

William C. Zachow

Exerpts from the Shawano County Journal 4/8/1915 (58th birthday)

We first find Mr. Zachow in the industrial world at Seymour, where at the age of thirteen to fourteen, he worked in the woods sawing logs. The next year he worked in a stave factory and stayed at that job for three years. Young Zachow was at that time seventeen, and John Brinkman, a business man of Seymour put him into his store as clerk. Wm. saw that he needed to learn to do figures, and to learn more reading, so he went to night school and paid the fabulous sum of ten cents a night for tuition. He would take the potato checks or the hay checks upon which Mr. Brinkman had figured out the price of a load and by a process of working the problem backward, he learned how the original figuring was done. It would be stating the case frankly to say that Mr. Zachow acquired his education almost entirely in the school of experience, but today it would be hard to find a man who is more ready with figures, or a man who can calculate more rapidly by mental arithmetic. The young clerk stayed with the Brinkman establishment until he was twenty and then he went to Bonduel where he was clerk in A. Spengler's store for seven years. It was while working in this store that he became acquainted with the people who were his guests on Saturday. Some of them used to come to the Spengler store, a distance of fifteen to twenty miles, many of them with ox-teams over rough roads carved through the woods. In the eight year after going to Bonduel, he traveled for the Russel Company selling agricultural implements.

In 1884, the railroad built through from Oconto to Clintonville, and the village of Cecil opened up new opportunites. Well prepared from his experience as clerk and traveling man, Mr. Zachow went to Cecil and opened up a general store. He soon branched out into real estate business, cedar business, and grain elevator.

During these years, his wife was his faithful companion in business. In 1900 he was elected president of the state bank at Cecil, and later was made vice-president of the First National Bank of Shawano. His activities in Shawano since moving to this city is an open book known of all persons who know the town at all. He is still interested in all of the old Cecil enterprises. J. H. Kuehl, who has been a faithful associate for twenty eight years is looking after his Cecil interests.

WILLIAM C. ZACHOW PROMINENT COUNTY PIONEER SUCCUMBS.

Shawano County Journal May 4, 1939

Wm. C. "Bill" Zachow, one of Shawano's prominent pioneer business men and influential leaders in the early development of this county, died at his home here at 1:45 p.m. Saturday. He had been ailing for some time.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock at the Zachow home and were in charge of the Christian Science Society. Interment was in Woodlawn cemetery.

The pallbearers were Mr. Estice of Menominee, Mich., William Meyer of Cecil, Curtis Black, H. Mittlestadt, Marshal Wallrich and Dr. Roger Cantwell. The Masonic Lodge had charge at the grave, with Fr. Clyde J. Miller officiating.

Mr. Zachow was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob C. Zachow and was born on April 2, 1857, in the town of Greenville, Outagamie County. There he received his early education, later going to Seymour, where, as a youth he worked in a store and stave factory. When he was 18 years old he came to Bonduel and was employed in the Spengler store. Having gained knowledge of such business, he established a store of his own in the village of Cecil in 1883, when the railroad was built through there. His business soon prospered, allowing him to build a large elevator with the opportunity to serve others within a wide range. Mr. Zachow later became interested in logging and was a leader in the lumber business.

Mr. Zachow aid materially in building the village of Cecil. However, his interests were not confined there alone, for his influence was felt over the entire county.

In the year of 1887 he married Mary Naber, a member of a prominent Shawano family, then a popular school teacher at Cecil.

When Mr. and Mrs. Zachow came to Shawano in 1903, it was reluctantly that their friends at Cecil let them come. Here Mr. Zachow became president of the First national Bank. He helped to found the local paper mill and at one time served as president of the company.

Mr. Zachow had extensive interests in the Wisconsin Northern railroad and when a railroad was built in the eastern part of the county, the station at Zachow was named for the deceased. At that time Mr. Zachow was the largest shipper in the county.

The Zachows had five children. A son died when he was eight years old. The four daughters are : Margaret, Mrs. Julius Rollman, Cecil; Lucille, Mrs. Albert F. Koeller, Chicago; Marie, Mrs. Thomas B. Kellogg, Antigo, and Anna Claire, Mrs. V. Carroll, Laguna Beach, California.

Mr. Zachow lived through the most colorful period of Shawano's history and was a witness to the great changes that have taken place. His integrity and foresight helped to mold this community.

He spent the last years of his life living quietly at his home on Sawyer street. However, his interest in community affairs did not lessen and he was in sympathy with every form of good government. He like people and throughout his entire life never hesitated to help in a good cause. Bill Zachow had a rare sense of humor and like to make his friends chuckle while relating some anecdote. He dearly loved children, and during the last years, when age forced him to live quietly, he found many happy hours watching groups of children at play. Summer found on the front porch of his home, resting there, and watching life go by, life in which at one time he took a leader's part.

He was a kindly, friendly man who enjoyed the constant companionship of his gracious wife. He shared with her interest in the Shawano Woodlawn Cemetery Society, to which Mrs. Zachow devotes considerable of her time and interest.

Before the services, the body rested at the Karl Schweers Funeral Home, from where it was removed to the Zachow residence.

Friends and acquaintances from far and near were here on Tuesday to attend the last rites. Shortly before Mr. Zachow's death members of his family were called and all were with him when he passed away.

Besides his wife and children, Mr. Zachow leaves ten grandchildren and two sisters, Mrs. Joseph Grab of this city and Mrs. Id Isstas of Olympia, Washington.

WILLIAM C. ZACHOW

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William C. Zachow is one of the most thorough-going and successful business men of Washington township, Shawano County, and possesses large and varied interests. He was born in Greenville township, Outagamie Co., Wis., April 2, 1857, a son of Jacob C. and Johanna (Pingle) Zachow, both natives of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, the father born at Damshuhl, Crivitz, February 10, 1827, the mother born at Bergrade, Parchim, August 15, 1836.

Jacob C. Zachow was employed in a broadcloth mill in Germany, and in 1850 came to the United States, locating near Buffalo, N.Y., where he worked as a farm hand. While in Germany he was engaged to Miss Pingle, who came to America not long after his arrival, and they were united in marriage near Buffalo, N.Y. Their children were as follows: John, who died at the age of thirty-seven, first married Hattie Schuster, by whom he had one child a son, and for his second wife married Mary Koeppen, by whom he had no children; she survives him. William C. is the subject of this sketch. Mary is Mrs. Paul H. Meyer, of Cecil, Washington township. Ida is Mrs. Frank Isstas, of Cecil. Annie is the wife of Joseph Grab, of Cecil. About 1856, Jacob C. Zachow came west with his wife and family, and located on a farm in Greenville, Outagamie Co., Wis., where he resided until 1871. He then moved to Seymour, same county, conducted a boarding house there for several years, and then purchased a farm whereon he engaged in agricultural pursuits until coming to Cecil, where he and two of his sons-in-law took an interest in the store of his son, William C. and where, with his wife, he lived retired from active business for past ten years, but is now president of the Cecil Milling Company.

William C. Zachow received a somewhat limited education in the district schools of his native town. After leaving school, he worked at home on the farm with his father until he was fourteen, then went to Seymour and hired out in a sawmill, packing and also culling staves. He was thus employed for two years and half, and during that time acquired considerable knowledge of the different machines used in the mill. Afterward, and until he left the employe of the company six months later, he was general utility man, taking the places of men who were absent from sickness of other cause. He first received a dollar a day in the mill, and when he left got a dollar and a half a day. He next engaged as clerk in a general store in Seymour, getting \$150 and board the first year. When he left the firm, two years and a half later, he was receiving \$25 a month and board. Going next to Centralia, Wood county, Mr. Zachow hired out as a general hand to McKennon & Griffith, who were erecting a hub and spoke factory in that town; but after six months the factory, having just started, caught fire and was burned to the ground, throwing him out of employment. Not wishing to return home, he intended to try his fortune in the West, and was about to set out when he received a letter from one Adolph Kann advising him to go to Bonduel, Shawano county, as Adolph Spangler, a merchant there, was in need of a clerk. Following the directions, he secured the position in Mr. Spangler's store; at the end of two and a half years he proposed to make a change, but Mr. Spangler offered him greater inducements if he

would remain. At this time Adolph Kann offered to purchase the business if Mr. Zachow would remain, which he agree to do, and remained with Mr. Kann for two years and a half, during that time starting a harness store in Bonduel with one E. J. Dean, by whom the business was conducted. Mr. Zachow continuing in Mr. Kann's employ.

When the Milwaukee & Lake Shore railway was started, Mr. Zachow saw great opportunities for a store in a good location along the line, where his present place of business is situated, and kept his eye upon it. His next venture was in the agricultural implement business with E. J. and F. H. Dean, in Seymour, in 1884. The firm was known as the Seymour Agricultural Company of Seymour. In the spring of 1884 he purchased his present location, and in the following fall disposed of his interest in the machinery company, erecting a part of his present store on the site purchased in the spring. Since then on account of increasing business, he has built a large addition to the original structure. His father and two of his brothers-in-law owned a small interest in the business at first, but he afterward bought them out. In 1887, in the company with others, Mr. Zachow built a sawmill in Cecil, which he has disposed of. Soon after he purchased an interest in a gristmill, which was known as belonging to the Cecil Milling Co., and he has also disposed of his share in this enterprise. He had become interested in many large real-estate deals during this time, is still doing much in that line, and has also loaned a considerable amount of money.

On September 28, 1887, in Shawano, Shawano Co., Wis., William C. Zachow was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Naber, who was born in Shawano September 12, 1867, and they have had two children: Margaret and Jacob. In 1892 Mr. Zachow built his present home, which is a large modern structure. The same year he purchased a half interest in the C.C. Naber Company, of Shawano, but C. C. Naber died a year and a half later, and the firm was changed to Naber Drug Co., of which Mr. Zachow has since been president. Since 1892 he has become interested in the Wolf River Paper and Fibre Co., Shawano, and is vice-president of that company. He is a Republican in politics, has never, however sought political office, and has given us undivided attention to business. For twelve years he has been a notary republic. Both Mr. Zachow and his wife are members of the German Lutheran Church at Cecil, and he has contributed largely to its support. He began life as a poor boy, and is a self-made man, displaying great business sagacity in his varied enterprises, and he is the owner of large tracts of farming and timber lands in Shawano and Oconto counties. He is a good conversationalist, pleasant and affable.