These are financial records of the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis Railroad (“Memphis Route”) and its corporate predecessors. The line became part of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway Company in 1901.

The Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis Railroad was the result of twenty years of railroad construction in southern Missouri and Arkansas, beginning with the organization of the Kansas and Neosho Railroad by local investors in 1865. This road was reorganized in 1868 as the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company and was again reorganized in 1879. The resulting corporate combination included several branch lines and was styled the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company. The line reached Springfield, Missouri, from Fort Scott, Kansas, via leased lines. The Kansas City, Springfield and Memphis Railroad built the line from Springfield to Memphis, completed in 1883. The entire system, known as the “Memphis Route,” was consolidated by agreement in 1888 as the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis Railroad Company.

The Memphis Route competed with the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway Company (“Frisco”) for control of some of the same territory and branch lines. The Frisco expanded rapidly during the 1890s, and in 1901 gained control of the Fort Scott system. Formal ownership was assumed in 1928.

The financial records in the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis Railroad collection span nearly the entire life of the system, and represent three earlier corporations which were consolidated to create a through line to Memphis. The records include figures for various operating expenses and revenues, and contain individual accounts for construction contractors, depots and stations, and traffic interchanges with other railroads. Interest and mortgage payments are also listed. Volumes one and three are indexed.

Vol. 1: Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company.  
Ledger, 1869-1873 (673 pages, indexed).

Vol. 2: Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company.  
Ledger, 1879-1888 (pages 61-543).

Vol. 3: Kansas City, Springfield and Memphis Railroad Company.  
Ledger, 1881-1883 (399 pages, indexed).
Index Cards

Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company
Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis Railroad Company
Kansas City, Springfield and Memphis Railroad Company
Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company
Railroads—Missouri
Railroads—Records and correspondence
St. Louis and San Francisco Railway Company