

RAID HOUSES; DRUG SLEEPERS

Daring Gang of Burglars Terrorizing Middleburg and Strongsville.

Another Residence Looted and Woman Chloroformed.

A state of terror has been created among the farmers in the vicinity of Middleburg and Strongsville by the operations of a gang of burglars who, before rifling the houses, place the inmates under the influence of chloroform and then proceed to gather their booty at leisure.

In the past two days several people have been given anesthetics while they slept and the houses looted of large sums of money and valuables. Several attempts were also made to enter other houses, but these failed because the residents were aroused. Since the last series the residents are arming themselves and keeping guard of their property at night.

The feeling among the farmers has been intensified because of the discovery made yesterday through the use of bloodhounds that the haunt of the gang was some place in the neighborhood. The animals traced the flight of the men from the residence of Sanford Gray, about one mile north of Berea, for a considerable distance. A rifled savings bank was found on the way. Arrests in the case may be made today.

The first of the robberies took place early Saturday morning at the Gray residence. Chloroform was administered to the couple while they slept and property aggregating \$1,700 stolen.

The second burglary was committed late Saturday night or in the early hours yesterday morning, and within a few hours attempts were made to enter the homes of two neighboring residents. All of these are in Strongsville township, about five miles south of Berea.

The residence of Lewis A. Glassman, treasurer of the township, was first burglarized. The gang, showing all of the acumen of the members of their craft who practice in the city, apparently watched the house and waited for the absence of Mr. Glassman.