

Noble by a sort of technical movement. Accordingly, on the morning of the 25th of July, six men, armed with axes, were seen crossing over in a boat towards the Island. Noble saw this formidable force advance, and was overwhelmed in conjecture as to its probable intent. Upon landing on the Island, instead of offering him any molestation, the men immediately began cutting down trees and brush, and commenced building a fence; they continued their labors, until they had entirely enclosed one acre, or more, leaving Noble and his domicile in the centre thereof. Noble nerved his courage, and maintained his position. In a few days, Resique returned from Chicago, with some laboring men, and a good supply of provisions. The fence aforesaid, which at first looked so formidable, soon began to disappear by piecemeal—particularly in the night time, until it was altogether missing.

Resique and Noble kept possession of the Island, with only occasional skirmishing, until the summer of 1836, when the contest was renewed, with manifestations of hostility, which, for a time, threatened the most serious consequences. Judge William Bullen attempted to take possession of that portion of the Island lying within the limits of the N. E. quarter of section 31, by virtue of a claim originally made by an agent of the Western Emigration Company. Resique marshalled a force to maintain his position; for several days armed men were employed, and the most warlike demonstrations were exhibited on both sides. The dispute between the hostile parties was finally compromised, by allowing Judge Bullen to come into peaceable possession of a part of the Island.

It is proper to remark, that during some two or three years after the first locations were made at Pike Creek, Washington Island, which covers an area of some thirty acres, was regarded the most valuable portion of the projected town site. It was believed it was destined to become the chief commercial point of business, and that every foot of its surface would