

1673: JOLIET AND MARQUETTE DISCOVER THE UPPER  
MISSISSIPPI.[From a document in the Jesuit *Relations*.]

[Synopsis: The journal of Father Marquette describes the voyage in which he and Joliet discovered and explored the Mississippi river. It is prefaced with a brief note by Dablon, which mentions Marquette's early desire to carry the gospel to the Southern tribes, and his opportunity for doing so when Joliet is chosen by Frontenac and Talon to explore the then unknown water-routes beyond Lake Michigan. Dablon also praises the fitness of Joliet for this undertaking.<sup>1</sup>

Marquette recounts the details of their voyage, which begins May 17, 1673, at the St. Ignace mission. They journey via Green Bay, visiting on the way the Menomonee Indians, who endeavor to dissuade them from their enterprise—saying that

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<sup>1</sup> Jacques Marquette, born in 1673, entered the Jesuit order at the age of seventeen. Joining the Canadian mission in 1666, he was, three years later, sent to the Ottawas at Chequamegon, and in 1671 founded the Mackinac (or St. Ignace) mission to the Hurons. After his famous voyage of discovery and exploration on the Mississippi river, he returned to Green Bay; a year later he founded the mission to the Illinois Indians. His health giving way, he departed thence to go to Mackinac; but died on the way (May 18, 1675), at the mouth of Marquette river, Mich.

On this voyage Marquette was the companion of Louis Joliet sent by the Canadian authorities to explore the *terra incognita* west of the Fox river of Green Bay. Joliet had been educated at the Jesuit college of Quebec; had explored the Lake Superior copper region in 1669; and accompanied St. Luson when the latter took possession (1671) of the Northwest. Returning from his Mississippi expedition, Joliet lost all his papers in the wreck of his canoe near Montreal, but afterward prepared other copies of them, and of his noted map, for the French government. In 1679 he made a voyage to Hudson Bay. In 1679-80 he obtained grants of islands (Mingan and Anticosti) noted for their valuable fisheries; but he died (about 1700) a poor man. For more detailed information regarding both these explorers, see Gagnon's "Louis Jolliet" (*Rev. Canadienne*, 1900-01), Thwaites's *Father Marquette* (N. Y., 1902), and *Jes. Relations*, I, pp. 323-325; for reproductions of their maps, *Id.*, lix., pp. 86, 108, 154; Marquette's report of his first voyage, and journal of his second, are given in full in vol. lix.—Ed.