

Princeton's first cigar factory was started in the late 1800's. Princeton was one of many cities that had cigar factories that hired people to hand-roll cigars. The first cigar makers got their start on the west side of the City, in a building on the corner of Main and Second Streets, near where currently Princeton Mobil Mart is located.

The first factory was established in 1896 and was owned by the Ziebell Brothers-Albert and Rudolph, their employees were William Huenerberg (Father of Carl Huenerberg) and Richard Miller, who both came from Kiel, Wisconsin. Richard Miller started working for the Ziebell Brothers in 1901, when he came to Princeton.

Richard Miller was born in Saxon, Germany, in 1864. When he was a child he came to the United States with his parents and they landed in Connecticut. They remained there for two (2) years, then moved to Waukesha County Wisconsin. Richard then moved to Kiel where he was employed in a woodenware factory, and then in 1901 moved to Princeton with his wife and children.

Richard married Wilhelmine "Minnie" Caroline *Zahn* in 1887. They had three children, two boys Edwin and Hugo, and one daughter Roma, who died when she was 4 ½ years of age. Edwin was 12 and Hugo was 10 when their parents moved to Princeton. They attended both the St John Lutheran School and the Public School.

In 1910, Richard took over the cigar business from the Ziebell Brothers, and it became known as the Miller Cigar Factory. The Miller Cigar Factory was located at 223 Short Street-currently the laundromat in the City of Princeton. The workshop was in the upstairs before building a separate workshop. Some of the workers in the cigar factory included: Jacob Tautges, Richard Dallman, William Huenerberg, Earle Berray, and Richard's son's Edwin and Hugo. Edwin took over the business from his father in 1934. Edwin and Hugo Miller and William Huenerberg were the last cigar makers in Princeton.

For more than 50 years, Paz de Oro, a 10 cent cigar was made at the Miller Cigar Factory. Other brands that were made at the cigar factory include: White Seal, Shoe Peg, Club House, and White Birch, which sold for five cents.

Members of the Miller Family buried in the City of Princeton Cemetery are-Richard Miller and his wife Wilhelmine "Minnie", their daughter Roma and their son Hugo and his wife Ella Louise *Schultz* Miller. Richard and Minnie's son Edwin and his wife Clara Marie *Freiheit* Miller are buried in St John's Lutheran Cemetery in Princeton.

Also buried in the cemetery is Rudolph Ziebell and his first wife Clara Ida *Falbe*, who died close to one year after they were married, she was only 19 years old when she died, and Rudolph's daughter, Edna, from his second wife. Cigar Factory worker Earle Berray is also buried in the city cemetery. Rudolph Ziebell's brother Albert and his wife Ida Elizabeth *Messing* are buried in St John's Lutheran Cemetery in Princeton.

Information about this article came from articles in the Princeton Historical Society collection, The Princeton, WI Quas Qui Centennial Book, and information from the obituary on findagrave.com of Richard and Wilhelmine "Minnie" Miller. The cigar box pictures in this article are from the collection of Bill Zamzow from Princeton, WI.

The Cemetery Walking Tour is scheduled for August 26, 2017. There will be two tours, with the first at 1:30 PM and the second at 4:00 PM. The guided tours should take about an hour. If anyone has information about the Miller's Cigar Factory or the Miller or Ziebell Families or would like more information about the Cemetery Walking Tour, please contact City Hall at 920-295-6612, stop at City Hall at 531 S Fulton Street or email [mneubauer@cityofprincetonwi.com](mailto:mneubauer@cityofprincetonwi.com) or [cnickel@cityofprincetonwi.com](mailto:cnickel@cityofprincetonwi.com). All information that is collected on anyone buried in the City of Princeton Cemetery is placed in the binders at City Hall.

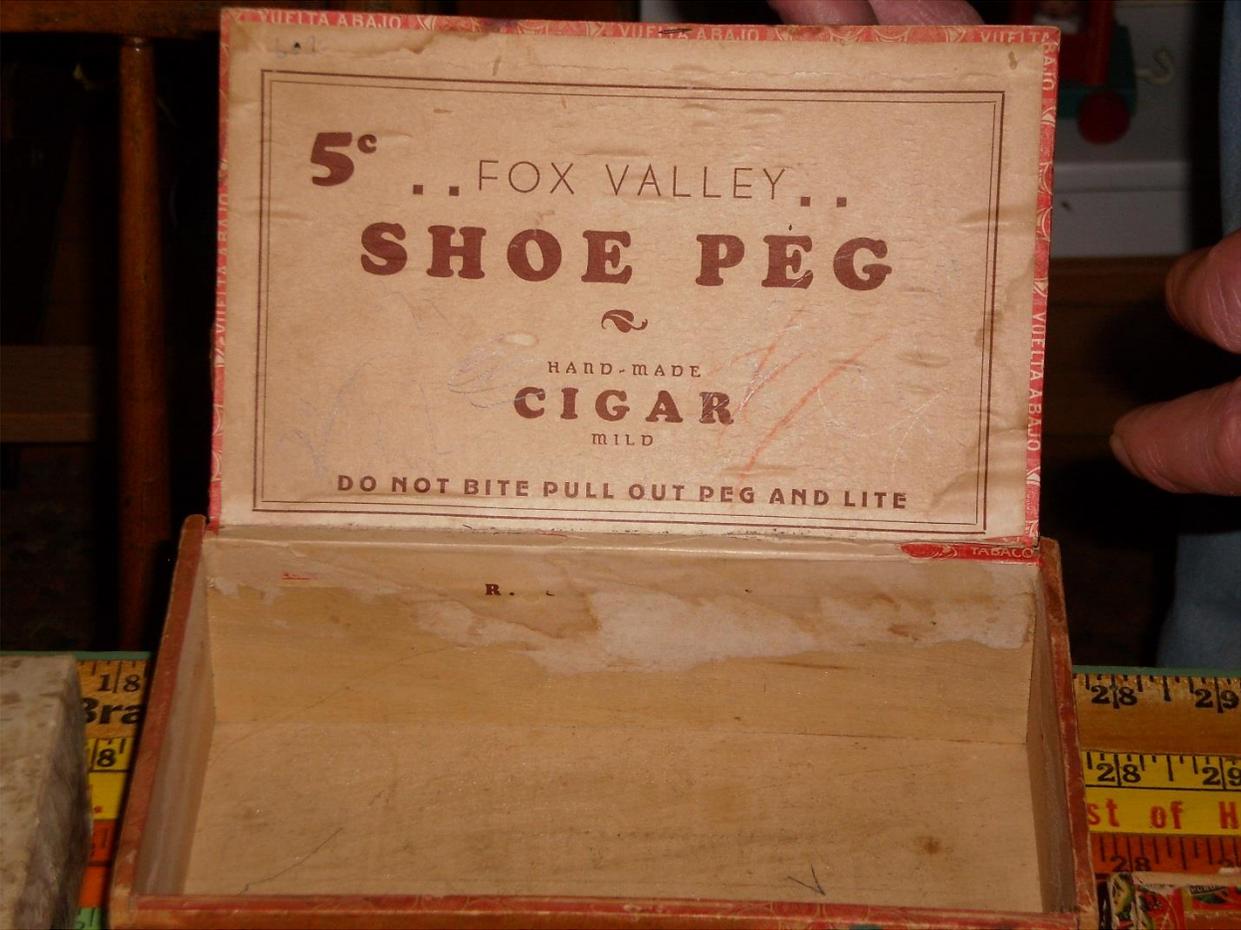
Pictured below is Lois Jankowski (left), Clara Miller, Ed Miller and Theresa Pavelske working in the Cigar Factory.





Cigar boxes with the Princeton cigars, compliments of Bill Zamzow





5<sup>c</sup> .. FOX VALLEY ..

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 quirements of law. Every person  
 to use either this box for cigars agal or the stamp  
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