

## MARQUETTE AND JOLLIET

Placed at P re Marquette State Park in 1991, the five-foot tall statue of Father Marquette invited acknowledgement since the only identification on the statue instead notes the artist, Kirk St. Maur, known for his sculptures. His depiction of P re Marquette shows him holding a peace pipe in his right hand; the other is raised in friendship to Native Americans. The statue recalls the epic journey of Marquette and Jolliet in 1673.

Seeking to learn whether reports of a “great river” to the west of French Canada might be the long-sought Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean or a shorter route to New Orleans, Father Marquette, Louis Jolliet, and 5 other Frenchmen left Canada in May 1673. They paddled across Lake Michigan and carried their canoes to the Wisconsin River.

On June 17 the waters carried them to the Mississippi River. Farther south they met the Illinois Indians whose chief gave them a *calumet* (peace pipe). Continuing, they reached the mouth of the Arkansas River where sight of the *calumet* halted an attack by Indians there.

Becoming friendly, the Indians revealed that they had guns given by white men about 10 days’ journey farther south. Marquette and Jolliet decided that these men were Spanish explorers, so they turned north and entered the Illinois River, near P re Marquette State Park, to return to Canada. They passed the present site of Chicago. Their trek had covered four months and 2500 miles.

As proved by the expedition, the Mississippi River flowed into the Gulf of Mexico, and these Frenchmen likely were the first white men to travel in our current state of Illinois.

Illinois State Society  
National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century

Historical Marking of

THE 1673 TREK OF PERE JACQUES  
MARQUETTE AND LOUIS JOLLIET  
ON THE MISSISSIPPI AND ILLINOIS RIVERS

P re Marquette State Park  
Rte. 100, Grafton , Illinois



Saturday, March 18, 2017  
1:00 P.M.

### THE AMERICAN'S CREED

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a Perfect Union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag and to defend it against all enemies. -- William Tyler Page

### THE DAUGHTERS' PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

I salute the flag of the Colonial Dames XVII Century and cherish the memory of our Colonial ancestors, whose principles of virtue, courage, and patriotism led to the formation of our great Country. Mrs. Albert L Thompson

#### Wording on Plaque:

PERE JACQUES MARQUETTE

IN 1673 FATHER (PERE) JACQUES MARQUETTE, MISSIONARY PRIEST, AND LOUIS JOLLIET, FUR TRADER, LEFT CANADA TO EXPLORE THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. THEY RETURNED BY THE ILLINOIS RIVER, PASSING NEAR THIS AREA. THEIR TRAVELS COVERED FOUR MONTHS AND 2500 MILES.

ILLINOIS STATE SOCIETY  
NATIONAL SOCIETY COLONIAL DAMES XVII CENTURY  
MARCH 18, 2017

### MARKING CEREMONY

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INVOCATION Sharon Pyle, Chaplain-Elect  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Betty Ford, Honorary State President  
AMERICAN'S CREED Nancy Schultz, Honorary State President  
DAUGHTERS' PLEDGE TO THE FLAG Linda Mizell, President-Elect  
INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUESTS AND HISTORICAL REMARKS Sharon Bittner  
DEDICATION SERVICE Sharon Bittner  
UNVEILING OF MARKER  
BENEDICTION Sharon Pyle

