

DISCLAIMER

This biography is a rough draft and a work-in-progress.
The research has not been completed, so there may be errors and omissions.

This record also lacks 1950 federal census data.
Please return to Tuscania1918.org in the future to see if a revised and
finalized version is available.

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA

Jaeger, William Carl
1887 WI – 1946 WI

Jaeger, Tuscania Survivor, Dies at 58

William C. Jaeger, 58, who was one of the few living survivors of the Tuscania which was sunk by a torpedo off the coast of Ireland Feb. 5, 1918, died Sunday at a hospital after an illness of several weeks.

Mr. Jaeger was an optometrist and had his business establishment at 925 E. Johnson st., where he also lived.

Born in Madison, Mr. Jaeger was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Christian Jaeger, Sr. For many years he operated a jewelry and optometry establishment in Milwaukee. Three years ago he returned to Madison and opened an optometrist office. He was a member of the 32nd division which was shipped to Europe on the British boat Tuscania. All but 213 men were rescued.

Mr. Jaeger was a Mason and also belonged to the American Legion. Only survivors are a brother, Christ Jaeger, Madison, and eight nieces and nephews. A brother, Louis, died in Chicago last November.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Wednesday in the Frautschi funeral home. The Rev. Otto J. Wilke of St. John's Lutheran church will officiate and burial will be in Forest Hill cemetery.

William C. Jaeger Dies at Age 58

William C. Jaeger, 58, of 925 E. Johnson st., died Sunday in a local hospital.

Mr. Jaeger was an optometrist and had his office at the same address. He was born in Madison, May 11, 1887. He was a veteran of World War I and one of the few survivors of the Tuscania. He was a member of the American Legion and of the Masonic Blue lodge in Milwaukee.

Mr. Jaeger is survived by one brother, Christian, Madison; eight nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 2 p. m. in the Frautschi funeral home, with Dr. Otto J. Wilke of St. John's Lutheran church officiating. Burial will be in Forest Hill cemetery.

Obituary of William Carl Jaeger – “Madison (WI) Capital Times” Monday 21 Jan 1946 p 3

WILLIAM C. JAEGER
Funeral services for William C. Jaeger, 58, of 925 E. Johnson st., who died Sunday, were held today in the Frautschi funeral home, with Dr. Otto J. Wilke of St. John's Lutheran church officiating. Burial was in Forest Hill cemetery.

Obituary “Madison (WI) Capital Times” Wednesday 23 Jan 1946 p 5

JAEGER WILLIAM CARL		C	Xc6096777
Cpl 10 Co 161 DB		K	
160 South St Kenosha Wis		A	2 220 520
Ssn	249 990	Died	1 20 46
Born	5/11/87	T	1 682 534
Enl	5/25/17	R	
		Dia	4/17/19
		Ct.	642 625
		I	

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
MAIL AND RECORDS
Form 7202—Rev. Sept., 1925

mc

INDEX CARD

2-15009

OPTICAL

Finest glasses, any style, accurately fitted—at prices common folks can afford to pay.

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Satisfaction and Honest Dealing

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W. C. JAEGER

Registered Optometrist

Office
at Residence
925 E. Johnson

Opposite
Norris Court
E. 5648

Mrs. W. J. Laughlin

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" Sunday 22 Nov 1942 p 4

ANNOUNCING!

RE-OPENING OF THE
PRACTICE OF THE LATE

W. C. JAEGER, Optometrist

By H. J. Hulburt

Who—prior to his entry into the
U. S. Navy—had been associat-
ed with the W. J. LAUGHLIN
office at the same location.

OFFICE HOURS — 9 to 12 — 1:30 to 5:30
Tuesday and Friday Evenings by Appointment

H. J. HULBURT
OPTOMETRIST

925 E. Johnson St. — Phone F. 5648

We Welcome All New and Former Patients

“Madison (WI) Capital Times” Wednesday 20 Feb 1946 p 4

William Jaeger Passenger

William Jaeger, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Christ C. Jaeger, Sr. 147 North Hancock street, is believed to be one of those on the transport Tuscania, which was sunk in the war zone. He was a member of the 158th arial squadron, which is reported to have been on board. No word has been received from him by his relatives here. He was a brother of Christ Jaeger, Jr. of the Madison Saddlery company and of Carl Jaeger of the Olds Seed company.

The last word received here from him was a card from New York about two weeks ago saying he expected to sail soon. On enlisting last spring he was sent to Ft. Snelling, then to Camp Grant, and from there was transferred to Lake Charles, La.

His mother has no hopes for his safety. Although not a believer in dreams she cannot help but give some weight to a bad dream she had recently about the safety of her son.

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" 7 Feb 1918 p`

SURVIVOR WRITES TO HIS PARENTS

**Will Jaeger, Saved From Tus-
cania Safe in
Europe**

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Jaeger, 147 North Hancock street, have received a letter from their son, Will, who was on the Tuscania and who was rescued and taken to Ireland. The letter follows:

Dear Mother and Father:

Feeling fine after our experience. We were hit last Thursday at 5:45 p. m., off the coast of Ireland. Am writing this in Ireland in a training camp.

The treatment of the soldiers from the U. S. A. is wonderful. Words cannot tell you what it means to us to receive such treatment. All I can say is that the people and the soldiers are the best on earth that we are meeting in this camp. At the time that I am writing we are waiting for our tobacco which they are going to give us, so mother you will know that we are being well taken care of.

I will write more in a few days and tell you more. I have lost everything like my toilet articles.

I don't want you to worry any more for I am doing well and everything will be all right.

I am sending you a clipping from a paper and please keep it. This is for all the folks in Madison. Will write again in a short time.

With love to all and with "God's blessing" to keep you well,

Your loving son,

WILL.

Somewhere in Ireland.

“Madison (WI) Capital Times” Saturday 2 Mar 1918 p 1

Corp. William Jaeger, 141 South Hancock street, is among those who sailed on the transport, according to members of his family. They received an announcement sent Jan. 23, fixing the departure of the ship for that day or soon after.

“Wisconsin State Journal” (Madison WI) 8 Feb 1918 p 1

CHRISTIAN JÄGER, SR.
 Funeral services for Christian Jaeger, Sr., 147 N. Hancock street, will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 from the home and shortly after from St. John's Lutheran church. Rev. O. J. Wäke will conduct the services.
 Mr. Jaeger who was 79 years of age died Thursday morning after falling into a cistern.
 He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Caroline Jaeger; four sons, Carl C. and Christian F. of Madison, Louis C., of Chicago, and William C., Milwaukee; one brother, Conrad, Sauk City; and eight grandchildren.
 The pallbearers will be: Fred Doerschlag, E. C. Hoebel, John Ellestad, Ira Reed, H. F. Tiedemann, and Paul Truehl. Interment will be made in the family lot at Forest Hill.

Obituary of father Christian Jaeger Sr. – “Wisconsin State Journal” (Madison WI) Friday 20 Nov 1925 p 29

Chris Jaeger 79, Dies in Water Pool

**Raises Cover Of Cistern
To Clean Reservoir;
Topples In**

Christian Jaeger, Sr., 79, was drowned in two and a half feet of water in a cistern in the rear of his home, 147 N. Hancock st., this morning.

The aged man had been working in a shed in rear of the home and had lifted the cover of the cistern with the intention of cleaning the reservoir when he lost his balance and plunged into the hole.

Ira Reed, Central station fireman, who resided next door, summoned police. Detective Smith and Mounted Officers Bakken and Austin responded with a lungmotor and worked over the aged man for about an hour but a physician who had been summoned declared the man to be dead.

The body was taken into the house and Coroner Stephenson was summoned.

Mr. Jaeger was planning to visit his only brother in Sauk City today, and had been looking after things in the house, when he was missed by his wife. She noticed that the cover of the cistern was standing along side the wall, and called Ira A. Reed. Ira Sisk pronounced Mr. Jaeger dead.

Christian Jaeger was born in Waldeck, Germany, Sept. 6, 1864, came to the United States in 1881, and to Madison in 1886. Mr. Jaeger and his wife, Mrs. Caroline Jaeger, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on June 20, this year.

He is survived by four sons, Carl C., Madison; Christian F., Madison; Louis C., Chicago; and William C., Milwaukee. One brother, Conrad, Sauk City; his wife, and eight grandchildren.

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" Thursday 19 Nov 1925 p 1

Mrs. Jaeger, 84, Dies On Friday

Mrs. Caroline Jaeger, 84, formerly of 143 N. Hancock st., died Friday at the Lutheran Home, Muscatine, Ia. She was a resident of Madison 53 years.

She is survived by three sons, Christian F., Madison; Louis, Chicago; William, Milwaukee; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. The late Carl C. Jaeger was also her son.

Funeral services will be held Monday afternoon at 1:30 in the Frautschi funeral home, and at 2 in St. John's Lutheran church, with Dr. Otto J. Wilke, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Forest Hill cemetery.

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" Saturday 16 Sep 1919 p 2



His mother Caroline Hamel Jaeger - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/16518037/person/1884311691/media/b64ef04e-8994-46b9-88b2-4a73e5c00631>

Christian Jaeger Dies At Age of 73

Christian F. Jaeger, 73, of 2545 Van Hise ave., died today in a Stoughton nursing home.

Mr. Jaeger, born in Germany, came to Madison in 1890. He was employed by Simon Bros., local grocers, until his retirement in 1948.

He was a member of St. John's Lutheran church, the Hiram Masonic lodge No. 50, and Madison Turners.



Survivors include a son, Mr. Jaeger Frederick, Black Earth postmaster; a daughter, Mrs. Norman Madding, Madison.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 Saturday in the Frautschi funeral home, with the Rev. Carl A. Becker, pastor of St. John's Lutheran church, officiating.

Ernest C. Jimieson, past master of the Hiram lodge, will conduct graveside services at Forest Hill cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home after 1 Friday.



His brother Christian Frederick Jaeger Jr. - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/16518037/person/461988689/media/16925100-64cf-4f3e-b022-3d5abd8f492c>

Louis C. Jaeger

Louis C. Jaeger, 65, a former Madison resident who operated a pharmacy in Chicago, died Thursday in Chicago. He was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Christian Jaeger Sr., early Madison settlers, and left Madison 45 years ago.

Mr. Jaeger is survived by his wife, one son, Carl, in the army now stationed at Camp McCoy; two daughters, Kathryn and Carolyn, at home; two brothers, William C. and Christian F. Jaeger, Madison.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 2 p. m. in the Frautschi funeral home with the Rev. Vernon I. Strempeke, assistant pastor of St. John's Lutheran church, officiating. Burial will be in Forest Hill cemetery. The body will arrive in Madison Sunday and be taken to Frautschi's.

Obituary of his brother Louis C. Jaeger – "Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Friday 23 Nov 1945 p 5

**Carl Jaeger Rites
Will Be Held at
2 p. m. on Friday**



Carl C. Jaeger

Funeral services for Carl C. Jaeger, 61, Moseley book store employe for 20 years, who died Tuesday at his home, 141 S. Hancock st., will be held at 2 tomorrow in the Frautschi funeral home, with the Rev. Otto J. Wilke of St. John's Lutheran church, officiating. Burial will be in Forest Hill cemetery.

Obituary of brother Carl Conrad jaeger – "Madison (WI) Capital Times" Thursday 2 Sep 1937 p 8

Carl Jaeger, Book Firm Employee, Dies

Carl P. Jaeger, 61, Madison resident for nearly all his life and employee of the Moseley Book co. for the last 20 years, died Tuesday night at his home, 141 S. Hancock st., after a short illness.

He was born in Germany and came to America with his parents when he was five. He received his elementary education in Madison and was graduated from the North Western school of pharmacy. Before his work at the book company, he was a druggist in Sheboygan, Waupaca, and Fond du Lac.

He is survived by his widow, Elta Mueller Jaeger; a son, Conrad C., Madison; two daughter, Mrs. Harold Wheeler, Cobb, Wis., and Harriet M., Sheboygan; his mother, Mrs. Caroline Jaeger, Muscatine, Ia., three brothers, Christ, Madison; Louis C., Chicago, and William C., Milwaukee.

Mr. Jaeger was a member of the Madison Aerie of Eagles, the Madison Turnverein, and a social member of the Madison Maennerchor.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Friday in the Frautschi funeral home, the Rev. Otto J. Wilke of St. John's Lutheran church officiating. Burial will be in Forest Hill.

Honoray pallbearers will be Henry Loeprich, Bert Sauthoff, John Drives, Harry Moseley, Ernest Bremer, and Gustave Wolff.

Active bearers will be Frank Stewart, Otto Milbrook, Arthur Mueller, John Sumner, Arpad Moseley, and O. C. Grinstead.

Obituary of his brother Carl Conrad Jaeger – "Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Wednesday 1 Sep 1937 p 1

Carl Jaeger Rites Attended by Scores

Funeral services for Carl Jaeger, who died Tuesday, were held Friday afternoon at the Frautschi funeral parlors, with scores of friends attending. The rites were conducted by the Rev. Otto J. Wilke of St. John's Lutheran church. The Madison Maennerchor, of which Mr. Jaeger was an associate member, sang. Burial was made in Forest Hill cemetery.

Obituary of his brother Carl Conrad Jaeger – “Wisconsin State Journal” (Madison WI)
Saturday 4 Sep 1937 p 2

* * *

JAEGER GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Jaeger, Sr., residents of Madison for 39 years, will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on Saturday, June 20.

Mr. Jaeger was born September 8, 1846, and Mrs. Jaeger, nee Carolina Humel, was born January 30, 1855. They were married at Meineringshausen, Waldeck, Germany.

They came to Milwaukee June 5, 1881, and moved from there to Sauk City, Sheboygan, and finally to Madison in March, 1886.

There are four sons, Carl and Christ. of Madison, Louis, of Chicago, and William, of Milwaukee, and seven grandchildren.

Friends are invited to an informal reception that will be held Saturday afternoon from 2 until 5 o'clock at the home, 147 North Hancock street.

* * *

“Wisconsin State Journal” Thursday 18 Jun 1925 p 16

Mrs. Jaeger, 84, Lutheran Homes Resident, Dies

Mrs. Caroline Jaeger, 84, died at 4:50 p. m. Friday at the Lutheran Homes as a result of complications attending advanced age after an illness of several months. Born Jan. 29, 1855, in Germany, she had been a resident of Muscatine for nine years. She formerly lived at Madison, Wis.

She was married to Christian Jaeger, June 20, 1875. She was a member of the Lutheran church.

Surviving are three sons, Louis Jaeger, Chicago; Christ Jaeger, Madison, Wis., and William Jaeger, Milwaukee, Wis. Her husband preceded her in death Nov. 19, 1925.

Funeral services will be held Sunday at Madison, Wis. The body was sent to the Wisconsin City this morning by the George M. Wittich Funeral home. Burial will be at Madison.

Obituary of his mother Caroline Jaeger – “Muscatine (IA) Journal & News-Tribune” Saturday 16 Sep 1939 p 3

Name: William Carl Jaeger

Name variations: Billy Jaeger

Military:

On Tuscania: 107th Sanitary #2 (1938 NTSA, 158th Aero Squadron) - corporal

Serial number: 249,900

Entered service from: Madison, Dane WI

Sailed on “Tuscania” as: William C. Jaeger

Next-of-kin on “Tuscania”: mother Mrs. Carolyn Jaeger, 147 N. Hancock St., Madison WI

Returned from war on: "Mexican" Feb 1919

Sailed on return ship as: William C. Jaeger

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: mother Mrs. Caroline Jaeger, 147 N. Hancock St., Madison WI (cpl, 158th Aero Sq)

World War I draft registration (1917): as William Carl Jaeger - b. 11 May 1887 Madison WI; res: 321 Main St., Kenosha WI. Single. Watchmaker engraver, Thos. Lockhart, Kenosha. Claims exemption from draft: Enlisted Q.M.E.R.C. 25 May 1917. Medium height & build.

National Tuscania Survivors Association 1939 roster: 1939 NTSA: 1621 W. Wells St., Apt. 310, Milwaukee WI - 1955 WI Survivors: Milwaukee WI

World War II draft registration (1942): as William Clark Jaeger - b. 11 May 1887 Madison WI; res: 1621 W. Wells, #301, Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI is written on the main line, but above his name is written 925 E. Johnson St. Madison WI. NOK C.F. Jaeger, 143 N. Hancock St., Madison WI. Employed at Estberg & Sons, Waukesha WI. "scar on back" Height: 5'8" – 190 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted 25 May 1917 [before the 5 Jun 1917 national registration day]

Discharged 17 Apr 1919

Address: 160 South St., Kenosha WI

Rank/unit: corporal, 10 Co., 161 Depot Brigade

Birth & death:

Born: 11 May 1887 Madison, Dane WI

Died: 20 Jan 1946 Madison, Dane WI (local hospital)

Find A Grave record: 86463120, presence on Tuscania indicated in flower

Burial location: Madison, Dane WI

Cemetery: Forest Hill

Tombstone:

Father: Christian Frederick Jaeger Sr., 6 Sep 1846 Germany – 19 Nov 1925 Madison, Dane WI.

Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Madison, Dane WI.

Find A Grave: 86463113

Mother: Caroline Hamel Jaeger, 29 Jan 1855 Germany (also found as 9 Apr 1851 Germany) – 15 Sep 1939 Muscatine, Fruitland IA. Daughter of Christian Hamel & Caroline Greisler. Find A Grave gives surname as Flamel. Died of bronchopneumonia. Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Madison, Dane WI.

Find A Grave: 86463112

Parents' marriage:

Spouse:

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage:

Children:

Siblings: William was the youngest of 4 sons, the only one not born in Germany.

- Carl Conrad Jaeger, 9 Apr 1876 Germany – 31 Aug 1937 Madison, Dane WI. Clerk at Moseley Book Co. Husband of Ella Mueller. His estate was probated in Sep 1937 ("Madison [WI] Capital Times" 28 Sep 1937 p 20) & was valued at \$6,650. His heirs were his wife Ella C. Jaeger, son Conrad C. Jaeger (Madison WI), daughters Harriet M. Jaeger (Sheboygan WI) & Mrs. Carolyn Wheeler (Cobb WI). - Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Madison, Dane WI. F: 86463111

- Christian Frederick Jaeger Jr., 14 Aug 1877 Arolson, Germany – 27 Jun 1951 Stoughton, Dane WI. Husband of Hilda A. Wagner (1880-1939, F: 86463117) whom he married 15 Nov 1904 in Sauk Co. WI. Died of a cerebral hemorrhage. Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Madison, Dane WI. F: 86463115
- Louis Christian Jaeger, 1 Sep 1880 Germany – 22 Nov 1945 Elgin, Kane IL. Husband of Catherine. Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Madison, Dane WI. F: 86463118

Notes:

Pre-war:

Wartime:

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" 9 Feb 1918 p 2 - son of Mr. & Mrs. Carl Jaeger, 141 S. Hancock St., word was received by his parents that he was sailing 23 Jan.

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" 12 Feb 1918 p 3 – son of Mr. & Mrs. Christian Jaeger, 147 N. Hancock St.

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) 12 Feb 1918 p 3 – a telegram from Cpl. William Jaeger, son of Mr. & Mrs. Christian Jaeger, 147 N. Hancock St., announces he is safe.

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" 2 Mar 1918 p 1 - Will Jaeger's letter to parents Mr. & Mrs. Chris Jaeger, 147 N. Hancock St., from Irish training camp. Has been well-treated, waiting for tobacco, lost all but toilet articles, sending them local newspaper clipping to keep & share

Post-war:

1946 Madison WI city directory

Optometrists:

Jaeger, William C., 925 E. Johnson

Obituary:

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) 21 Jan 1946 p 3 - "Jaeger, Tuscania Survivor, Dies at 58" - 1 of the few living survivors of the British ship Tuscania, age 58, resident of 925 E. Johnson St., Madison (his home & optometry office). Born Madison WI 11 May 1887. WWI veteran, 32nd Division, American Legion member. Survived by brother Christ & brother Louis who d. Nov 1945 in Chicago IL. Son of Mr. & Mrs. Christian Jaeger, Sr. There were 213 casualties on Tuscania. For many years William operated a jewelry & optometry business in Milwaukee WI. Returned to Madison WI 3 years ago & opened an optometry division. Funeral 23 Jan 1946, with burial in Forest Hill.

Social Security number:

Censuses:

1900 Madison, Dane WI

Christian Jaeger, 53 Germany, Sep 1846, parents b. Germany, married 25 years, emigrated 1881, in US for 19 years, papers filed, day laborer

Caroline, 45 Germany, Jan 1855, parents b. Germany, emigrated 1881, in US for 19 years, gave birth to 4 children, 4 are living

Christian, 22 Germany, Aug 1877, emigrated 1890, in US for 10 years, harness maker

Louis, 19 Germany, Sep 1880, emigrated 1881, in US for 19 years, pharmacist

William, 13 WI, May 1887, at school

1905 Madison, Dane WI – conducted 1 Jun 1905

Chris Jaeger, 59 Germany, parents b. Germany, day laborer

Caroline, 50 Germany, parents b. Germany

William, 18 WI, student

1920 Kenosha, Kenosha WI – 325 Main (YMCA boarding house)

William Jaeger, 31 WI, lodger, single, parents b. WI, jeweler, jewelry store

Residing with Marie Buhler, 31 divorced, her son Harold E. Buhler (11) & 13 other lodgers

1930 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI

William C. Jaeger (indexed as Joeger), 42 WI, parents b. Germany, watch maker, jewelry, WWI veteran

Lodger with William W. King (26), wife Loraia (26) & King's mother Jessie M. King (55)

1940 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI – 1621 Wells St. – same place in 1935

Algot Anderson, 45 WI, machinist

William C. Jaeger, 53 WI, optometrist, jewler [sic] [friend]