Championship Fight as Corbett said he would award title to winner)

28 DEC	BILLY WOODS	NEW YORK	ND 4	BENEFIT MADISON SQ.GARD
28 DEC	PETE BURNS	NEW YORK	ND 4	SEE ABOVE

1896

21 FEB	BOB FITZSIMMONS	Mexico	LK 1	\$10000 SIDE BET 173-163
--------	-----------------	--------	------	--------------------------

(Promoted as World Heavyweight Championship Fight)

29 FEB	BOB FITZSIMMONS	NEW YORK	ND 3	SPARRED FOR CAMERA
18 JUNE	FRANK SLAVIN	NEW YORK	WT 4	POLICE SAVED SLAVIN
3 JULY	GEORGE SHANKY	PITTSBURGH	KO 1	
16 NOV	JOE CHOYNSKI	NEW YORK	KO 6	BROADWAY AC
25 DEC	STEVE O'DONNELL	CONEY ISLAND	KO 1	NY AC 177-181 90 SEC

1897

2 JAN	GEORGE GEIS	PITTSBURGH	W 3	
15 FEB	C C SMITH	BUFFALO	W 6	
26 APR	STEVE O'DONNELL	PHILADELPHIA	W 6	QUAKER CITY AC
9 JUNE	TOM SHARKEY	NEW YORK	D 7	TOM LUCKY NOT DISQ

1898

21 JAN	YANK KENNEY	PHILADELPHIA	KO 1	THE ARENA
15 FEB	C C SMITH	PHILADELPHIA	KO 3	
16 MAR	STEVE O'DONNELL	PHILADELPHIA	KO 2	THE ARENA, OD DOWN 6 TIMES, PM 1
13 MAY	JOE GODDARD	CONEY IS.	LKO 1	THE ARENA
8 JULY	JOE GODDARD	NEW YORK	W	LENOX AC
9 DEC	ED DUNKHORST	PHILADELPHIA	ND 6	MAHER WON

1899

15 FEB	STOCKINGS CONROY	HARTFORD	KO 7	
17 MAR	CHARLIE STEVENSON	PHILADELPHIA	KO 2	
2 MAY	GUS RUHLIN	NEW YORK	D 20	181-190
20 JUNE	MIKE MORRISSEY	NEW YORK	KO 1	
25 SEPT	JOE KENNEDY	NEW YORK	KO 2	
23 OCT	ED DUNKHORST	SYRACUSE	KO 1	

1900

1 JAN	KID MC COY	CONEY IS.	LKO 5	
16 FEB	JOE CHOYNSKI	CHICAGO	L 6	2 ND REGIMENT ARMORY
9 MAR	TOM CONROY	YOUNGSTOWN	WF 5	
6 JULY	STEVE O'DONNELL	NEW YORK	KO 1	
20 AUG	GEORGE HAINES	TRENTON	WF 5	
14 SEPT	JIM JEFFORDS	PHILADELPHIA	KO 2	
17 DEC	GUS RUHLIN	PHILADELPHIA	ND 6	DRAW PENN CLUB

1901

3 OCT	JIM JEFFORDS	LANCASTER, PA	ND 6	
8 OCT	JIM JEFFORDS	BALTIMORE	KO 2	EUREKA CLUB

1902

17 JAN	TOM SHARKEY	PHILADELPHIA	NC 3	NOT TRYING.
21 MAR	GUS RUHLIN	PHILADELPHIA	LKO 2	INDUSTRIAL HALL
10 JUNE	FRED RUSSELL	PHILADELPHIA	ND 6	
11 SEPT	JIM JEFFORDS	PHILADELPHIA	KO 1	
3 OCT	PHIL. JACK O'BRIEN	PHILADELPHIA	ND 6	
30 OCT	PHIL. JACK O'BRIEN	PHILADELPHIA	ND 6	DRAW O'BRIEN DOWN PENN CLUB
3 DEC	KID CARTER	PHILADELPHIA	LKO 2	

1903

26 JAN	JOE CHOYNSKI	PHILADELPHIA	LK 2	
6 APR	GEORGE GARDNER	BOSTON	LK 1	
15 JULY	JOE GRIM	PHILADELPHIA	WF 3	ACCID. FOUL INDUSTRIAL HALL
7 NOV	JACK MONROE	PHILADELPHIA	LK 4	

1904

30 APR	JIM JEFFORDS	PHILADELPHIA	KO 2	NATIONAL AC - FAKE?
7 MAY	JOE GRIM	PHILADELPHIA	ND 6	MAHER WON
24 JUNE	JACK WILLIAMS	PHILADELPHIA	LK 1	
14 JULY	JACK WILLIAMS	PHILADELPHIA	LK 2	
11 AUG	JACK WILLIAMS	PHILADELPHIA	ND 6	
27 OCT	FRED COOLEY	PHILADELPHIA	LK 1	

1905

27 APR	JOE BUTLER	PHILADELPHIA	KO 1	
--------	------------	--------------	------	--

1907

1 APR	MARVIN HART	HOT SPRINGS	LKO 2	
-------	-------------	-------------	-------	--

1908

25 JULY	KID MCCOY	NEW YORK	LK 2	
---------	-----------	----------	------	--

Date?	Harvey de Cross		W	Irish heavy title 1890?
-------	-----------------	--	---	-------------------------

The tragedy of Rex Layne

Three years ago Rex Layne was the hottest contender in sight for the heavyweight title, a 17-10 favorite over Rocky Marciano. But by the time his manager found out he didn't know his business, it was too late

By Edward Linn

When Rex Layne met Rocky Marciano three years ago-July 12,1951-the fight was billed as a head-on collision between the two best young heavyweight prospects in, the country. As a matter of fact, if one of the fighter's prospects looked brighter than the other's, then that fighter the baby-faced, curly-haired Layne. He went into the engagement as a 17-10 favorite.

It was Marciano, the underdog, who stood, over Layne that night, the road to the championship opening up before him. Before Layne, there was only the long, blood-spattered road, the other side of the mountain.

And yet, Layne's potential was so great there at the beginning, you can't help but be left with the feeling that if he could go back and do it all over again - not back to 1951, but back to 1950, to 1949, he, and not Marciano, might have ended up the heavyweight champion of the world.

You can't go home again, of course, but the temptation to push the comparison between Marciano and Layne is almost impossible to resist. Rarely have two fighters been so strikingly similar in so many ways.

Both were short-armed, heavy-legged sluggers. Both fought with a happy - if awkward -zest. Both seemed to disdain defense for a boring, bombing attack which featured an explosive right. Both had unlimited determination and the ability to take the best their opponent could throw at them and keep pressing in.

There was much about the similarity, however, that turned out to be more obvious than real. Whereas Marciano's clever little trainer, Charlie Goldman, had incorporated Rocky's awkwardness into a rolling, bobbing crouch, Layne just walked in with the unblinking, unthinking courage of a burglar with a gun in each hand. It didn't take him long to discover that the man didn't live who could shoot it out with Marciano. Rocky lashed him with right hooks and ripped him with right uppercuts. In the second round, an old gash was opened above Layne's left eye, in the third a right to the jaw knocked out an eyetooth, in the fourth he was knocked to one knee. In the sixth, a looping right to the blood-smearred left temple pitched the Utah ploughboy forward on his face. Conscious but paralyzed, he curled up onto his right side and was counted out. Guts and a right hand had taken him as far as they could. For while guts can occasionally lift a man off the floor to pull out a fight, that doesn't really happen too often. In the long run, as Rex was beginning to find out, it only lifts him back into a few more rounds of battering and bleeding. Once you get into the top echelon, fights are won by something which is probably best described as craftsmanship.

The tragedy of Rex Layne is that by the time his manager realized that he didn't know his trade, it was too late in the day to teach him. A secondary tragedy is that Marv Jenson, the thin, handsome West Coast mink rancher who managed Layne into obscurity, is one of the nicer guys in the business. An unfailingly amiable man is openly friendly - as only small town Westerners can be. Jenson's popularity extends beyond the boxing world. Pressed to stand for office, he was overwhelmingly elected mayor of West Jordan, Utah (pop. 2,200). His first civic action, characteristically, was to build a model 20 acre playground for the kids of his and the surrounding communities.

To bitch it up, completely, Al Weill, the far-from-thin, far-from-handsome Eighth Avenue cauliflower rancher who managed Marciano into the championship, is unless new evidence is uncovered the least likely candidate for a brotherhood award upon the face of the globe. Even his best friends (his best what?) are inclined to hate him.

So, Marciano has been the best managed fighter of our time, and Layne the worst. These are hard days for us moralists.

Jenson, a retired fighter, met Layne while training. High school kids around Salt Lake City. But in those days, the farmboy from Lewiston never bothered with managers or trainers. It was only after he had won the 1949 AAU heavyweight championship and was being besieged by big name managers that he sought out Jenson and asked him to take him over. "All those other guys were telling me what they could do for me," Layne says in a drawl so soft that you

