

Finding Aid to the Emil G. Linke Papers

Linke, Emil G., 1873-1942

Emil G. Linke Papers, 1900-1930

.6 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 357

Mss 1596.18

[Biography](#)

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OVERVIEW

Links: Linke related images in the [Chaffee, N.D. Photograph Collection](#).

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BIOGRAPHY

Emil G. Linke was born June 13, 1873 near Winona, Minnesota. In the spring of 1881 he moved with his parents and family to a farm near Lynchburg, N.D. He attended the Goshen School. On January 10, 1901 he married Lizzie Fox. Emil met Lizzie through his brother Julius, who married Lizzie's sister Rose in 1897. Lizzie Fox was born February 19, 1878 at Lake Crystal, Minnesota,

the daughter of German immigrants George and Dora (Reipke) Fox. Emil and Lizzie had two children, Myrtle and Gorden.

Emil was a carpenter and building contractor for twenty-five years and for the last twenty-two years of his life he farmed near Chaffee, N.D. He died of a heart attack on May 27, 1942. He is buried in Watson Cemetery, Leonard, N.D. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Casselton. After Emil's death Lizzie moved to Casselton, N.D. where she died October 3, 1962. (information taken from *Linke-Busswitz Family History, 1800-1984*)

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Emil G. Linke Papers** document a rural Cass County, North Dakota building contractor and carpenter during the first two decades of the twentieth century. The business ledgers document in good detail Linke's building projects and those employed by him, together with costs and wages paid. The complimenting architectural drawings document only a portion of all his contractor work, but give a view into the building trends during this time period in North Dakota. The papers have been organized into two series: Business Records and Architectural Drawings.

The **Business Records Series** consists primarily of four ledgers kept by Linke that document his construction business from circa 1900 to 1916. The ledgers list, generally in chronological order, construction and repair jobs done by Linke, recording each day's labor, amount charged and whether paid. There also appears to be recorded wages paid to employees of Linke. Interspersed within the pages are loose receipts and invoices.

Also included in this series are blank business forms used by Linke. There are two letters related to the Casselton State Bank taking over ownership of Farmers Security Bank of Chaffee, both dated July 14, 1930. The small collection of newspaper clippings were found in one of the ledgers and removed to their own file. Most deal with North Dakota politics and government from circa 1919. There are two stock certificates, both issued to E.G. Linke, one by the Equity Co-Operative Packing Company for five shares, 1919, and the other by Chaffee Mercantile Company for two shares, 1912. The Equity stock includes a letter to stockholders acknowledging the purchase of the stock.

The **Architectural Drawings Series** consists of pencil and ink drawings of exterior and interior of buildings, primarily barns and some houses, constructed or at least proposed by Emil Linke. They have been organized by town in Cass County, N.D., with the remainder under Rural Cass County. There are a number of drawings for both barns and houses with no names given. Finally the series includes a set of blueprints (five sheets) for a Sears Roebuck & Co. house.

Linke's drawings are on a single sheet of heavy paper showing in most cases both exterior and interior renditions of the structure. Most are not detailed drawings in comparison to professional architects' drawings, but they do give dimensions and other general details of the building's construction. For most, the name of the individual for whom built, date, and its location is recorded on the sheet.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder Content

1/1 Finding aid, and Historical information

Business Records Series

Ledgers—

1/2 ca. 1900-1907
 1/3 ca. 1906-1911
 1/4 ca. 1909-1914
 1/5 1915-1916
 1/6 Contracting forms for 'E.G. Linke Contractor and Builder'
 1/7 Correspondence, 1930
 1/8 Newspaper clippings, ca. 1919
 1/9 Stock certificates, 1912, 1919

Mss 1596 Architectural Drawings Series

.1 Alice, N.D.—
 Fred Bliesu, 1907
 August Hoelen house, 1915
 William F. Strick house on farm, 1910
 .2 Buffalo, N.D.—
 W.A. Buttke barn, n.d.
 .3 Chaffee, N.D.—
 Mr. Barsford & Joe Runk barn, 1915
 Reinhold Dittmer barn, March 25, 1911
 Reinhold Dittmer barn, March 31, 1911
 Aug. Erbstoesser barn, 1914
 Frank Erdmann house, 1917
 John Hahn house, 1916
 John Marthin barn, 1907
 John McGuigan house, n.d.
 John McGuigan barn, n.d.
 Danal Oppermann barn, n.d.
 School barn, 1912
 John Skala house, n.d.
 John Skala store addition, 1913
 G. Sprunk, 1917
 Warnkin Bros. store, 1911
 Watson Township one-room schoolhouse, 1908
 .4 Durbin, N.D.—
 Nick Seiferd barn, 1916
 .5 Embden, N.D.—
 Emanuel. Flath barn, 1914

- .6 Leonard, N.D.—
 - Tedor Erbstoesser barn, 1916
 - William Schimming barn, n.d.
 - Jack Watt, Haugh barn, 1907
 - John Watt barn, 1915
 - Charly Weichmann barn, 1912
 - Charly Zick house, 1910
 - Robard Zick addition to barn, 1914
- .7 Sheldon, N.D.—
 - P.J. Bayle barn, 1914
- .8 Watson, N.D.—
 - Charly Zeske barn, 1907
- .9 Rural Cass County, N.D.—
 - Tedor Eckelberg barn, 1912
 - Fred Gill barn, 1911
 - John Shea barn, n.d.
 - August Seawerd barn, 1912
- .10 Unidentified barn plans (9 sheets)
- .11 Unidentified house plans (7 sheets)
- .12 Sears Roebuck & Co. house blueprints, Albert L. Flegel, architect (drawing “119”?) (5 sheets)