

12 Jan 1963
 pic returned
 to Gene Thorpe



LIMBS OF FAMILY TREE—The Rapelje blood will be present in the St. Thomas area for many generations to come. Many of the descendants of the founder of the City of St. Thomas are living in St. Thomas at the present time. One of the oldest, Mrs. Mary E. Rapelje, will be celebrating her 90th birthday on Wednesday. Her husband, Albert was the grandson of Capt. Daniel Rapelje, the city's founder. Pictured with her above are three more generations of the Rapelje family. Mrs. Rapelje lives in North Yarmouth Township and still keeps house. Her son, Walter, above, is a North Yarmouth

Township farmer. Seated next to her is her grand-daughter, Shirley A. (Rapelje) Colledge, and the fourth generation, Dawn Annette Colledge, Mrs. Rapelje's great grand-daughter. Captain Daniel Rapelje came to this area from New York State, settling in the Long Point Settlement in 1802. He later received a 200 acre tract of land on the south side of the Talbot Road at Kettle Creek. Following the War of 1812 he broke up his land into lots for building purposes. The settlement that Rapelje established formed the nucleus of the City of St. Thomas.