

SUICIDE.

About 3 o'clock last Friday afternoon, Joshua Rennison, one of the old citizens of the county, committed suicide in Palestine township. He had been living with Wm. Carey, and while sitting in the house that afternoon his attention was attracted by the barking of a dog in the woods not far from the house. He remarked that the dog had "treed" a squirrel and that he would go and kill it. Taking his gun he went out accompanied by two little boys. The children became separated from him and after awhile they heard the report of his gun, but did not return to where he was for some time.

When they found him he was lying beside a tree with the gun grasped in his hands. The children supposed he had only fallen asleep, and in a spirit of childish mischief concluded to steal the gun away and were attempting to do so when they discovered blood running from his ear. This alarmed them and they set out to call the neighbors, several of whom were soon on the spot.

They concluded from appearances that he had placed the muzzle of the gun in his mouth and used his cane to discharge it—the cane being found placed through the guard. The shot were small and did not go through the head, but death must have been instantaneous upon the discharge.

The deceased had not been in good health recently, and was in very low spirits. He had been heard to remark that he did not wish to live longer as life had become to him a burden, and thus brooding over his troubles, he came to the determination to take his life, and killed himself in the vicinity of the place where he was born. He was regarded by those who knew him as an honest man. He was once in good circumstances, but had lost his property, and finding himself at the age of sixty-five too feeble to labor, and without means to live without work, he resolved to lay down a life whose burdens he thought were too grievous longer to be borne.

In the absence of Coroner Holman from the county, Justice D. T. Driffen, being notified of the death, went with Constable W. S. Bowman to the scene of death, summoned a jury and held an inquest, the jury returning a verdict of suicide.

Joshua Rennison is surely the son of John Rennison and Ann Weeden, b:abt 1825, who married Sary Yarnell and then probably married Nancy Yarnell. Joshua 24 Oct 1890.