

Handwritten date: Thursday, October 21, 1937)

B. F. MILLER COMMITS ACT (cut off) EARLY TODAY
Wife Finds Body in Barn at 6:30 O'Clock This Morning

Benjamin Franklin Miller, aged ?, prominent Jefferson township (paper crease)...according to Mrs. Miller, Mr. Miller told his wife that it would be a swell day to 'shuck' corn and that they must hurry up with the chores. Mrs. Miller went to the barn to help her husband milk, and after they had completed this work they returned to the house. A few minutes later Mr. Miller left the house again, presumably to do the rest of the chores before they ate their breakfast. Mrs. Miller saw him going to the corn crib, where he secured a new rope he had bought recently to bind fodder shocks. He took the rope into the barn, but Mrs. Miller thought he was just getting things together to go into the corn field after breakfast.

Mrs. Miller then prepared the breakfast, then went to the barn and called to her husband to come to breakfast. She did not see him at the time, but imagined he was in the stable. She then left the barn and went to feed the chickens, which took several minutes. Then she returned to the barn, and when she entered the feed room of the building, she saw her husband hanging there, dead.

USES WHEELBARROW

Mr. Miller had climbed on a wheelbarrow, and fastened one end of the rope to his neck. The other end he threw over a sill or rafter in the barn. He then managed to kick the wheelbarrow over, and in this manner succeeded in doing the rash act. When found, his feet were almost touching the wheelbarrow, the sill across which he threw the rope being only about 9 or 10 feet from the floor.

Mrs. Miller succeeded in loosening the rope around her husband's neck, but he was not breathing anymore. She then screamed for help and neighbors rushed to the Miller farm, then notified the county coroner.

IN ILL HEALTH

Mr. Miller's rash act came as a shock to his relatives. Although he had made several threats recently, the family did not think that he would kill himself. He is reported to have been very despondent the past summer, being in ill health and crippled, suffering from rheumatism. He had lost much weight the past several months, and was very moody at times. He did not have any financial troubles, relatives said today.

WAS OIL MAN

Mr. Miller was born in Wells county, May 1, 1872, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob J. Miller. He spent his entire life in Indiana, most of the time in the community east of Berne and Geneva, where he was engaged as an oil pumper for many years. The last several years he lived a more or less retired life although he did some farming on his place.

He was married to Miss Elizabeth Flauding on February 19, 1895. She survives and the following children: Homer Miller, living south of the tile mill on Berne R. 2; Mrs. Ermin?? Wall, New Corydon; and Mrs. Charles Reinbold, Fort Wayne. Six grandchildren survive. One son, Casper, is deceased.

The stepmother, Mrs. John Stuck?? of Bluffton, also survives, and the following step-brothers: Grover Cleveland Miller, Enola, Ia.; Arthur Miller, Uniondale; Ervin Miller, California; and Oscar Flauding, Bryant.

The parents and one full brother, Simon Miller, preceded.

The body was taken to the Metzner funeral home at Bryant, and was returned to the Miller home late this afternoon. The funeral will be at 12:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon at the home, and at 1:30 o'clock at the West Liberty church west of Bryant. Rev. George Snyder of Kokomo, and Rev. Studabaker, of Geneva, will officiate. Burial will be in Gravel Hill Cem- (cut off)

Adams County Historical Museum

1937 Scrapbook, image 055

Transcribed by Karin King