

eventually be as precious as gold. It is said that Mr. Garrett, a wealthy capitalist of Chicago, in the fall of 1835, offered \$7,500 for a good claim to the Island. Other capitalists and speculators made liberal offers for portions of this now almost deserted spot. Next to the Island, that portion of the town lying north of the creek, was held to be the most valuable. For several years, the lands on the south side of the creek, now comprising the first ward of the city of Kenosha, were not esteemed very desirable.

The difficulty known by the early settlers as the "*Woodbridge quarrel*," was also a source of many unpleasant disturbances in the fall of 1835. The progress of this dispute, and the many exciting incidents attending it, would require too much space to be here narrated. This quarrel originated in a claim made by Woodbridge, which lapped over on the claims of the Emigration Company. It must not be inferred, that because many disputes and collisions occurred in these early times, that the settlers at Pike Creek and vicinity were disposed to be contentious and quarrelsome. There were no legally constituted courts; the only tribunals for the adjustment of difficulties, were the Claim Unions formed by the settlers; and these even, were not fully organized in this section of the country until the year 1836. Besides, the public lands were yet unsurveyed, consequently there were no legally defined boundary lines—hence it can be perceived, that clashing interests would naturally occur. A circumstance which took place in the early settlement of Pike Creek, will illustrate the ingenuity and strategy, which were sometimes resorted to by rival claimants, to over-reach each other:

An early settler held a claim on a piece of land, now included within the limits of the third ward of Kenosha. One morning this claimant, while passing over his claim, near the present residence of Judge Samuel Hale, was overwhelmed with astonishment to find a piece of his land enclosed with a fence, and within the enclosure the ground cultivated, and