

A SUICIDE AT SANITARIUM

AGED PATIENT AT RANSOM RE-
TREAT LEAPS INTO CISTERN
AND DROWNS.

VICTIM OF MELANCHOLIA

Feared Life in Insane Asylum—Was
Resident of Mt. Carroll.

Dread of ending her days in the in-
sane asylum at Elgin drove Mrs. Susan
Bixler to suicide at the Ransom sani-
tarium just north of the city Tuesday
night.

Darting away from her room during
a moment when the vigil of an attend-
ant was relaxed the aged inmate of
the institution made her way to the
cistern on the sanitarium premises
and leaped to her death.

The disappearance of the woman
was noted by the sanitarium authori-
ties during the night and a search was
at once instituted. Failing to find any
trace of the missing patient Dr. Ran-
som notified the Rockford police about
midnight that Mrs. Bixler had disap-
peared and his fear that she had gone
to the river as she had often hinted
that she would take her own life rather
than end her days in an asylum for the
insane.

The police arranged to drag the
river this morning but as they were
about to start for the sanitarium
grounds a telephone message from Dr.
Ransom brought the information that
the body of the missing woman had
been found in the cistern.

Dr. Ransom had renewed his search
with the advent of daylight and a visit
to the cistern disclosed the body of
the unfortunate patient in the water
below.

The remains were conveyed to the
rooms of Coroner Marsh and an in-
quest was held this afternoon, a ver-
dict of suicide while temporarily in-
sane being rendered.

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Mrs. Bixler was about 65 years of
age and came to the sanitarium from
Mt. Morris, Ill., the early part of July
last. She was suffering from melan-
cholia and the burden of her life was
the fear that she would ultimately be
sent to Elgin.

On numerous occasions she has
threatened to end her existence and
especial care was shown her on that
account. Several times she has made
suicidal plans, all of which have been
frustrated by attendants and her es-
cape Tuesday night occurred when the
attendant was off guard for a moment.

Mrs. Bixler left several letters, un-
signed and unaddressed, in her posses-
sion all of which announced her inten-
tion of taking her own life. They were
written on scraps of paper and placed
in envelopes which had originally con-
tained letters from her children. The
son is a prominent lawyer at Mt. Mor-
ris and a married daughter also sur-
vives. The remains will be sent to

Mt. Morris for burial and the son was
expected in the city this afternoon to
take the body of his mother home.