

Rapelje Family Tree Ought to Include This City's Oldest Family

Is your name de Rapalie, Rappelye or Rapelje or some derivative? If so, Mrs. Sally G. Stevenson, 1548 Commerce Avenue, Longview, Wash., is anxious that you get in touch with her.

Mrs. Stevenson, compiling the genealogical chart of her hus-

band's maternal line, is missing a part of the family that ventured to the Maritime provinces. She wrote to the Nova Scotia Department of Trade and Industry for information where she might trace her missing relatives.

Of Norwegian birth, Mrs. Stevenson became a genealogist in 1936. Her family emigrated to Canada in 1907 and travelled across the country to enter the United States at Sumas, Wash.

In tracing her husband's maternal family, Mrs. Stevenson discovered that a Norman Frenchman, Joris Janse de Rapalie and his wife came to Nieuw Amsterdam where their daughter, Sarah, was the first white girl to be born in the Long Island area.

Family members wrote their name in various ways: de Rapalie, Rapalje, Rapelje, Rapal-ye, Rappelye, and Rappleyea, but all are from the same family tree. In the War of the Revolution, many who were Loyalists residing in New York and New Jersey, surrendered their estates in support of their principles. These people went to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, but further record has been unavailable.

Mrs. Stevenson would like to trace these people to add to the 40,000 family members she has already collected to conclude the history. She has requested that anyone with a name—or knowing of a name—such as those mentioned above write to her.

Editor's Note: Many members of the Rapelje family in St. Thomas and district will be interested in what Mrs. Stevenson is doing, and she will be interested in finding out that this city's first settler, whose lands were all within the present limits of the city proper, was Daniel Rapelje, who came here in 1810. There is an historical plaque in front of the City Hall here on which the story of Daniel Rapelje is recounted in brief form. The sisters, Mrs. Elsie Winkworth, 38 Alma Street, and Mrs. A. Kenneth (Mabel) Moyer, 7 Locust Street, are both descendants of Daniel Rapelje and that was their maiden surname. Other Rapeljes here and living in North and South Yarmouth are A. A. Rapelje, 101 Balaclava Street; Albert Rapelje, R.R. 6, St. Thomas; Robert C. Rapelje, R.R. 4, St. Thomas; W. Donald Rapelje, 64 First Avenue; Walter E. Rapelje, R.R. 6, St. Thomas.

Daniel Rapelje's lands were south of the west end of Talbot Street and east of Kettle Creek, both in the flats and on the high grounds in the area of the Old English Church on Walnut Street, and in the Court House district south to Mill Creek. He donated the land for the site of the Walnut Street church, built in 1823-24, and the burial ground in front and to the west of the church.

Rapelje Street, in the residential district to the east of the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital, was named in memory of Daniel Rapelje.