

PONTIAC

THE City of Pontiac has a remarkable history. Located in the immediate vicinity of one of the most interesting clusters of lakes in the lower peninsula of Michigan, around which gather the dim traditions of the past in mythical and fantastic groupings, over whose transparent waters the great chieftain, in honor of whom the city was named, oft guided his birchen canoe, and on a beautiful island of the most enchanting lakelet of them all planted his royal wigwam and gathered his warriors around him, when relaxing from the business of war and the chase. Its history is invested with a double interest and becomes valuable in proportion as it recedes in the vista of "the years that are gone."

Pontiac was the first prominent settlement planted in the interior of Michigan—the first one located beyond the cordon of tangled forest and dread morass which surrounded Detroit, and which was popularly supposed to be but the vestibule of a vast, uninhabitable wilderness, whose lands were barren, and where nothing but wild beasts, migratory birds, and venomous reptiles were ever destined to find an abode,—an unknown Sahara of sterile plains and wide-spreading marsh.

"With tangled juniper, beds of reeds, And many a fen where the serpent feeds, And man never trod before."

The history of Pontiac's primal settlement is blended with that of many of the prominent men of the early days of Michigan, who became interested at Pontiac and other neighboring points where the first surveys were made and pioneer towns were planted.

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	1900	1910	1920
CITY OF PONTIAC	9,769	14,532	34,273
OAKLAND COUNTY	44,792	49,576	90,050