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Fort Scott Foundry Collection, 1894-1919

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Fort Scott Foundry, Collection, MS 277

Fort Scott Foundry Collection

Collection Number	MS 277
Title	The Fort Scott Foundry Collection
Repository	Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas 1701 S. Broadway Pittsburg, Kansas 66762 (620) 235-4883 speccoll@pittstate.edu
Dates	1894-1919
Collection Size	.4 linear feet
Creator	Unknown
Scope and Content	A collection of record and ledger books of payments and shipments from the Fort Scott Foundry and Machine Works of Fort Scott, Kansas.
Access Restrictions	This collection is open for access. Researchers must use the collection in accordance with the policies of the Special Collections & University Archives, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University
Languages	English
Biographical Note	The Fort Scott Foundry and Machine Works was established in 1869 by George A. Crawford, proprietor, and Frank J. Nutz, superintendent, in Fort Scott, Kansas. A. W. Walburn (1852-1930) built up the factory and foundry in the 1870s, later becoming proprietor with F. J. Nutz as superintendent. The foundry produced processing equipment that serviced many fields of production, including boilers, mining machinery, stoves, coal trucks, evaporation systems, sugar processors, saw mills, ore treatment, and farm equipment. The foundry also shipped products internationally. M. Swenson, patentor of the Swenson method of evaporators and inventor of processes and machinery, bought a half interest in the Fort Scott Foundry, and changed the name to the Walburn-Swenson Foundry and Machine Company. The company was prosperous in southeast Kansas with mining and immigrant labor, and eventually established international business. In 1893 the company moved its machines and equipment to a new plant in Chicago, and moved its offices to New York. The company was sold in 1900 and Walburn retired while Swenson moved on to invent a hydraulic method of extracting and evaporating salt. After the company was sold, it became the American Foundry and Machinery Company.

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Processing Note

Collection processed in February 2020

Content Description

This collection is primary sources and is comprised of the Fort Scott Foundry and Machine Works Records

Detailed Description of the Collection

Ledger Book – List of products and payments organized by person or company – 1894-1905

Invoice Order Book (Day Book) – Record of shipments including prices, item, and custom – December 21, 1901-April 25, 1903

Ft. Scott Foundry and Machine Works Day Book – 1905-February 4, 1908

Ft. Scott Foundry and Machine Works Day Book – December 1910-January 1912

Record Book – Payment and Expense – 1911

Journal (Day Book) – Record of shipments and purchases by day for the Palmer Forced Draft Slack Burner Co. – July 31, 1917-June 6, 1919