

**Guide to the
Little River Drainage District Records
Group II: Engineer/Secretary Files
Series I: Otto Kochtitzky, Chief Engineer
1908-1916 [1908-1909]**

2005.189

0.25 linear feet



Abstract

Incoming and outgoing correspondence from Otto Kochtitzky's time as the first Chief Engineer of the Little River Drainage District.

Processed by:
Amber Miranda, March 2010

Special Collections and Archives
Kent Library
One University Plaza, MS 4600
Southeast Missouri State University
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
Phone: (573) 651-2245; Fax: (573) 651-2666; Email: semoarchives@semo.edu

Descriptive Overview

Provenance: Donated by the Little River Drainage District Corporation, 2005.

Citation: Little River Drainage District Records, [Group], [Series], Special Collections and Archives, Southeast Missouri State University

Restrictions: None

Other Relevant Collections:

Kochtitzky Collection, Otto, 1916-1921, 1973.

Other Relevant Series in the Little River Drainage District Records:

Group II, Series II: William A, O'Brien

Group II, Series VII: N.C. Frissell

Group IV, Series IV: Correspondence

Group XII, Series II: Mississippi River Commission

Other Relevant Publications: (available in Special Collections and Archives/Kent Library)

Kochtitzky, Otto. *Otto Kochtitzky; the story of a busy life*. Cape Girardeau, Mo. : Ramfre Press, [1957]. Call Number: 926.2 K813.

Wells, Larry Wayne, *Otto Kochtitzky and the drainage development of the southeast Missouri lowlands : a thesis*. 1972. Call Number: 378.7789 O-H629 1972-W

Biographical Note

Otto Kochtitzky (b. 1855- d. 1935) was a key figure in the formation of the Little River Drainage District. Kochtitzky had very little formal schooling, as his father moved Kochtitzky's family frequently between Ohio, Illinois, and Missouri; Kochtitzky attended Cobb Creek School in the Missouri Ozarks and a high school in Jefferson City, Missouri, for one year. In February of 1875 Kochtitzky's father, at the time a clerk in the Missouri state land office, sent Kochtitzky and his brother to New Madrid, Missouri, to complete a survey of the swamplands around New Madrid.

In 1885 that Kochtitzky began working as an engineer for a lumber company, working to dredge and straighten the Little River in southeast Missouri. When the company's owner died suddenly, Kochtitzky took several jobs in Virginia and North Carolina surveying plotting new towns. Kochtitzky returned to southeast Missouri in 1895 to begin working for another lumber company, finishing the project that he had originally started a decade earlier.

In 1903 Kochtitzky published "Map of the Lowlands of Southeast Missouri," a survey of the seven counties that would eventually make up the Little River Drainage District. Founding members of the Little River Drainage District used Kochtitzky's map and as a result hired him to be the first Chief Engineer of the district. Kochtitzky, consulting with two other prominent drainage engineers of the time, Isham Randolph and Arthur E. Morgan, developed the official plan for drainage in 1908. Kochtitzky worked to support the Little River Drainage District as landowners of the district fought various legal battles to make the district become reality. Kochtitzky retired from his position as the Chief Engineer for the Little River Drainage District in 1910 and his Assistant Chief Engineer, William O'Brien replaced him. Kochtitzky continued residing in southeast Missouri and occasionally consulted for the Little River Drainage District until his death in 1935.

Scope and Content Note

Incoming and outgoing correspondence from Otto Kochtitzky's time as the first Chief Engineer of the Little River Drainage District. Records include one letter book containing copies of Kochtitzky's outgoing correspondence, which are mostly undated but appear to be primarily from 1908-1909, and one folder with letters dating from January 1908 until March 1910, and one letter from 1916, when Kochtitzky was working as a consultant for the district.

Rules or Conventions: Finding Aid prepared using DACS