

with a will to repair the great losses they had sustained. There was no mill in the settlement, the people were getting tired of pounding their wheat in hollow stumps and Daniel Rapelje having a water privilege on his lot they urged him to build a mill, promising to help him every way possible. He consented, and the word was passed around that on a certain day work would be commenced on the dam, and the whole settlement turned out to help build it. It is said that even the women and children assisted, so great was the eagerness to obtain a mill in the settlement. The little log mill was erected at the foot of the hill, near the end of the cemetery and was the only mill for several years, in this part of the country. Settlers from far and near came to it with their grists and though it was run to its utmost capacity, it could not meet the requirements of the people, and many had to continue pounding on stump or to use a hand power mill.

There was great difficulty in securing stones of the right quality for the mill but David Caughell found some which would answer the purpose, on the shores of Catfish Creek in Malahide and he brought them to St. Thomas with great difficulty on an ox sled. Rapelje gave him a twelve pail iron kettle for furnishing the stones and that kettle has been in continual use ever since in the Caughell family. It is now in possession of John C. Caughell, Regent street, where it is used to make the annual supply of soft soap.

In 1818 Dan Rapelje, in company with Horace Foster, built the mill on the site of the New England mills now owned by Turvill Bros., which is one of the few land marks remaining to greet the old settler. There is no city to-day but what some reason can be found for its existence. Undoubtedly Rapelje's little log mill was the starting point of the city of St. Thomas. It brought settlers together from all parts of the district and at the meeting place would be the most desirable point for the merchants and mechanics to settle. It became evident in 1817 that near the spot where Talbot road crosses Kettle Creek a village would spring up, so Daniel Rapelje laid out the front of his farm into town lots. He offered to give a good deed to anyone who would erect a good frame building thereon for any public or charitable purpose. He was anxious for the prosperity of the village which he had founded, and did his utmost to induce business-men and others to establish themselves in it. Not so with some who owned land in the vicinity. The garrison, which was in St. Thomas,