



Historical White Lake

Lydonia II

Circa 1911 — The Lydonia II on White Lake, and William Lydon, owner of the Lydonia II in an undated photo, below.

CONTRIBUTED

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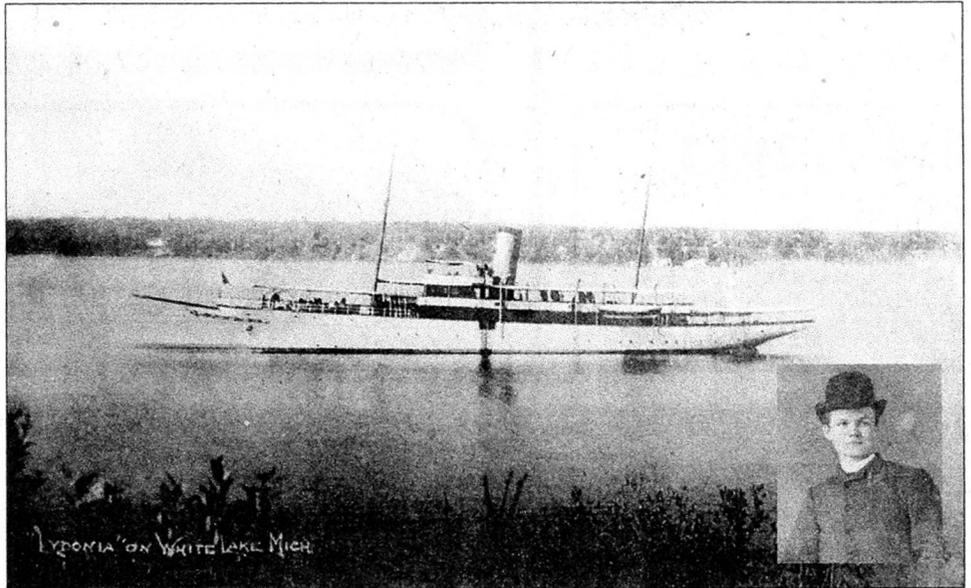
White Lake Area Historical Society

In addition to the passenger steamers that came through the White Lake harbor, we were also visited by some large personal yachts. One such yacht was the Lydonia II.

The Lydonia II was a 212-foot steel hulled vessel constructed for William A. Lydons, Commodore of the Chicago Yacht Club, by Pusey & Jones of Wilmington, Delaware, in 1911, at a reported cost of \$225,000. She was launched on July 25, 1911, and replaced the Lydonia I, which had been completed for Lydons just two years earlier.

Two articles in the Montague Observer mentioned William Lydon visiting the area and one mentioned the Lydonia. One was in 1913 and another in June 1917 when the Lydonia was sold.

The U.S. Navy purchased



the Lydonia from Lydons on August 21, 1917, for \$170,000, for use as a patrol vessel during WWI. She was commissioned as USS Lydonia (SP-700) on October 27, 1917. Arriving in the Azores in December 1917 and she joined the U.S. Navy squadron operating along the Atlantic and Mediterranean sides of the Strait of Gibraltar.

She returned to the United States in February 1919, was decommissioned in August 1919 and transferred to the U.S.

Coast and Geodetic Survey. She served primarily along the East Coast and in the Atlantic Ocean. The Lydonia remained with the Coast & Geodetic Survey until being retired in 1947.

William A. Lydon was the President of the Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company, which he founded in 1890 along with Fred C. Drews. Lydon was born in New York in November 1863 and died in Chicago in October 1918, just short of his 55th birthday.