

occasion and returned home, but only to meet new dangers and to suffer great losses. About the first of October, 1814, a detachment of American horse, 1,000 strong, crossed the frontier at Detroit, and came east by way of Moraviantown, through the Longwoods, Westminster, Oxford, and went as far east as Oakland, where they burned Malcom's mill. They returned west through Houghton, Bayham and Malahide, to the Talbot road, thence on through the southern townships to Detroit. It seems that existing histories do not give particulars of this raid, probably deeming it of insufficient importance, but in a manuscript which lies before us, written by one of the Rapelje family, it is described as "the worst scourge the Talbot settlers experienced." This manuscript further says, "the products of Daniel Rapelje's new farm had all been gathered in joy and gladness; that which had been waited for, toiled for in patience, had been reaped. This troop of horse, commanded by McArthur, arrived at Daniel Rapelje's farm a little before sunset, but found him away. He had seen the troop at a distance, at Malcom's mills, but it had reached Kettle Creek before him. Here the troop camped for the night in Rapelje's clearing, about where the City Hall and St. Andrew's market are located. At dark, the whole place was in a glow of light. The soldiers piled the fencing in heaps and set them on fire. It was a wonderful sight for the young to behold, the tops of the trees along the north bank of Kettle Creek, cast a gloomy shade over the place. In the morning that which had been given was all destroyed and gone, the wheat and hay scattered over the fields, and corn taken out of the crib, the sheep were all slaughtered." This is the account given by one of the children who was a witness of the event.

Col. Talbot, while at Kettle Creek a few days previous to the first raid, had left a box full of valuable papers at Rapelje's, and he gave strict injunctions that they were to be kept safely at all hazards. The box was placed under the bed which would have been a secure place under ordinary circumstances, but not when a visit is made by a band of savage marauders. When the American forces appeared in sight on the hill opposite the cabin, Mrs. Rapelje took the box and placed it on the ground between some beehives, which were located in the hemp "patch." The bees protected the box and shortly after it was placed in Col. Talbot's hands with all its contents intact.

After peace was declared in 1815, the Talbot settlers took fresh courage, the Rapeljes' and their neighbors went to work