

BIRTHDAY



Wednesday, March 22, 2023



Ludington Daily News

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SERVING MASON COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREA SINCE 1967

Ludington Chronicle

THE LUDINGTON DAILY

CITY OF FLINT AGROUND IN FREIGHTER IS WRECKED

HURRICANE WREAKS HEAVY DAMAGE HERE

BULLETIN LOWER LAKER IS WRECKED DURING STORM

Local reaction; shock, sorrow

CAR AT L



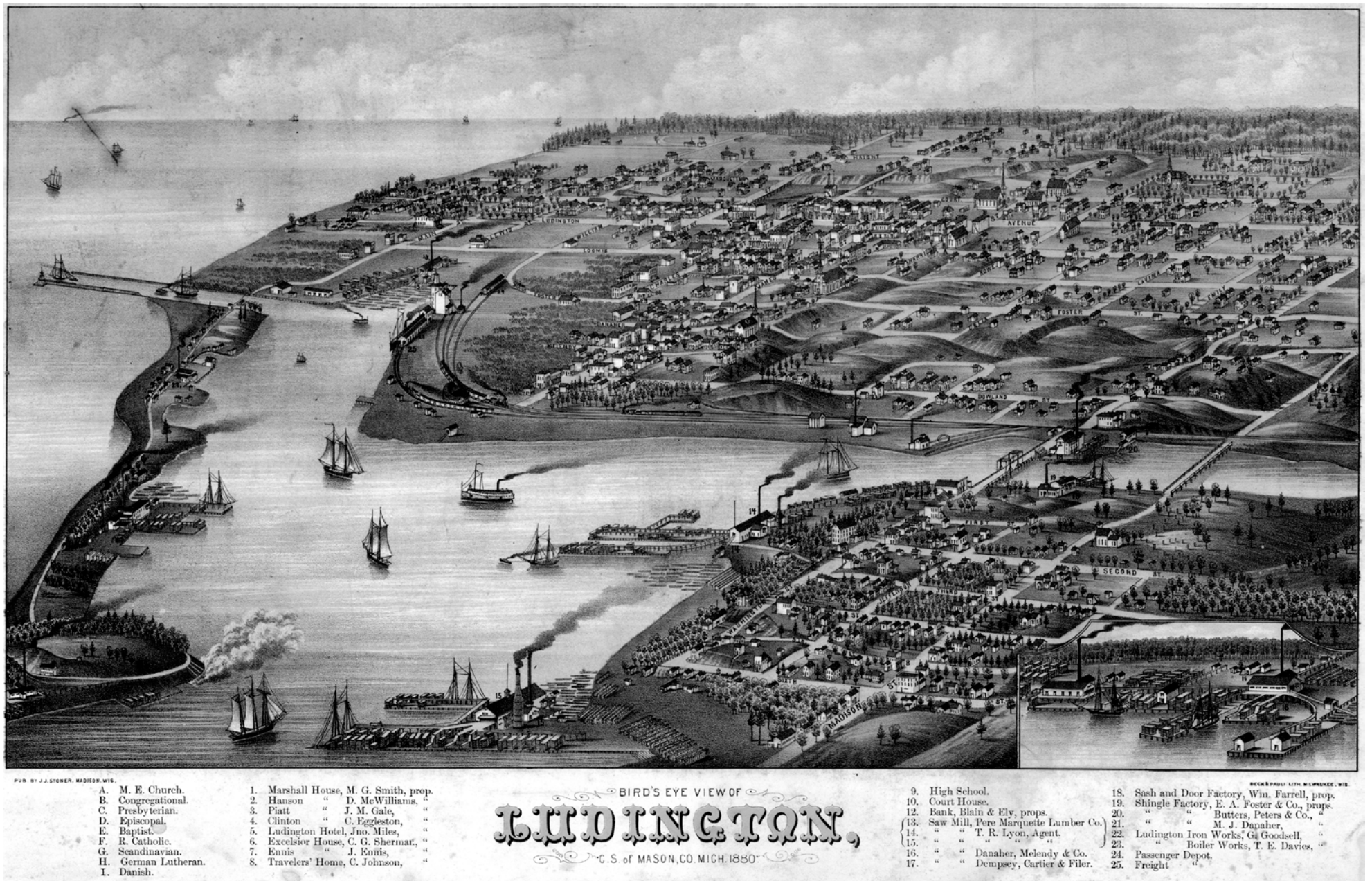
Happy 150th Birthday Ludington!

It has been a pleasure to serve the community over the years. Here's to many more to come!



From Tree to You ...

MADE IN LUDINGTON, MICHIGAN



FOR BY J.J. STORER, MADISON, WIS.
 1. Marshall House, M. G. Smith, prop.
 2. Hanson " D. McWilliams, "
 3. Platt " J. M. Gale, "
 4. Clinton " C. Eggleston, "
 5. Ludington Hotel, Jno. Miles, "
 6. Excelsior House, C. G. Sherman, "
 7. Emis " J. Emis, "
 8. Travelers' Home, C. Johnson, "
 A. M. E. Church.
 B. Congregational.
 C. Presbyterian.
 D. Episcopal.
 E. Baptist.
 F. R. Catholic.
 G. Scandinavian.
 H. German Lutheran.
 I. Danish.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF
LUDINGTON,
 C.S. OF MASON, CO. MICH. 1880

9. High School.
 10. Court House.
 11. Bank, Bain & Ely, props.
 12. Saw Mill, Pere Marquette Lumber Co.
 13. " " T. R. Lyon, Agent.
 14. " " " "
 15. " " Danaber, Melendy & Co.
 16. " " Dempsey, Cartier & Filer.
 17. " " " "
 18. Sash and Door Factory, Wm. Farrell, prop.
 19. Shingle Factory, E. A. Foster & Co., prop.
 20. " " Butters, Peters & Co., "
 21. " " M. J. Danaber, "
 22. Ludington Iron Works, G. Goodsell, "
 23. " " Boiler Works, T. E. Davies, "
 24. Passenger Depot.
 25. Freight.

CLARKE HISTORICAL LIBRARY | COURTESY IMAGE

Ludington: 150 years of progress

150 years of change in a town and in the lifestyles of its people

One hundred fifty years is a long, long time. No sesquicentennial edition could ever convey all of the important hap-

penings which have transpired through Ludington's first 150 years. But what this edition can — and we of the Daily News believe

does — convey is a strong sense of what life was like in Ludington — especially for her people — during those first 150 years. We

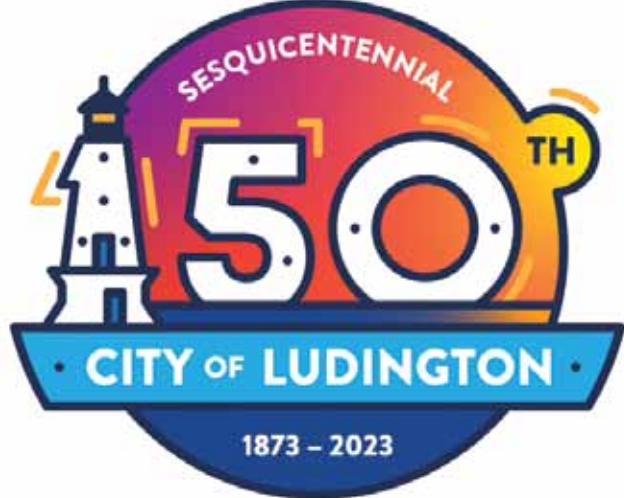
of the Daily News believe this edition can give an added perspective of Ludington's past, capable of changing your outlook on

Ludington today as well as on Ludington tomorrow, and tomorrow and tomorrow...

LUDINGTON'S ORIGINAL AND PRESENT OFFICIALS

These are the men who served as Ludington's first elected officials when the city was incorporated 150 years ago:

- Mayor — Charles Resseguie
- Recorder — William Kenfield
- Treasurer — S.D. Haight
- City attorney — E. Nelson Fitch
- Aldermen — First Ward: George Tripp and Pete Anderson; Second Ward: Fayette Johnson and L.T. Southworth; Third Ward: Robert Davidson and William Tolles; Fourth Ward: Dennis Carroll and James Crowley.
- The city had 1,482 acres of land, two churches (Methodist and Catholic), a high school and two elementary schools, six hotels, seven steam saw mills and a population of 3,000.
- Today, our city officials are:
- Mayor — Mark Barnett
- Clerk — Deb Luskin
- Treasurer — Virginia Didur
- City Manager — Mitch Foster
- City Attorney — Ross Hammersley
- Police Chief — Christopher Jones
- Fire Chief — John Henderson
- Assessor — Dan Kirwin
- City Councilors — At-Large: John Terzano; First Ward: Ted May; Second Ward: Kathy Winczewski; Third Ward: Les Johnson; Fourth Ward: Cheri Stibitz; Fifth Ward: Wally Cain; Sixth Ward: Jack Bulger.
- Department heads — Building: Shaun Reed, building inspector; Cartier Park Campground: Russell Soper, park manager; Public Works: Joe Stickney, supervisor; Community Development: Heather Tykoski, director; Municipal Marina: Jim Christensen, marina manager; Recreation (at Ludington Area Schools): Brent Gillett, director; Ludington Area Senior Center: Vickie Collins, director; Wasterwater Treatment Plant: Chris Cossette, superintendent; Water Treatment Plant: Jamie Hockemeyer, superintendent.
- The city now comprises more than 2,307 acres and a population of 7,655.



SESQUICENTENNIAL EDITION

Ludington has grown noticeably over the past 150 years. It has grown in population, in prosperity and in industry. The city has become a health center because of the hospital, clinics and medical services available. Our schools are most representative. West Shore Community College — itself more than 50 years now — provides higher education to those who pursue it.

During the past 150 years, the automobile, the airplane, cell and smartphones, radio, television and social media have added to the joys and problems of human existence. Men have explored space and walked on the moon. Looking through the images of the past 150 years here captures the progress made here and in life in general.

Considering the changes in the city and well beyond, it is difficult to believe that the next 150 years will show advances to compare with the 150 years that have ended in Ludington's sesquicentennial.

Reviewing the volumes of material in the Centennial Edition of the Daily News to commemorate the city's founding, words were written about the use of solar power to contribute to the power grid. They didn't foresee the wind turbines that dot our landscape southwest of the city, with the flashing red lights at night. Plus, there were phrases about the elimination of pollution and smog, and we all know those things continue on as we continue to learn about different chemicals and more.

There were hopes of the elimination of disease in 1973 — and as we all know all too well that didn't exactly happen. And, while world peace is something that is admirable to strive for, there almost always will be conflicts within the world, and obviously the differences are very much still evident within our own society as we debate the issues of the day.

And yet, we always hope the world will become a better place in which to live.

Today's sesquicentennial edition is a review of the many events both that were one-time instances that shaped our city and our lives but also the gradual progress of how City of Ludington became what it is today.

We will continue to strive to live up what we stated 50 years ago, "We hope this newspaper will be able to do an even better job of reporting local progress in the years to come."

THOSE WHO SERVED AS MAYOR

LUDINGTON'S MAYORS SINCE ITS FOUNDING

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 1873 — Charles E. Resseguie | 1889 — Harry A. Scott | 1902 — Bennett Goodsell | 1922 — H.M. Hallett | Vacancy) | 1984 — James Braden |
| 1874 — Patrick M. Danaher | 1890 — Thomas Percy | 1903 — W.A. Cartier | 1924 — C.C. Caswell | 1940 — Edw. Thompson | 1986 — Dean Anderson |
| 1876 — Delos L. Filer | 1891 — Fred F. Gary | 1904 — Frank W. Graham | 1930 — K.L. Ashbacker | 1942 — A.W. Hamel | 1990 — Jack Scott |
| 1877 — Charles E. Resseguie | 1892 — Lucius K. Baker | 1908 — Charles Cartier | 1932 — Wm. McGuire (Died) | 1950 — H.F. King | 1998 — Carol Pomorski |
| 1879 — Bennett J. Goodsell | 1893 — George Goodsell | 1910 — Wm. Rath | 1932 — Enoch Anderson (Filled Vacancy) | 1952 — Dan R. Rathsack | 2002 — John Henderson |
| 1880 — Antoine E. Cartier | 1895 — Fred J. Dowland | 1911 — Joseph Zief | 1934 — Enoch Anderson (Died) | 1962 — C. Evert Johnson | 2014 — Ryan Cox (Resigned) |
| 1882 — George N. Stray | 1897 — App M. Smith | 1913 — Elbert C. Hardy | 1937 — M.F. Zywicki (Filled Vacancy) | 1966 — Wm. A. Jafsen | 2016 — Kaye Holeman (Filled vacancy) |
| 1883 — George Goodsell | 1898 — Thomas Percy | 1914 — A.A. Keiser (Resigned) | 1938 — Charles Grotemat (Died) | 1968 — Robert E. Overhold | 2019 — Steve Miller |
| 1885 — Robert Caswell | 1899 — W. A. Cartier | 1917 — Peter Madison (Filled Vacancy) | 1939 — Edw. Thompson (Filled Vacancy) | 1970 — David Fisher | 2023 — Mark Barnett |
| 1887 — A. E. Smith | 1900 — Bennett J. Goodsell | 1918 — Peter Madison | | 1974 — Shirley G. Myers | |
| 1888 — James E. Danaher | 1901 — M.B. Danaher | | | 1976 — 1984 Norman Schade | |

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The man for whom our city was named

BY PAUL S. PETERSON
LUDINGTON DAILY NEWS

Who was this man James Ludington?

A city has been named for him, yet there was a heated campaign to change the name. Historians can trace his family tree to the Twelfth Century and the Third Crusade, but local chroniclers can't find so much as an anecdote to tell about his life in the town that bears his name. He gave a \$450 organ to the city's first Sunday school, but reneged on a pledge to donate \$2,500 for its first library.

He was a man of tremendous financial success and shrewd business skills, he was a bachelor, a politician and a city planner. Yet he remained well in the background, delegating considerable authority to a tight-knit group of business associates who literally ran the town.

When he died at the age of 64 in 1891, James Ludington had built a lumber empire in two states, engineered the development of two towns and amassed a personal fortune that was estimated to be over a million dollars.

But fortune and fame were not new to the Ludington family.

According to an English historian, a Ludington accompanied King Richard I on the Third Crusade in 1189. After that adventure, Richard wound up in a prison in Austria where Ludington devised a plan to help the monarch escape. Because of his loyal exploits, Ludington was invested with a patent of nobility and a coat-of-arms, thereafter born by the Ludington family.

The Ludingtons arrived in America in the mid-Eighteenth Century, settling in Kent, New York. James Ludington's father, Lewis, was born there in 1786 and ran a general store for some time in that city. In 1838, 11 years after James Ludington was born, Lewis Ludington purchased a large tract of pine forest in Wisconsin and moved there, setting up lumber camps and saw mills. Five years later he founded the town of Columbia, Wis.

James Ludington managed his father's store in Kent until 1845 when he moved to Wisconsin where he helped run Ludington Co., a business that dealt primarily with the cutting and shipping of lumber. From that time on, Wisconsin was James Ludington's home, occupying elegant bachelor apartments in an exclusive Milwaukee hotel.

But Ludington was kept very busy, managing his father's interests throughout Wisconsin, laying out the village of Columbia and finding time to win election twice as an alderman in Milwaukee.

It was in the fall of 1854 that Ludington entered into a business deal that put him on the scene here for the first time. On Oct. 11 of that year, he and his attorney Col. John Mason Loomis of Chicago entered into a contract with John W. Ford of Pere Marquette village eventually was to net Ludington his first lumber mill in Mason County.

Ford had arrived here about five years earlier and purchased the old, rustic mill that had been started by Baird and Bean. Under the terms of the contract, Ludington was to "furnish John W. Ford from time to time with means and supplies sufficient to stock and keep stocked his mill known as Pere Marquette Mill, situated on the Pere Marquette River, Mason County, Michigan."

The contract also provided that "the amount so furnished shall not at any one time exceed the sum of Six Thousand Dollars" and that the arrangement would last for a period of five years.



In 1868, Capt. Eber B. Ward (seated second from right holding a paper) signed the agreement that made Ludington the western terminus for his Flint & Pere Marquette Railroads, according to Paul Peterson in his "The Story of Ludington." Standing, from left, are Mr. and Mrs. F.J. Dowland, Patrick M. Danaher, Mr. & Mrs. George Clayton, David Melendy, James Danaher, Co. John Mason Loomis and James Ludington. Seated from left are Ludington's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Delos L. Filer and two of their children, Milton Ward, Eber Brock Ward and another of Ludington's sisters. His sisters were Emily, Lavinia, Delia and Amelia, which was the original name of Washington Avenue.



The Filer House, at left, as shown as a part of the Village of Pere Marquette in this undated photo. The Filer House was located in the center of what is now Rotary Park. The Filer House was owned by the Pere Marquette Lumber Company, the firm managed by the city's namesake, James Ludington.



James Ludington — The man for whom the city was named. According to Paul Peterson's "The History of Ludington," Ludington shunned the public spotlight, never married and lived most of his life in hotels in Milwaukee.

Apparently Ludington fulfilled his end of the contract to such an extent that by the time the five years elapsed he was able to go to Chancery Court and win a judgment against Ford that ordered the mill owner to pay Ludington 10 per cent interest on the amount of \$69,849.17. Ford, unable to meet the terms of the judgment, transferred his mill and vast timber holdings to Ludington.

A short time later, however, Ford claimed that 40 acres of the property were not to be included

in the transfer because that parcel had been set aside as a homestead for himself and his family. The property, in the meantime, had been developed as residential sites.

Ludington admitted that the 40 acres had been omitted from the deed Ford turned over to him but because there was considerable development of the property a suit was filed asking that the court settle the issue.

Ford hired E. Nelson Fitch as his attorney and Loomis represented Ludington. It took two years to prepare the case and when it finally landed in Chancery Court the judge dismissed both sides but ordered Ludington to pay Ford's attorney \$10,000 in legal fees.

As a result of the court's action, Ford gained clear title to the 40 acres which was 12 blocks or 120 city lots. The property is now bounded on the north by Ludington Avenue, on the south by Danaher Street, on the east by the courthouse block and on the west by Rath Avenue.

Even though Ludington had gained ownership of the old Ford mill, he apparently decided to run his business here by remote control. The same year he gained title to the mill 1859 he leased it to pioneer lumberman Charles Mears for two years.

In 1861, when Mears' lease ran out, Ludington took back control

of the mill but during the next four years — the Civil War years — he made few changes in its operation. Nevertheless, there is ample reason to believe that Ludington had it in the back of his mind to repeat his Wisconsin performance by developing another town.

The first significant "change" came in 1864 when the tiny settlement around the Pere Marquette Mill secured a post office. David Melendy, who was Ludington's bookkeeper and partner in the shipping end of the mill, became the postmaster and the post office was named Ludington.

By the end of the Civil War, Ludington began laying the groundwork for a city. In the fall of 1865 he started construction of a large, well decorated boarding house in what is now (Rotary) Park. Never a small-time thinker, his boarding house was described at that time as "equal to a first class hotel" surrounded by abundant grounds with decorative trees and numerous stables. It was completed in 1866.

The next phase of his city planning came in the spring of 1867 when he began laying out and naming streets. Somehow he managed to get his streets over an area of sand hills, swamps and creek bottom that now make up the first and third wards. His main business street ran north and south from Pere Marquette Lake and he named it, properly enough, Main

Street. It is now called Gaylord Avenue. His major east-west street started at Lake Michigan and ran east for about three blocks where it became lost in a swamp. This he named Ludington Avenue.

He then laid out Court Street, even though the courthouse was in Lincoln, which was then the county seat. Next came Pere Marquette Street, named after the Jesuit missionary-explorer, Ferry Street, because it was a continuation of the channel ferry that then connected Buttersville and Ludington, and then he turned to his family for inspiration in naming Lewis, William, Robert, Charles (Rath Avenue), Harrison, Rowe, Delia, Emily and James. All were named for brothers, sisters or cousins — save James Street, which he named for himself.

Ludington next turned his attention to construction of a "mammoth" store. This was built on the southwest corner of Main and Ludington and carried every supply a logger and his family could need — coats, boots, yard goods, tools and food — from crocked butter to eggs and meat.

But Ludington wasn't the only one contributing to the building boom of 1867. William Farrell built the city's first hotel. A new schoolhouse was built "in the woods" on the southwest corner of Ludington and James, where (Timbers Prime) now stands, and William Kieswalter put up a large grocery store on the southwest corner of Ludington and Harrison, where the (Mason County Historical Society Research Center) is now located.

And 1867 was also the year that the battle to switch the county seat from Lincoln to Ludington broke into the open.

The idea had long been on James Ludington's mind. For one thing, he apparently was out to out-do Charles Mears, who founded and ran the villages of Lincoln and Hamlin. For another, the site of the county seat was bound to attract more business and more residents. But to get the drive underway, Ludington needed a public forum and what better one could find than a newspaper.

So in September of 1867 the Mason County Record was born. It was founded by George Clayton, a Yankee veteran of the Civil War, but there was no attempt to conceal the fact that he came here at the direct request of Ludington. Shortly after the Record was launched, Clayton ran an editorial asking how the county seat could logically remain in Lincoln when Ludington was growing faster and had the brightest future.

The fight was and it didn't end for six years, until the election of 1873 when voters approved switching the county seat to Ludington.

But before James Ludington could realize his ambition of having the county seat moved to his namesake town, he became ill and decided to make a change that later was to have tremendous impact on the city.

But before James Ludington could realize his ambition of having the county seat moved to his namesake town, he became ill and decided to make a change that later was to have tremendous impact on the city.

Desiring to relieve himself of the burdens of running his Pere Marquette Mill and interests here, he formed a new company, the Pere Marquette Lumber Co., with Col. John Mason Loomis, Delos L. Filer of Manistee and Edward A. Foster as the major partners.

The company was organized on July 24, 1869 and shortly after Filer purchased all of Ludington's interests in the Pere Marquette Lumber Co. for the sum of \$500,000.

SEE NAMESAKE, C6

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BIRTHDAY LUDINGTON!

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Father Marquette — civilization's start here

BY TODD REED
LUDINGTON DAILY NEWS

Ludington, today you celebrate your 150th birthday.

Today you stand, proud, modern, progressive; cascading into your second century on the wave of the most awesome achievement in your history — the construction on your shore of the largest hydroelectric powerplant of its kind in the world.

But what about yesterday? Were there not proud achievements there as well? Surely there must have been.

March 22, 1873—your official birthdate. Already you were a booming lumbering center. Pine was king, and your shore and the shore of the great river flowing to you were covered with pine.

Literally millions of logs were floated to the mills lining your harbor. Lumber barons were born in your midst. Elegant homes, many still standing, attest to the greatness of your infancy as a city.

Your outstanding natural harbor insured your future as a major Great Lakes shipping center. This same fine harbor brought the railroad to your door rather than to Pentwater's. (Both locations had been considered as the possible Lake Michigan terminus of this railroad.)

The axe, the saw, fire scourged you of pine by the turn of the twentieth century. Lumbering was all but dead in your midst by the beginning of World War I — the incessant whirring and buzzing of the mill saws lingering for the most part only in the memories of your hearty breed of early citizens.

But you could survive without lumbering now; the railroad, shipping, salt wells, industry, and yes by now tourism — they were your lifelines now. All played vital roles in making you what you have become today. All except salt remained as your lifelines (in 1973).

Ludington, yours is a history steeped in greatness,

the depth of which will continue to surface as your centennial year progresses. But now Ludington, now it seems most appropriate to turn back in time not just a century, but nearly three centuries, to perhaps your most historic event — that spring day when white man is first recognized to have set foot on your soil.

May 18, 1675 — Sun drenches a grassy hill upon your Lake Michigan shore. It would be a beautiful day were not death hanging in the air. A canoe travels your shore, strong paddlers forging ahead in their race to beat death to the mission at St. Ignace on the Straits Mackinac. It is no use. Death beckons the famed Christian missionary-explorer of the Mississippi who until now lay prostrate in the canoe between his paddlers,

Head propped up against a cedar stave of the canoe the missionary's eyes scanned the shore. "He saw the eminence slope down toward the north, a limpid stream cutting the lowland beach, a lone hill rising from the shore," the Rev. Raphael N. Hamilton S.J. tells us. "Fresh leaves on the shrubbery, May blossoms in bud and bloom decked the wilderness with beauty fit for an anteroom to heaven. He told his boatmen he wished this to be his last resting place. As they lifted him to shore, he asked them to call on the name of Jesus and Mary as he would breathe his last. He requested them to place a cross above his grave when they buried him at the foot of the hill.

"That night, just below the cross which has replaced the one erected (347) years ago, as the lowering sun bathed the budding bluff with springtime radiance. Father Jacques Marquette — 'Angel to the Ottawa, founder of the Illinois Mission, Pioneer of the Mississippi Valley — passed

SEE PERE MARQUETTE, C7



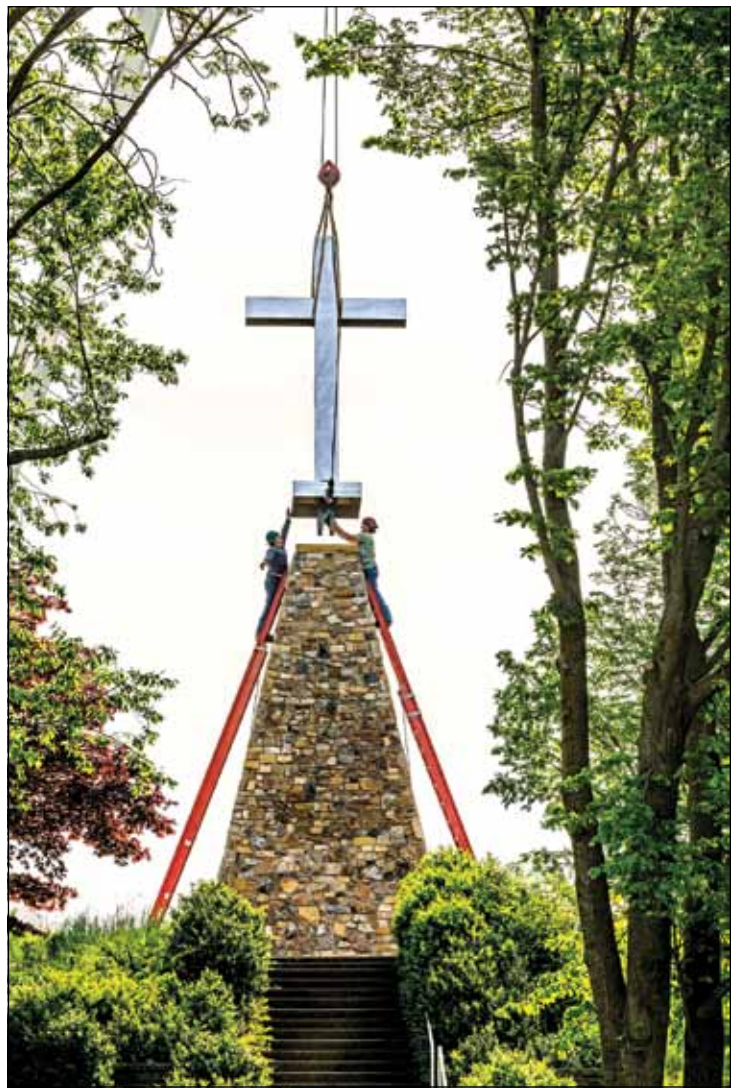
STEVE BEGNOCHE PHOTO

As the sunset behind Buttersville Peninsula and the Pere Marquette Memorial cross on Dec. 13, 2021, the sky burned yellow and orange. Later, as twilight neared, pinks and deep reds stained the sky. This is the site where famed Jesuit priest and explorer died in 1675.



YVONNE CARLSON | DAILY NEWS FILE IMAGE

This line drawing by Yvonne Carlson depicts Father Jacques Marquette, a Jesuit priest and explorer, who died at the Buttersville Peninsula and whose death site was marked by a wooden cross. The year 1975 marked 300 years since his death, and now the lake, the river and a township all bear his name as well as the village that became the City of Ludington.



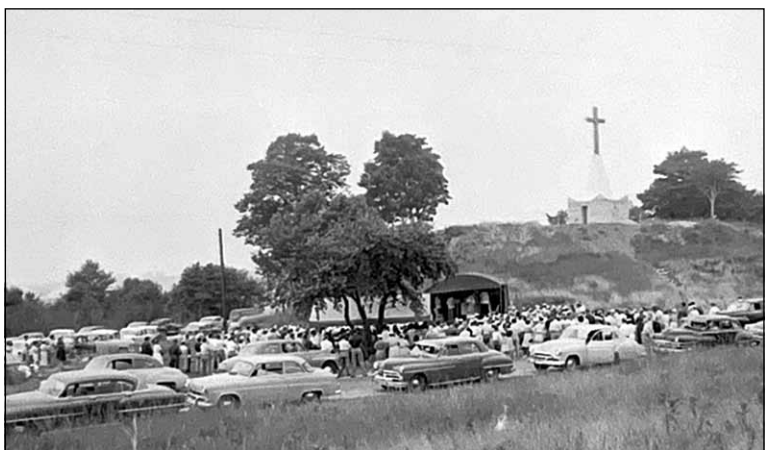
TODD REED | TODD AND BRAD REED PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY

Workers guide the Pere Marquette Memorial Cross onto its base on the morning June 20, 2020, on the Buttersville Peninsula in Pere Marquette Township. The white cross was encased in stainless steel and placed on its base.



MASON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY | COURTESY IMAGE

The Pere Marquette cross on Buttersville Peninsula, well before it was replaced with a white cross and stone base in the 1900s.



DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Cars line up along South Lakeshore Drive during a formal event at the Pere Marquette Memorial Cross in the 1950s.

The program cover for the Marquette Memorial Pageant from 1935.



DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO

People gather at the base of the Pere Marquette Memorial Cross in the 1950s. During the 1950s, a reenactment to mark the death of Father James Marquette was done near and at the site.

Happy 150th Ludington!

PROUD to be part of this wonderful community since 1955!

SPORTSMAN'S

A FAMILY TRADITION FOR OVER 60 YEARS

LUDINGTON, MICHIGAN

Before white men

Mascoutens, Potawatomis, Ottawas, Chippewas

BY BOB SCULLEY
LUDINGTON DAILY NEWS

Before the white man arrived in Mason County with his farming implements, hunting weapons and timbering tools, this area was a crossroads for numerous Indian tribes.

For the most part, the various tribes peacefully shared this region's rich forests and streams.

But 300 years ago, a series of circumstances in far off Wisconsin, Illinois and the Detroit area of Michigan eventually bloodied with one of the worst Indian tribal massacres in this nation's aboriginal history.

(Fifty years ago), the only evidence of that massacre is a wooden plaque overlooking the tranquil bank of the Pere Marquette River at a point 1.2 miles south of Custer on South Custer Road.

The plaque, erected (in 1970) by Scottville Explorer Post 144, reads: "Site of 1725 Indian Battle. A four-day battle between roving Mascoutens and area Ottawas found Mascoutens outnumbered and conquered by Ottawas. The river ran red with blood. Dead were buried in huge mounds, one in roadway south of bridge, one in cemetery, now regrettably removed."

The facts of the massacre are clouded by the lack of written history when it occurred.

Several fragmentary accounts of the battle are contained in the library of the (Mason County Historical Society Research Center) in Ludington.

These accounts vary considerably in their details. There are even three spellings of Mascouten.

But the gist of the story is this:

The battle was between the Mascoutens on one side, and the Ottawas and Potawatomis on the other side.

Some 3,000 Mascoutens were slain, virtually wiping out the tribe. About 200 Ottawas and Potawatomis were killed.

The battle occurred about 1725, some 298 years ago.

The Mascoutens, knowing of the impending attack by their more powerful neighbors, were attempting to escape from the region on a fleet of canoes.

The Mascoutens were ambushed on the river just east of Ludington. Over a period of four days, they were driven eastward, and the climatic battle occurred south of Custer where the plaque stood.

Mascouten squaws and children fled south through the woods while the battle was underway. When the main battle was over, the Ottawas pursued the surviving women and children for a period of weeks, killing them as they found them. Only about a dozen Mascoutens escaped to a sanctuary in the Mohawk Valley of New York.

By the late 1700s, the last of the once-strong tribe was gone. Today, with the veils of time obscuring the past, there is not a single mention of the Mascoutens among the extensive Indian writings of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.



JEFF KIESSSEL | DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Ludington City Mayor Steve Miller welcomes the crowd gathered at Ludington for the grand opening of the Legacy Plaza in July 2021 in downtown. The plaza was reconstructed from what was the James Street Plaza that runs a city block between Ludington Avenue and Court Street. The three-sided structure at the center of the park is a fireplace to represent the Council of the Three Fires, an alliance of native Anishanaabe tribes prominent in Michigan.

FAINT CLUES REMAIN

More than one Indian tribe vanished, leaving only faint clues on the page of history.

How did it happen to the Mascoutens?

So far as recorded history is concerned, the first mention of the Mascoutens came in 1615 when the French explorer, Samuel de Champlain, encountered them living south of Lake Huron.

Other Mascoutens roamed the Fox River Valley in Wisconsin, just north of Chicago, where Father Alouez visited them in 1670, and Father Marquette in 1673.

But in the late 1600s, a series of disasters started the Mascoutens on their slide into oblivion.

In 1680, the Mascoutens and their allies, the Fox Tribe, lost about 1,000 men in an unsuccessful attack on a French stronghold at what is now Detroit. The Potawatomi tribe, siding with the French, inflicted most of the losses.

TURBULENT TIMES

The next few decades were turbulent times for the tribes of the eastern and midwest United States. There was much warring and shifting allegiances involving the white man, the Sioux, Ottawas, Chippewas, Potawatomi and the smaller tribe of Mascoutens.

In one of these upheavals, the Sioux chased the Mascoutens eastward out of Wisconsin and Illinois into Michigan.

South Michigan was occupied by the Potawatomi and central Michigan by the Ottawas.

The weary Mascoutens — their numbers ravaged by years of losing warfare — sought and received sanctuary from the Ottawas.

The ragged Mascoutens settled in an area between Reed City and Baldwin.

The tribe, with many widows and crippled braves, gave up their old lifestyle. They switched from a nomadic hunting-fighting life and became farmers.

The new arrangement worked well for both the host Ottawas and the guest Mascoutens.

The Ottawas provided the



DAVID BOSSICK | DAILY NEWS

The Anishanaabe word for love along with "love" are inscribed in a circle around the fireplace at Legacy Plaza in this image taken March 4. Six other virtues — respect, truth, bravery, humility, honesty and wisdom — are inscribed in Anishanaabe and English.

Mascoutens with protection, plus buffalo hides for clothing and flint for tools.

In exchange, the Mascoutens traded their vegetables and grain.

This peaceful partnership continued many years.

ARRANGEMENT SOURED

Then it began to go sour.

Why? According to stories handed down from one generation of (Native Americans) to the next, the trouble started with the Potawatomi of southern Michigan.

Whenever some venturesome Potawatomi bucks committed vandalism, murder or thievery against the Ottawas, they always blamed the deeds on the Mascoutens.

The breaking point came after some renegade Potawatomi, paddling along the eastern shore of Lake Michigan, came upon a small group of Ottawas encamped at what is now Ludington. The renegades killed the Ottawas.

Again, the Mascoutens were blamed.

The Ottawas wanted vengeance. They decided to get rid of the Mascoutens, one way or the other.

The Ottawas invited the Potawatomi to join in the assault. The Potawatomi chiefs declined, but may Potawatomi braves joined the

Ottawas for the upcoming battle.

Some 2,000 Ottawas and volunteers began war preparations lasting almost a year. A this time, the Mascouten tribe numbered about 1,000 able-bodied braves, and 2,000 women, children and infirm.

SOUGHT HELP

The Mascoutens, getting ample warning of the impending onslaught, sent runners into the Iroquois nation (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio) seeking help from the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onadagas, Cayugas and Senecas.

None would provide braves for the right. But the Mohawks promised sanctuary to the Mascoutens if they could reach New York.

The Mascoutens then built a fleet of rafts and canoes to carry the tribe and its belongings out of Michigan.

The escape migration called for the Mascouten fleet to sail down the Pere Marquette River to Lake Michigan, south to the Grand River (at Grand Haven), then east on the Grand River as far as possible, then overland through Detroit, Canada, and into the Mohawk Valley in New York.

Ottawa spies kept the war council posted daily on the Mascoutens' fleet-building activities, and on their sub-

sequent preparations for leaving.

The Mascouten fleet embarked, probably from some point in Lake County. It sailed uneventful hours through the day and night, until it neared the mouth of the Pere Marquette River, east of Ludington.

Then the Ottawas, hidden along the banks, sprang their ambush.

Most of the Mascoutens began retreating back along the river towards Custer. Some tried to hide in the marsh grass. The Ottawas set fire to the grass.

WOMEN, CHILDREN FLED

The retreating Mascoutens organized a few delaying actions along the way to give the women and children a chance to flee southward through the woods.

The battle climaxed at Custer where the Mascouten braves were wiped out. The Ottawas not only had superior manpower, but better weapons, including flintlock rifles they had obtained from the French.

When the main battle at Custer ended, the Ottawas tracked the Mascouten women and children, killing them as they overtook them, as far south as Grand Rapids.

Returning them, to the scene of the river-bank slaughter, the Ottawas bur-

ied most of the Mascouten bodies in a few large mounds.

The heads of many of the Mascoutens were placed on sticks or poles, or fastened to trees along the river bank.

Many years later, where the Pere Marquette empties into Lake Michigan, shifting sands uncovered scores of skeletal remains of the Mascouten victims. That area, now the site of Ludington, became known to the Indians as Nindebektatuning, meaning "the place of skulls."

There is an interesting afternote:

Truth often has a way of surfacing.

And from the Potawatomi campfires, the truth gradually filtered northward to the Ottawas that the Mascoutens were innocent of the crimes for which they had been exterminated.

According to the stories passed down through the generations, the Ottawas for a long time carried a sense of shame for what occurred.

But the truth came too late to revive the mouldering bones of the Mascoutens.

REPRINTED FROM Nov. 10, 1973, edition of the Daily News. This story was updated for the span of 50 years since its publication.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A Michigan Historical Marker was erected in 1994 to mark the site on South Custer Road near the Pere Marquette River. The location is also one of several within Mason County listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The 1994 plaque reads: Notipekago: Ottawa oral tradition tells of a war between the Ottawa and Mascouten tribes in the seventeenth century. The defeat of the Mascouten allowed for permanent Ottawa settlement in Lower Michigan. One battle took place in the Custer vicinity along the Pere Marquette River. Many years later, erosion exposed the buried remains of those from both tribes who died here. Indians placed many of the skulls along the riverbank. The battle site became known as Notipekago—the place of the skulls. This story holds an enduring place in Ottawa oral tradition.

NAMESAKE: City named for James Ludington, planned layout of grid of streets

FROM PAGE C4

But the fact that Ludington sold his interests here didn't bring to an end his influence in the area.

At the time the squabble was taking place over changing the county seat, the Mason County Record reported that "Mr. James Ludington, in view of the fact that his name has been chosen for our prospective city, has donated \$5,000; \$2,500 of which is to be used for county buildings, provided that the county seat shall be removed to this place."

The Record was a little bit ahead of the game, however, because Ludington's name wasn't officially adopted by the city until it was chartered in 1873.

What about the other \$2,500 that Ludington had promised?

That was to go for construction of a building that was to house a library on the ground floor and city offices on the top floor. At the same time, Filer and Loomis each offered \$1,000 to go with Ludington's contribution and the Pere Marquette Lumber Co., through Filer, offered the county free use of its store building for office space until a suitable site could be found. The idea, presumably, was that the city and county would share the same office building.

The offer, however, was never accepted and why not no one seems to know.

Later records indicate that Ludington did give the county its half of the \$5,000 but there is nothing to show that the city ever received its share.

Ludington received its city char-

ter on March 22, 1873, and the first city election was held April 7. The following evening the newly elected city council and officers met for the first time and the financial statement and city Treasurer Samuel D. Haight bore the following entry: "Receivable from James Ludington, \$2,500."

The matter of building a library was pursued again in 1874 with the formation of the Ludington Library Association. Delos Filer offered the Library Association a site on Ludington Avenue, owned by Pere Marquette Co., and the lumber for the building. As a condition, however, he insisted that the city council appropriate, for the library building, the \$2,500 receivable from James Ludington. The council did do but the library was not built.

A later report in the council pro-

ceedings, referring to the library project, simply said, "The matter was dropped." No other written record exists as to what happened.

But, according to those who held local office during the infant years of the city, Ludington refused to pay the \$2,500.

Whether or not this served as a spur, there was a campaign a couple of years later to change the name of the town to Pere Marquette. But in the end it seems apparent the indifference won out because the issue died.

As one resident of that era said, "The city sold her birthright for a mess of pottage."

After the city received its charter, took the name of Ludington and became the seat of county government, James Ludington had little more to do with the shaping

of its future. He remained in Milwaukee, coming here from time to time. He was instrumental, however, in helping to bring the Flint & Pere Marquette Railroad to Ludington in 1874.

But from the time he sold his interests here in 1869 until his death on April 1, 1891, very little mention is made of James Ludington in the local newspapers.

So in the span of just 10 years, James Ludington gained control of the old Baird & Bean Mill, developed it into one of the major lumber concerns in Michigan, founded a town and left, a cool half-million dollars richer for his efforts.

THIS WAS reprinted from the March 22, 1973, edition of the Daily News celebrating Ludington's centennial. This story was updated to reflect businesses and locations in 2023.

Look at Ludington before it became city

EDITOR'S NOTE: On April 28, 1868, Ludington was a very young community. Yet even at that early date it was receiving much attention from outsiders who wished more information. Local leaders were being besieged for data, "a regular deluge of letters arriving monthly." Rather than write each of them independently, George Clayton, who had in that year inaugurated The Mason County Record, first newspaper published in this region, wrote the following description of Ludington as it existed in April 1868. It is reproduced below exactly as it appeared in that early issue.

The first writer wishes to know if we have a Hardware store and Tinshop. Unfortunately he waited a few days too late for Mr. O'Brien has already arrived and is now erecting a store building for this purpose. But perhaps we may suit him, as he asks for further information. We have one large Store

here in Ludington, which has supplied the country around with all the different necessities of life, during the past three years, their trade in 1867 amounting in the aggregate to \$400,000. Mr. Charles Mears owns a general assortment store 2½ miles north of this place, which has also had a heavy trade for the past four or five years. Mr. Richard Rayne has another store of about the same character, in the township of Victory, eight or ten miles northeast from here, which is also doing a comfortable business. Besides there are several of similar note, who are making a good living. Our village contains, besides the store above-named, a Drug store and three Boot and Shoe Shops. We also, have a first class Hotel here, built last fall, and capable of accommodating seventy-five or a hundred guests. We have a splendid school-house, for the cost

of which was \$3,000. This at present is used for divine worship every Sabbath. A subscription paper has been circulated and some four thousand dollars has been subscribed towards the erection of a handsome church edifice, which will be put up if carpenters enough can be found to take the job. Several new buildings for business purposes are being pushed along as fast as men can be got to do the work. Twenty good mechanics can find work the whole season here. Among the new buildings is that of Mr. O'Brien's Hardware store, Messrs. Whitteker & Alexander's Book store, Mr. Wimer's Boot and Shoe store, and a Grist Mill and Shingle Mill combined. Mr. James Ludington has a large powerful Saw Mill, in which about a hundred and fifty men are employed. This mill cuts about 100,000 feet of lumber daily, and eight or ten vessels

are constantly employed in this trade at this port. By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that we have two Steamboat lines, and one or more of these boats touch this point every day. Our harbor is conceded by all to be the best north of Grand Haven, on the East Shore. The country adjacent, is the best Agricultural Lands in Michigan, and although considerable land remain yet unsettled, it commands a pretty fair price, ranging all the way from the government price to twenty dollars per acre. We came here last fall, just previous to gathering of the crops, and found upon inquiry every kind of produce in a much better condition than we had even hoped to find it. More might be said on this point, but we have intended to give the reader only a few of the facts, and if he desires to come and see us he shall be posted on every particular if he wishes. Every lot in our village

could be sold anyday, for almost any price put upon them, if the proprietor wished to sell for speculation, but it is not considered the best way to build up a town, to sell to speculators. Every man who want one or more lots can obtain them for improvements only. A good Blacksmith, a first class Tailor, a Baker, Wagon Maker, Jeweler, and perhaps others might find a good opening by coming immediately. They would find that it pays from the start, but as the country is settling very fast, would all be carrying on a first class business by the time they have been here six months. The fact is the country has progressed so fast, we find a great need of all common branches of trade. As to this place being the terminating point of the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroads, we have not the shadow of a doubt but that it will. The Company has never asked this grant of lands for the purpose of building the

road to some other point, and so far as our knowledge about the building of Railroads goes, we have no reason to think they can hold these lands if they do not come to this point. A great bugbear has been started that the road will terminate at Frankford, we don't like to contradict this story, but self defense seems to dictate and we will therefore, state that this story was gotten up expressly for the purpose of selling a lot of poor land which some private parties owned at that point. The Frankford people are trying to purchase property here to speculate on, and some have written to know the price of lots for the purpose of coming here to live. There is no need of fear on this point. The County contains about 2,500 inhabitants, and this village has about 500 of that number. **THIS STORY** is republished from the Nov. 10, 1973, edition of the Daily News.

PERE MARQUETTE: Famed explorer's death site became cornerstone to city, area

FROM PAGE C5

into eternity. And his two boatmen, who had lost their race, knew he had won the greatest of human victories." Pere Marquette was dead. At age 37, the Jesuit priest who had devoted his life to the salvation of the Indians had succumbed to the infection, probably typhoid, incurred two years earlier during his exploration of the Mississippi River with Louis Joliet. That exploration, Ludington, took place two centuries before the year you would become a city. Today, Ludington, a cross crowned hill on a finger of land between Lake Michigan and the river named after this famed Jesuit priest, marks the spot where Marquette is recognized to have died and been buried. Two years later, a party of Marquette's Indian converts and the

two white paddlers with him at his death on a grassy knoll upon your shore returned to disinter the remains of the beloved priest whose memory would forever be etched on your future. Not only the river flowing by this death site, but you, Ludington, were named for this noble missionary-explorer. It was not until 1849, four years after the first permanent white settler arrived in your vicinity, that you sprang up, Ludington. You were called Pere Marquette in memory of the missionary. For 15 years you would wear that proud title, until, in 1864, the fathers of the settlement renamed you Ludington at the request of the most powerful lumberman in Pere Marquette at that time. It was this man, James Ludington, who had you platted and named your main street running north and south James and the

main street running east and west Ludington, thus paying himself more honor. Your river and lake would remain the Pere Marquette, preserving at least that honor for the famed missionary-explorer. Pere Marquette would also become the name of one of your streets — though not a major street, the name of schools, a township, and more. In their hearts, your people would not forget this first white man to step upon your shore. And though Marquette's remains were removed to the mission he founded at St. Ignace, his death site has continued to be revered ever since. Pilgrims returned year after year to the site. Pilgrimages continue to commemorate Marquette each year on the anniversary of his death, May 18. Four elaborate pageants, in 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1955, honored Marquette in your midst. Thou-

sands of persons attended. By his death upon your shore, Father Marquette gave to you, Ludington, your earliest recorded identity. And while a cross crowned hill continues to mark this spot of your noble beginning of recognition in the civilized world, not far away along the Lake Michigan shoreline stands another claim to fame as you prepare to plunge into your next 150 years as an incorporated city. This claim is the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant, with its mammoth manmade reservoir and tremendous generating capacity. Happy 150th birthday Ludington! **THIS STORY** is republished from the March 22, 1973, edition of the Daily News celebrating Ludington's centennial. This story was updated to reflect the intervening years between then and today.



DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO
The Pere Marquette Memorial Cross in the 1950s.

happy
Birthday
City of Ludington
from your older sibling,
The Ludington Daily News



Congratulations

LUDINGTON ON 150 AWESOME YEARS!

Proudly Serving The Community for 52 Years

A LOOK BACK...

1971-1974 John and Dolores Gillies opened an automotive service store (building rented in Giant Plaza) in Ludington April 1, 1971. Appliances and television were in the showroom to sell. Chris Gillies (Boerema) became office manager and John Gillies III store manager. In 1984 property was purchased across the street. The parking lot and building were not maintained as required in the lease.



The new place required all kinds of work. Equipment, inventory, etc. were moved from the old to the new location.



1987 The Midas franchise was added to serve customers locally and offer nationwide service as they travel, with fast quality service. At the same time, they added the 10 minute oil change franchise.



1997 The Midas store in Manistee was purchased and a new 52 by 45 foot building was added for 10-minute oil service.



1999 The stores were sold to John Gillies III from John and Dolores Gillies.

2002 A 3600 square foot upstairs was added to the Ludington Midas store.



2010 John Gillies IV advanced to store manager of Ludington Midas store.

2016 The store took back its original name of Avenue Tire & Service. Brian Gillies joined forces with us in October. We are happy to provide the same high Quality workmanship as we always have. Everything is covered under a nationwide parts and labor warranty. We look forward to being there for you to help with all your automotive needs.



2022 John Gillies IV became a partner in 2022.



Your friends at

Avenue Tire & Service

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