

--Saturday morning, at an early hour, Mr. George Booknau, who has been living with his son Henry, in Chester township, committed suicide. He had reached the advanced age of eighty years, and for some months had been in very poor health. Saturday morning, at half past six o'clock he left the house without eating his breakfast. In about 20 minutes a member of the family went to the barn and was horrified to find the old gentleman hanging by a rope. Everything showed that he had made preparations for this end with coolness and deliberation. He had to climb up a long ladder to adjust the rope, and he had made it long enough so that he could stand on the ground floor of the barn and slip his head through the noose, by standing on his tip-toes. Coroner McGuin was summoned and reached the scene about 10 o'clock. He found Dr. Wiley present. Through a few persons who were present, enough evidence was collected to warrant the coroner in not going to the expense of empaneling a jury. Deceased was born in Germany and has been a resident of this state for thirty-one years.

Source: Grinnell Herald; September 2, 1890