

In the first part of September, 1835, three northern tribes of Indians, on their way home from a payment at Chicago, encountered a north-east storm when opposite Kenosha, and were driven by stress of weather to make the land, and discontinue their progress. They effected their landing on the Island. The Lake shore side of the Island presented a lively and animated scene. Between four and five hundred Indians were landing simultaneously, and drawing their bark canoes upon the beach. The canoes were strewn upon the beach from one end to the other of the Island. After the Indians had drawn out and secured their boats, they spread themselves over the Island. Among them were to be seen all ages and conditions. The old Indian upon whose brow was to be seen "wrinkled care"—the aged and motherly squaw—the middle aged, and the young and athletic Indian lads, and the Indian maidens, dressed in their holiday garments; and there was also not wanting a liberal supply of young "Native Americans." All the usual paraphernalia of Indian government, chiefs, prophets, and medicine men, were also present with their respective tribes.

Seeing no evidence of hostility on the part of the Indians, the few settlers then at Kenosha, lay down the first night after the arrival of the Indians, to quiet slumber and repose; but soon after midnight, they were awakened by a terrible howling and hooting among the Indians, and they went directly over to the Island, to ascertain the occasion of such a sudden tumult. They soon learned from the Indians that one of their number had died, and that the noise was made for the purpose of keeping any Evil Spirit from entering into, or in anywise interfering with the body of the deceased.

These tribes of Indians remained on the Island for a period of three weeks, before the weather became sufficiently settled to embark their canoes on the Lake. The hunters of each tribe, went out every day, killing and bringing in game, and the Indian women went frequently to dig a root of which