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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredge logbooks

Title: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredge logbooks
Collection No: MSS.44
Extent: 0.25 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1904-1913, 1921

Abstract: The collection comprises three logbooks for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredges *Zeta*, *Gamma* and *Kappa* operating in the Memphis, Tennessee, district between 1904 and 1913.

Provenance: Purchased from F.M. Hill, November 1967.
Processed by: Gerald Chaudron, April 2015.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredge logbooks, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: April 2015

Scope and contents

The collection comprises three logbooks for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredges operating in the Memphis, Tennessee, district between 1904 and 1913. The log books do not belong to one dredge only but include the *Zeta*, *Gamma* and *Kappa*. All were steel boats but *Kappa* was a sidewheeler. *Zeta* was 871 tons, 167 feet in length, and built in 1898.

The log books record the work done during a dredging season, repairs made, boats which passed the dredges, crew activities, and river and weather conditions. Though some logs have the name of the dredge listed, others do not. Vol. 1 has a few entries from 1921 unrelated to the dredges.

Subject terms

Dredges.

Logbooks.

United States. Army. Corps of Engineers. Memphis District.

Inventory

Box 1

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, dredge logbooks, 3 vols., 1904-1910, 1921:

Vol. 1: 1904 August 19-1905 January 1; 1905 September 6-December 7; 1910 August 19-December 31.

Example of entry is for September 26, 1910 (p. 127): Records working on Cut #40.

Raised suction at 12:30 a.m. to swing to side to allow steamer *Rees Lee* to pass but the steamer grounded on a sandbar. Made three attempts to pull it off before succeeding at 4:40 a.m. After doing some maintenance, continued working from 11 a.m. and completed work of 1350 feet at 1:55 p.m. Did a second cut and then began a third but had equipment breakdowns. Supplies arrive.

A few references to the crew and seasonal lack of activity. Entry for October 16, 1910 (p. 134) records that stoker Charley Dickerson shot a waiter in Mississippi County, Arkansas, but was able to escape. The waiter was attended to by a doctor; "...whiskey and a game of cards the cause of the shooting."

pp. 155, 157 have entries for January and March 1921 with amounts of money owed? and noting properties in Memphis with size of lots, ownership and prices.

Vol. 2: 1905 October 17-December 8, *Zeta* log, 1907 November 5-30; *Zeta* log, 1908 September 15-30; *Gamma* log, 1911 May 24-December 23; 1912 April 10-28; *Kappa* log, 1912 August 13-1913 January 2; 1913 August 15-October 26.

Entries for April 12-28, 1912 (pp. 106-116), under heading "Relief Party", record the rescue of people, mostly tenant farmers, from the Arkansas levees and taking them to

Memphis. Later entries refer to moving more people, as well as cattle and household goods. The dredge crews also distributed supplies.

p. 196 lists property lost overboard during 1911 and 1912 seasons.

Vol. 3: 1907 September 6-7; 1910 January 13-14; 1906 November 11-December 11; 1907 September 6-December 30; 1908 May 8-September 2; *Gamma* log, 1908 September 14-1909 January 1909; *Kappa* log, 1909 August 6-19; 1909 August 20-1910 January 12. Includes descriptions of work done on Rob Roy Canal, Maddings Crossing, Hatchie Crossing, New Haven Bend and Gold Dust Crossing.