

Charles T. Cragin commenting on the death of CP Zaner. Taken from The Business Educator tribute to Zaner dated February 1919.

Joe Vitolo

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In the office where I see it every day there hangs a small 10x12 water color painting sent me settle years ago at Christmas by my good friend, CP Zaner, whose tragic death has so shocked the commercial teachers of the United States and Canada and lovers of good penmanship everywhere. It's a restful little painting of a landscape; a running stream, rolling plain, wooded banks, and cloud fleeced sky; a sketch from nature in the vicinity of Columbus where he liked to ramble in leisure hours sketching in pencil what he sometimes finished in water color, for Zaner was skillful with pencil and brush as he was masterly with the pen.

Zaner was a quiet, modest man, yet he was always listened to with attention and respect at conventions, gatherings of teachers, and by students, for he was a man who made no false motions; his ideas were practical and his explanations were clear and simple. I have met many of the best penmen of America who have been his pupils, and they all tell the same story of faithful, painstaking work on the part of all able, conscientious teacher. Such comment makes a fit monument to any member of a profession which brings little fame and no great store of wealth.

I knew Mr. Zaner as a friend in all kinds of weather when the wind bites bitterly from the Northeast as well as when it blows softly from the Sunny South. Such friends I need not say are not over-plentiful, and the loss of this one sinks deep into my heart. He was a clean, honest, honorable man, and I don't believe a whiter soul than Zaner's ever dwelt in mortal clay.

Winds of the Western prairies sigh a requiem; rain and snow and dew of the West drop tears; green grass and flowers he loved so well, grow thick and bright; sun and moon and stars of night, each shed your kindly light on the grave where our friend, called upon so suddenly to answer the final roll call, sleeps his long sleep, well.