

Happy Birthday, Pontiac! You're 200!

When was Pontiac Founded?

As a town, November 9, 1818.

As a city, 1861.

Who founded it?

A group of prominent men from Detroit organized themselves to buy land and settle a town here. They called themselves "The Pontiac Company".

Stephen Mack was their trustee. He led the effort to settle the town by building its first mills.

Why did they choose this spot?

The Clinton River crossed an Indian path called the Sagana Trail here. Plans were afoot to build a road on the path, which went further north. A nice fast river, flat open ground, and a future road. Perfect.

Where was this river crossing?

Under the Phoenix Center. It was buried in the 1960's.

Who was the first person to live here?

People, actually. Joseph Todd built a log cabin for his family near Saginaw and Water Street in November, 1818. Mr. Todd built Mr. Mack's mill.