DATE: May 12, 1986 DONOR: Tyrone Kelly and Bill Miller

FILE ENTRY: Keesey, Whitaker (1843-1918)

TITLE: W. KEESY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n.d.

SPECIAL NOTES: Military records for Whitaker Keesey were added to the collection on October 27, 1986. They are located in Box #3 in a folder titled Military Records.

DESCRIPTION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEMS</th>
<th>LEAVES</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bound 70</td>
<td>unbound 12</td>
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</tr>
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<td>leaves 13,898</td>
<td>leaves 212 single</td>
<td>3,257 17,367</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONTENT:

ARRANGEMENT:

CORRESPONDENCE. 1879-1964 & n.d. (85 leaves)
FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS 1879-1919 & n.d. (1 bound, 117 leaves) (1 unbound, 50 leaves) (59 leaves)
LEGAL DOCUMENTS 1877-1919 & n.d. (1 unbound, 1 leaf) (80 leaves)
PRESIDIO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 1876-1884 & n.d. (49 leaves)
PRINTED MATERIAL c. 1890-c. 1910 (1 bound, 432 leaves) (2 unbound, 20 leaves)
RECORDS 1904-1921 (4 unbound, 29 leaves) (321 leaves)
SAVINGS MATERIAL n.d. (38 leaves)
EPHEMERA 1872-1917 & n.d. (4 unbound, 112 leaves) (27 leaves)
LEDGERS 1879-1921 & n.d. (67 bound, 13,349 leaves)

Inventoried By: Cindy Marquez

Janet McCollum Typed By: Cindy Marquez

Approved By: Kenneth Perry
COLLECTION SUMMARY

of the

W. KEESEY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n.d.

The W. Keesey Collection was donated to the Archives of the Big Bend in two separate installments. On August 17, 1982, Mr. Tyrone Kelly, then the owner of the Union Mercantile in Ft. Davis, Texas, donated five ledgers and one letter-press book from within the store. In 1983, Mr. Kelly sold the business to Bill Miller and Bob Dillard who changed the name of the store back to "Union Trading Company". The large accumulation of materials that have become known as the W. Keesey Collection were removed to a storage building at the home of Lucy Miller in Ft. Davis, Texas. On July 20, 1985 Bill Miller donated the papers to the Archives of the Big Bend.

The W. Keesey Collection is a group of papers and documents pertaining to the many different people and businesses associated with Whitaker Keesey. Among the collection are documents relating to the Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Co., Chisos Mining Co., E. G. Gleim Co., Keesey & Co., Study Butte Mining Co., and the Union Trading Company. The collection centers around Whitaker Keesey and Edgar (E. G.) Gleim. Other prominent people involved with the above businesses are William D. (W. D.) Burcham and Otis M. (O. M.) Keesey. The bulk of the material deals with Whitaker Keesey and his involvement with the people and businesses of the Big Bend region.

Whitaker Keesey was born in Lancaster, Ohio on September 4, 1843. He was raised in Steubenville, Ohio, and at the age of 16, he learned the trade of a baker. On February 11, 1864 he volunteered to serve the 5th Ohio Cavalry in Company F for three years. He was promoted to Sergeant on July 18, 1865 and later served under General Mason. He also served with the 84th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War.

Whitaker and his brother, Otis, left Steubenville, Ohio on February 5, 1867 for San Antonio. Whitaker secured a place as baker with the troops under command of General Wesley Merritt and traveled to Fort Davis to reoccupy the post.

In 1873, Whitaker and his brother opened the store known as W. Keesey & Co. near the west edge of Ft. Davis known as Chihuahua. Otis withdrew from the business soon after and Whitaker continued alone until he and E. G. Gleim became partners in 1892. W. Keesey & Co. already maintained stores in Marfa, Valentine, and Study Butte by this time. Whitaker Keesey had become the leading country merchant in the west Texas region and was a very wealthy man. In 1908 he sold out to Nick Mersfelder, Harold A. King, J. W. Merrill, J. P. Weatherby, D. Noble, R. S. Sproul and E. P. Webster. They renamed the store "The Union Trading Company".

Whitaker was appointed County Treasurer of Presidio County in 1881 and served that position for four years. He also served as County Commissioner for eight years. Other positions he held were hide inspector (four years) and County Attorney.
On April 14, 1892, he married Nancy Jane Carmichael (1864-1910) of Wellsburg, West Virginia. Four children were born to Whitaker and Nancy but none survived the day of birth. Whitaker Keesey does not appear in the 1910 Federal census of Jeff Davis County, and it is assumed that he left the area sometime between 1908-1910. Whitaker died of lung cancer on March 18, 1918 in La Jolla, California and was buried beside his wife in Wellsburg, West Virginia.

Before becoming partners with Whitaker Keesey in 1892, E. G. Gleim opened a store in Shafter, Texas for the Presidio Mining Company. The store was named E. G. Gleim Co. and sold general merchandise. He became involved in the mining business and paid all expenses of the Big Bend Mine while it was closed down between c. 1903-1915. In 1908, E. G. Gleim and his two brothers, George (G. W.) Gleim and Harry (H. S.) Gleim, Spencer Gregg, and Morris P. Kirk were the major stockholders of the Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Company. E. G. Gleim later became president of the Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Company and entered into a contract with Study Butte Mining Company to reopen the Big Bend Mine. The Study Butte Mining Company, managed by William D. (W. D.) Burcham, mined the Big Bend Mine from 1915 until it was forced to close once again in 1921. The causes for the shutdown of the Big Bend Mine, owned by Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Company, were labor shortages in 1919 and 1920 and the dropping price of quicksilver.

The Chisos Mining Company was located in Terlingua, Texas and owned by Howard E. Perry. It was established in 1902 and became the leading quicksilver producer in the Big Bend region. After withdrawing from Study Butte Mining Company in 1919, W. D. Burcham became the mining engineer of Chisos Mining Company and managed it until World War II. In 1942 the Chisos Mining Company was sold at a bankrupt sale to the Texas Railway Equipment Company and reopened as the Esperado Mining Company. In 1943, W. D. Burcham worked for the Esperado Mining Company in its costly attempt to resurrect the mine. They were unsuccessful and closed the mine in 1945.

The collection consists of Correspondence, Financial Documents, Legal Documents, Presidio County School District Documents, Printed Material, Records, Savings Materials, Ephemera, and Ledgers. The school records of the Presidio County School District documents are very important in that they mark the establishment of the public school system in this area. Among the documents are petitions to organize school communities in Ft. Davis, Polvo, San Soloman, and Murphysville (Alpine), Texas. The material is housed in three archival storage boxes. The total of 67 ledgers are housed on the shelf at the end of the collection. They are arranged in numerical sequence according to date. Folders are arranged alphabetically by company name. Material is arranged chronologically within each folder.

By: Cindy Marquez
Archival Assistant

May 13, 1986
BIBLIOGRAPHY

of the

W. KEESEY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n.d.


Alpine, TX. Archives of the Big Bend. W. Keesey Collection 1872-1964 & n.d. Box #3, Folder #54, "Report of Study Butte Mining Company to Rig Bend Cinnabar Mining Company”.

Alpine, TX. Archives of the Big Bend. Barry Scobee Collection 1884-1972 & n.d. Box #1, Correspondence Series #3, Biographical information on W. Keesey

Kelly, Tyrone Mrs. Ft. Davis, Texas. Interview, 6 May 1986.


The following information about Whitaker Keesey, one of the outstanding citizens of Fort Davis for many years, was received in Fort Davis by Barry Schobee from his sister-in-law, Mrs. J. Stanley Kelly, (Irene Carmichael) in January, 1956. (Explanatory notes are included in parenthesis by Barry Scobee).

Whitaker Keesey was born Sept. 4, 1843, in Lancaster, Ohio and was reared in Steubenville, Ohio. His parents were George and Nancy Keesey, her maiden name being Thomas.

His father went to California (That is, W. Keesey’s) in 1851 and was never heard from again. It is supposed he died on the way. Six children were left without support.

His grandfather Keesey was born in Ireland and took out naturalization papers in America in 1806. His maternal grandparents, Thomas, were both from Scotland. His grandmother Thomas was of the maiden name Ruffner.

They (evidently meaning W. Keesey’s parents, or the family) came from Virginia to Ohio in 1812. W. Keesey had little schooling, actually two years. (Correction: It must mean that Keesey’s grandparents came from Va. to Ohio in 1812).

At 16 W. Keesey learned the rade of a baker and followed the trade for several years. He served with the 84th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War for three months. Later, he served in the 5th Ohio Cavalry in Co. F, rank of sergeant, accompanying General Mason.

He left Steubenville, Ohio, Feb. 5, 1867. They (meaning Whitaker and his brother Otis) arrived in San Antonio March 6, 1867. On May 25, 1867, he secured a place as baker with the troops under command of Gen’l Wesley Merrit. (Merritt is the officer who reoccupied the Fort Davis post in 1867). The distance of 475 miles (from S.A. to Ft. Davis) was accomplished in 31 days. (No doubt Merritt’s regiment, the 9th Cavalry, Negroes, marched all the way) W. Keesey had traveled 62 days from Steubenville to reach Fort Davis.

In 1873 he and his brother started with the first goods brought in to sell at a military post. His brother Otis finally withdrew from the business and W. Keesey continued alone until 1907, having one of the oldest and successful stores in western Texas. Prosperity came to him beyond his greatest expectations.

He held position of hide inspctor for years. Treasurer of the county 4 years. Was Co. Commissioner 8 years and always participated in matter of benefit to the locality. He was a Republican. Joined the Odd Fellows Lodge Dec. 2, 1891. Member of T.P.A. (?) and also the Benevolent Lodge. Church preference Episcopal but attended the Presbyterian in Ft. Davis. On April 14, 1892, he married Nancy Jane Carmichael of Wellsburg, W. Va. (Irene Kelly stated elsewhere that Keeset met Nancy when Keesey was visiting his sister, who lived next door to Nancy’s mother). Nancy Jane Carmichael was born March 9, 1864 and died Dec. 6, 1910. (Died at Wellsburg, it appears, from former letter of Irene Kelly).

Nancy Jane Keesey was a devoted Christian, a member of the Presbyterian Church, W.B. Bloys minister. She was a member of the Rebecca Lodge and was state president for some time.

W. Keesey held the highest degree conferred by the Odd Fellows and
at his death the bulk of his fortune was willed to the organization. It was estimated at $5,000,000. (This is obviously too much; there wasn’t that much money in the area, It is believed she meant to write $500,000). Also gave his home in Fort Davis to Oddfellows, that he built in Fort Davis at a cost of $67,000. (Elsewhere it is indicated the house was built in 1910), Four children were born to Whitaker and Nancy but none survived the day of birth. W. Keesey died in a hospital at La Jolla, Cal., and was buried beside his wife and her parents in Brooke cemetery, Wellsburg, W. Va. He had gone to the hospital for treatment of lung cancer.

Mar. 18, 1918
Keesey’s will dated Mar. 13, 1911.
From Barry Scobee Collection, Bx 1, Ser. 3
Correspondence contains business and personal correspondence of the companies and people involved with the collection. Business correspondence contains letters dealing with the businesses of Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Co., E. G. Gleim Co., Keesey & Co., Union Trading Co., and those closely related to the companies. Personal correspondence contains personal letters from Mrs. Nannie J. Keesey, I. Jiminez, and Vida Turner.

*BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE 1879-1964 & n.d. (74 leaves)

Folder #1 Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Co. 1888-1910 & n.d., (14 leaves)
Folder #2 E. G. Gleim Co. 1888-1919 & n.d., (35 leaves)
Folder #3 Keesey & Co. 1879-1903 & n.d., (11 leaves)
Folder #4 Union Trading Co. 1915-1964, (3 leaves)
Folder #5 Mixed Correspondence 1904-c. 1920 & n.d., (13 leaves)

*See ledgers #10, 42, 43, 60, 61 at the end of the collection for additional Business Correspondence.

PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE 1903-1933 & n.d. (9 leaves)

Folder #6 Mixed Correspondence 1903-1933 & n.d., (9 leaves)

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS 1879-1919 & n.d. (2 bound, 117 leaves) (1 unbound, 50 leaves) (2,657 leaves)

The bulk of financial documents are invoices and receipts dealing with Keesey & Co., E. G. Gleim Co., and Study Butte Mining Co.. There are also bank accounts and checks found in this section.

BANK ACCOUNTS AND CHECKS 1887-1914 & n.d. (2 bound, 117 leaves) (! unbound, 50 leaves) (59 leaves)

Folder #7 Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Co. 1887-1905 (1 unbound, 50 leaves) (23 leaves)
Folder #8 Keesey & Co. 1904 (13 leaves)
Folder #9 Union Trading Co. 1914 (1 leaf)
Folder #10 Unidentified Bank Accounts and Checks 1888-1894 & n.d. (2 bound, 117 leaves) (22 leaves)

INVOICES AND RECEIPTS 1879-1919 & n.d. (2,598 leaves)

Folder #11 E. G. Gleim Co. 1921 (3 leaves)
Folder #12 Keesey & Co. 1879-1902 (48 leaves)
Folder #13 Keesey & Co. 1903 (121 leaves)
Folder #14 Keesey & Co. 1903 (133 leaves)
W. KESEY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n. d.

BOX #1

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS (continued)

INVOICES AND RECEIPTS (continued)
Folder #15 Keesey & Co. 1903 (98 leaves)
Folder #16 Keesey & Co. 1903 (72 leaves)
Folder #17 Keesey & Co. 1903 (70 leaves)
Folder #18 Keesey & Co. 1904 (117 leaves)
Folder #19 Keesey & Co. n. d. (30 leaves)
Folder #20 Study Butte Mining Co. 1916 (88 leaves)
Folder #21 Study Butte Mining Co. 1916 (74 leaves)
Folder #22 Study Butte Mining Co. 1916 (30 leaves)
Folder #23 Study Butte Mining Co. 1917 (149 leaves)
Folder #24 Study Butte Mining Co. 1917 (119 leaves)
Folder #25 Study Butte Mining Co. 1917 (71 leaves)
Folder #26 Study Butte Mining Co. 1917 (111 leaves)
Folder #27 Study Butte Mining Co. 1917 (122 leaves)

BOX #2

Folder #28 Study Butte Mining Co. 1917 (116 leaves)
Folder #29 Study Butte Mining Co. 1917 (110 leaves)
Folder #30 Study Butte Mining Co. 1918 (96 leaves)
Folder #31 Study Butte Mining Co. 1918 (109 leaves)
Folder #32 Study Butte Mining Co. 1918 (150 leaves)
Folder #33 Study Butte Mining Co. 1918 (131 leaves)
Folder #34 Study Butte Mining Co. 1918 (104 leaves)
Folder #35 Study Butte Mining Co. 1918 (110 leaves)
Folder #36 Study Butte Mining Co. 1919 (68 leaves)
Folder #37 Study Butte Mining Co. 1919 (77 leaves)
Folder #38 Study Butte Mining Co. 1919 & n. d. (60 leaves)
Folder #39 Unknown Invoices and Receipts 1879-1906 (11 leaves)

LEGAL DOCUMENTS 1877-1919 & n. d. (1 unbound, 1 leaf) (80 leaves)

Contains legal papers dealing with Presidio County Treasurer and Judge, W. Keesey, Jeff Davis and Williamson Counties, Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Co. and the Union Trading Co. Also included in legal documents are proxies appointing G. W. or E. G. Gleim to vote appointed shares of Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Company stock at the annual shareholders meeting.

LEGAL PAPERS 1877-1916 & n. d. (1 unbound, 1 leaf) (26 leaves)

Folder #40 Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Co. 1902-1915 (8 leaves)
Folder #41 Jeff Davis, Presidio, and Williamson Counties 1877-1888 & n. d. (18 leaves)
Folder #42 Union Trading Co. 1916 (1 unbound, 1 leaf)
W. KEESEY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n.d.

BOX #2

LEGAL DOCUMENTS (continued)

PROXIES 1918-1919 (54 leaves)

Folder #43 Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Co. 1918-1919 (54 leaves)

PRESIDIO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 1876-1884 & n.d. (49 leaves)

Contains records dealing with the schools in Presidio County including Ft. Davis School Community, Polvo School Community, San Soloman School Community, and Murphysville School Community. Documents included are teacher's receipts of pay and reports of scholastic population. Important documents to note are petitions to organize school communities at Polvo, San Soloman, and Murphysville.

Folder #44 School Records 1876-1884 & n.d. (49 leaves)

PRINTED MATERIAL c. 1890 c. 1910 (1 bound, 432 leaves) (2 unbound, 20 leaves)

Printed material contains pamphlets of investment and insurance advertising and a children's textbook titled, Our Country's Readers.

Folder #45 Pamphlets c.1890-1910 (2 unbound, 20 leaves)

Our Country's Readers 1903 (1 bound, 432 leaves)

BOX #3

RECORDS 1904-1921 (4 unbound, 29 leaves) (321 leaves)

Included in this section are business records of Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Co. and Study Butte Mining Co.. Among the Study Butte Mining Co. records are payrolls, business statements of profits and losses, and reports submitted to Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Co. for the operation of the Big Bend Mine.

BIG BEND CINNABAR MINING CO. 1904-1921 (2 unbound, 10 leaves) (3 leaves)

Folder #46 Business Records 1904-1921 (2 unbound, 10 leaves) (3 leaves)

STUDY BUTTE MINING CO. 1916-1920 (2 unbound, 19 leaves) (318 leaves)

Folder #47 Accounts on Wagon Freight 1916-1919 (43 leaves)
Folder #48 Accounts on Wood 1916-1919 (43 leaves)
Folder #49 Auditor's Report 1920 (1 unbound, 13 leaves)
Folder #50 Balance Sheet 1917-1919 (2 leaves)
Folder #51 Distribution of Profit 1918-1919 (7 leaves)
W. KEESEY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n.d.
BOX #3

RECORDS (continued)

STUDY BUTTE MINING CO. (continued)

Folder #52 Furnace Payroll 1916-1919 (37 leaves)
Folder #53 Mine Payroll 1916-1919 (116 leaves)
Folder #54 Report of ending operations 1920 (1 unbound, 6 leaves)
Folder #55 Statements of receipts and disbursements 1916-1919 (30 leaves)
Folder #56 Statements of revenue and operating expenses 1916-1919 (40 leaves)

SAVINGS MATERIAL n.d. (38 leaves)

Contains comic poster illustrations, a comic book, magazine tear sheet, directions for use of a fire extinguisher, and a flower and vegetable check list.

Folder #57 Miscellaneous n.d. (9 leaves)
Folder #58 Posters n.d. (29 leaves)

EPHEMERA 1872-1917 & n.d. (4 unbound, 112 leaves) (27 leaves)

Contains unidentified loose ledger sheets and fragments of collection documents. Also included are standard bill holders and empty business envelopes addressed to E. G. Gleim from W. D. Burcham.

Folder #59 Binders 1872 & n.d. (4 leaves)
Folder #60 Business Envelopes 1917 (2 leaves)
Folder #61 Business Envelopes n.d. (1 leaf)
Folder #62 Collection Fragments 1879 & n.d. (7 leaves)
Folder #63 Loose Ledger Sheets 1887-1888 & n.d. (13 leaves)
Folder #64 Notes n.d. (4 unbound, 112 leaves, 1 single)
Folder #65 Military Records [1864] (10 leaves)

LEDGERS 1879-1921 & n.d. (67 bound, 13,349 leaves) (Shelved after collection boxes)

The bulk of the ledgers belong to W. Keesey and include day books, account books, and letter press correspondence books. There are two ledgers belonging to the Chisos Mining Company. They include an invoice book and a blotter.

Titles that were printed on the actual ledgers are underlined. Hand-written titles placed on the ledgers by the original owners are enclosed in quotation marks. Brackets constitute the type of ledger book it is: Ex. [day book], [account book], [correspondence book]. These descriptions were assigned after each ledger was carefully examined. They were not originally imprinted onto the ledgers by the owners.
LEDGERS (continued)

KEESEY & CO. 1879-1906 & n.d. (65 bound, 13,174 leaves)

Ledger #1  "Keesey Bro's" Ledger  "1"  [account book] (cash, merchandise, and sales)  1879-1880  (1 bound, 145 leaves)

Ledger #2  Ledger  "No. 2"  [account book] (cash and merchandise)  1880-1881  (1 bound, 206 leaves)

Ledger #3  Day Book - W. K.  (general merchandise, salaries, tickets, bar accounts)  1881-1882  (1 bound, 192 leaves)

Ledger #4  Day Book - W. Keesey,  1882  (Fort Davis accounts and inventory on hay, charcoal, and wood)  (1 bound, 192 leaves)

Ledger #5  Ledger  1882  Keesey  [account book]  1882-1884  (1 bound, 264 leaves)

Ledger #6  "Steve Blotter" [day book] (general merchandise)  1883  (1 bound, 166 leaves)

Ledger #7  [day book] (daily bar tabs and tickets)  1883  (1 bound, 110 leaves)

Ledger #8  "Hay"  [account book] (hardware, feed, groceries, gen. mds.)  1884-1887  (1 bound, 166 leaves)

Ledger #9  [monthly account book]  1884-1887  (1 bound, 240 leaves)

Ledger #10  [correspondence book] (letters signed by W. Keesey)  1884-1885  (1 bound, 500 leaves)

Ledger #11  Day Book  1882  1884-1886  (1 bound, 200 leaves)

Ledger #12  W. Keesey Dealer General Merchandise, Ft. Davis, Texas  [account book] (gen. mds.)  1884-1887  (1 bound, 55 leaves)

Ledger #13  "Bar Book August 1884"  (Lucky and Bently - bartenders, bar tabs)  1884  (1 bound, 64 leaves)

Ledger #14  [account book] (gen. mds.)  1884-1885  (1 bound, 83 leaves)

Ledger #15  Wood Book  [account book] (Wood and government freight mds. and paid freight)  1884-1885  (1 bound, 190 leaves)

Ledger #16  Bills Payable "From May lst/85 to May lst/87"  1885-1887  (1 bound, 40 leaves)

Ledger #17  W. Keesey "Contract Book"  1886  (1 bound, 2 leaves)

Ledger #18  [account book] (gen. mds. and bar tabs)  1886-1888  (1 bound, 33 leaves)

Ledger #19  Invoices  1886-1889  (1 bound, 200 leaves)

Ledger #20  [account book] (gen. mds. and bar tabs)  1886-1887  (1 bound, 7 leaves)

Ledger #21  [account book] (gen. mds. and bar tabs)  1886-1888  (1 bound, 180 leaves)

Ledger #22  [monthly account book] (Fort Davis book)  1887-1890  (1 bound, 238 leaves)

Ledger #23  [bar book]  1887  (1 bound, 45 leaves)

Ledger #24  Bills Payable  1887-1889  (1 bound, 149 leaves)

Ledger #25  "Day Book Aug. 1st, 1887 - Mch. 22, 1888"  1887-1888  (1 bound, 160 leaves)

Ledger #26  Cash  1887-1890  (1 bound, 200 leaves)
W. KEESEY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n.d.
LEDGERS (continued)

KEESEY & CO. (continued)

Ledger #27 Ledger [account book] 1888-1892 (1 bound, 348 leaves)
Ledger #28 [bar book] 1888-1890 (1 bound, 105 leaves)
Ledger #29 Contract Book (checks, supplies, and freight) 1888-
1889 bound, 192 leaves)
Ledger #30 [bar book] 1888-1889 (1 bound, 21 leaves)
Ledger #31 Invoice Book 1889-1891 (1 bound, 250 leaves)
Ledger #32 [daybook-(gen. mds.)] 1889 (1 bound, 192 leaves)
Ledger #33 [check stubs] 1889 (1 bound, 175 leaves)
Ledger #34 Bills Payable 1889-1892 (1 bound, 120 leaves)
Ledger #35 Day Book (gen. mds.) 1889-1891 (1 bound, 216 leaves)
Ledger #36 [checklist] (supplies for Fort Davis, Shafter, and
Valentine) 1889-1890 (1 bound, 60 leaves)
Ledger #37 [account book] 1890-1894 (1 bound, 118 leaves)
Ledger #38 [account book] 1890-1894 (1 bound, 2 leaves)
Ledger #39 [monthly account book] 1890-1893 (1 bound, 300 leaves)
Ledger #40 Cash 1890-1893 (1 bound, 200 leaves)
Ledger #41 Checks #4290-4789 M.K. 1890-1891 (1 bound, 166 leaves)
Ledger #42 [correspondence book] (signed by W. Keesey and G.M.
Gleim. Tyrone Kelly's name is written in front of the
book) 1890 (1 bound, 700 leaves)
Ledger #43 "1890 to Nov. 15" [correspondence book] (signed by W.
Keesey and G.M. Gleim) 1890-1891 (1 bound, 1000
leaves)
Ledger #44 Checks #5401-6400 Keesey 1891-1893 (1 bound, 366 leaves)
Ledger #45 [store room inventory and company accounts] 1892 (1
bound, 82 leaves)
Ledger #46 Order Book - 1892 (gen. mds.) 1892-1893 (1 bound,
166 leaves)
Ledger #47 [cash book] (Tyrone Kelly's name in front of book)
1893-1896 (1 bound, 200 leaves)
Ledger #48 Day Book (wagon freight and gen. mds.) 1893-1894 (1
bound, 150 leaves)
Ledger #49 [account book] 1893-1895 (1 bound, 250 leaves)
Ledger #50 [account book] 1894-1895 (1 bound, 40 leaves)
Ledger #51 Day Book (gen. mds.) 1894 (1 bound, 150 leaves)
Ledger #52 Day Book (gen. mds.) 1894-1895 (1 bound, 150
leaves)
Ledger #53 Day Book "Blotter From Jany 12, 1895 to Apr 29, 1895"
1895 (1 bound, 150 leaves)
Ledger #54 Day Book (gen. mds.) 1895-1898 (1 bound, 200 leaves)
Ledger #55 The Handy Day Book (gen. mds.) 1896 (1 bound, 192
leaves)
Ledger #56 The Handy Day Book "Blotter" (gen. mds.) 1896 (1 bound,
200 leaves)
Ledger #57 The Handy Day Book "Blotter" (gen. mds.) 1896-1897
(1 bound 200 leaves)
Ledger #58 "Inventory Book" 1897 (1 bound, 200 leaves)
W. KESEY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n.d.
LEDGERS (continued)

KESEY & CO. (continued)

Ledger #59 [account book] (gen. mds.) 1901-1904 (1 bound, 260 leaves)
Ledger #60 [correspondence book] (signed by M. Keesey and W. Keesey) 1902-1903 (1 bound, 996 leaves)
Ledger #61 Letters (signed by M. Keesey and Gregg Gleim) 1905-1906 (1 bound, 725 leaves)
Ledger #62 [account names] n.d. (1 bound, 26 leaves)
Ledger #63 [store room inventory] n.d. (1 bound, 79 leaves)
Ledger #64 [carpenter's notes] (plans for D Troop Barracks) n.d. (1 bound, 50 leaves)
Ledger #65 "Cost Book W. Keesey" n.d. (1 bound, 150 leaves)

CHISOS MINING COMPANY 1912-1921 (2 bound, 175 leaves)

Ledger #66 Invoices (bought mine supplies) 1912 (1 bound, 75 leaves)
Ledger #67 Blotter-Chisos Mining Co. (Tyrone Kelly's name written in front of book) 1921 (1 bound, 100 leaves)
SEE ALSO:

WAYNER. CARTLEDGE COLLECTION 1901-1966

&

WAYNER. CARTLEDGE COLLECTION APPENDIX II 1927

for other Chisos Mining Co. blotters
SEE ALSO:

Analysis

ARCHIVES OF THE BIG BEND
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

W. KEESEY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n.d.

Donor Tyrone Kelly and Bill Miller

Donation Date 8/17/82 and 7/20/85

Reference File:
Biographical Data Sheet
Yes
Summary Sheet
Yes
Microfilmed
No

Oral History Interviews:
None

Type of Material:
CORRESPONDENCE 1879-1964 & n.d.
FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS 1879-1919 & n.d.
LEGAL DOCUMENTS 1877-1919 & n.d.
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SAVINGS MATERIAL n.d.
EPHEMERA 1872-1917 & n.d.
LEDGERS 1879-1921 & n.d.
Number linear feet

Number of items 17,367

Catalogued:
Date May 8, 1986
By Janet McCollum
Cindy Marquez

Identification:
See Collection Summary

Related Material:
Wayne R. Cartledge Papers

Albert Barry Scobee Collection

Principal Subjects:
Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Company
William D. Burcham
Fort Davis Texas--Businesses
Edgar G. Gleim
Keesey & Co.
Otis M. Keesey
Whitaker Keesey
Marfa, Texas--Businesses

Evaluation:
The W. Keesey Collection is a group of papers and documents pertaining to the many different people and businesses associated with Whitaker Keesey. Among the collection are documents relating to the Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Co., Chisos Mining Co., E.G. Gleim Co., Keesey & Co., Study Butte Mining Co., and the Union Trading Company.
1. COLLECTION TITLE  W. KEESEY COLLECTION 1864-1972 & n.d.
2. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON William David (W.D.) Burcham
3. DATE OF BIRTH June 10, 1884 PLACE OF BIRTH Salem, Indiana
4. DATE OF DEATH May 31, 1972 PLACE OF DEATH Alpine, Texas
5. FATHER’S NAME MOTHER’S NAME
6. NAMES OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF #2 ABOVE, WITH BIRTH AND DEATH DATES
   FOR EACH:
   Mrs. W. G. Lauderdale
7. EDUCATION (LEVEL OF EDUCATION, NAMES OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, DATES OF ATTENDANCE):
   Attended school in Oregon and Palo Alto, California.
   Graduate of Stanford University, Standford, California.
8. DATE OF MARRIAGE April 22, 1917 NAME OF SPOUSE Rubye Richardson
9. CHILDREN OF #2 ABOVE, WITH BIRTH AND DEATH DATES:
   William Jackson  (June 6, 1918- )
   Richard Lusk
   Rubye June (Mrs. Rubye Ervin) (June 21, 1929- )
10. PRIMARY RESIDENCE(S), WITH DATES IF KNOWN:
    Shafter, Texas
    Ft. Davis, Texas
11. PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) Mining Geologist and Engineer
    Storeowner, involved in mining business
12. MEMBERSHIPS, PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, OFFICES HELD:
    1922-1938 Brewster County Commissioner of Precinct No. 4
    1933-34 Vice-President of National Quicksilver Producers Association
    1936 President of Mariscal Mining Company
    Member of the Masonic Lodge and Presbyterian Church
13. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND DATES IN THE LIFE OF #2 ABOVE:
    1910 Moved to Shafter, Texas
    1916 Moved to Study Butte, Texas
    1927 Reopened Mariscal Mine
    Former Brewster Quicksilver Consolidated
    1938 Moved to Alpine, Texas
1. COLLECTION TITLE W. KEESEY COLLECTION 1864-1972 & n..d.
2. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON Edgar G. (E.G.) Gleim
3. DATE OF BIRTH PLACE OF BIRTH Missouri
4. DATE OF DEATH PLACE OF DEATH
5. FATHER’S NAME MOTHER’S NAME
6. NAMES OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF #2 ABOVE, WITH BIRTH AND DEATH DATES FOR EACH:
   Harry S. (H.S.) Gleim
   George W. (G.W.) Gleim
7. EDUCATION (LEVEL OF EDUCATION, NAMES OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, DATES OF ATTENDANCE):
8. DATE OF MARRIAGE NAME OF SPOUSE
9. CHILDREN OF #2 ABOVE, WITH BIRTH AND DEATH DATES:
10. PRIMARY RESIDENCE(S), WITH DATES IF KNOWN:
    Shafter, Texas
    Ft. Davis, Texas
11. PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) Storeowner, involved in mining business
12. MEMBERSHIPS, PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, OFFICES HELD:
13. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND DATES IN THE LIFE OF #2 ABOVE:
    Established Presidio Mining Company store in Shafter, Texas called E. G. Gleim Co. in c. 1891.
    Became partners with Whitaker Keesey in 1892.
    President and major stockholder of Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Company in c. 1905

2. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON: Otis M. Keesey

3. DATE OF BIRTH: c. 1840  PLACE OF BIRTH: Ohio

4. DATE OF DEATH  PLACE OF DEATH

5. FATHER’S NAME: George Keesey  MOTHER’S NAME: Nancy Thomas Keesey

6. NAMES OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF #2 ABOVE, WITH BIRTH AND DEATH DATES FOR EACH:
   - Whitaker Keesey, September 4, 1843 – March 18, 1918
   - William Keesey

7. EDUCATION (LEVEL OF EDUCATION, NAMES OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, DATES OF ATTENDANCE):

8. DATE OF MARRIAGE  NAME OF SPOUSE: Adellena

9. CHILDREN OF #2 ABOVE, WITH BIRTH AND DEATH DATES:
   - Annie, 1872-
   - Bella, 1874-
   - Carolena, 1877-
   (Found in 1880 Federal Census of Presidio County)

10. PRIMARY RESIDENCE(S), WITH DATES IF KNOWN:

   - Reared in Steubenville, Ohio
   - San Antonio, Texas March 6, 1867-
   - Fort Davis, Texas 1867-

11. PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S)  Merchant and Judge

12. MEMBERSHIPS, PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, OFFICES HELD:

   - Board of Commissioners, May 13, 1875-
   - Presiding Justice, August 18, 1875- February 7, 1876
   - County Judge, c. 1878- c. 1887
   - Drew plans for courthouse and jail, 1879

13. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND DATES IN THE LIFE OF #2 ABOVE:

   - Opened Keesey and Company store with Whitaker in 1873
1. COLLECTION TITLE W. KEESEY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n.d.
2. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON Whitaker Keesey
3. DATE OF BIRTH September 4, 1843 PLACE OF BIRTH Lancaster, Ohio
4. DATE OF DEATH March 18, 1918 PLACE OF DEATH La Jolla, California
5. FATHER'S NAME George Keesey MOTHER'S NAME Nancy Thomas Keesey
6. NAMES OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF #2 ABOVE, WITH BIRTH AND DEATH DATES
FOR EACH:
   Othis M. Keesey c. 1840-
   William Keesey

7. EDUCATION (LEVEL OF EDUCATION, NAMES OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, DATES OF ATTENDANCE):
   2 years of schooling

8. DATE OF MARRIAGE April 14, 1892 NAME OF SPOUSE Nancy Jance Carmichael

9. CHILDREN OF #2 ABOVE, WITH BIRTH AND DEATH DATES:
   Four children were born to Whitaker and Nancy but none survived the day of birth.

10. PRIMARY RESIDENCE(S), WITH DATES IF KNOWN:
   Ohio 1843-1867 Ft. Davis 1867- c. 1908
   San Antonio 1867 La Jolla, California- died in 1918

11. PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) owned Kessey & Co. stores in west Texas

12. MEMBERSHIPS, PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, OFFICES HELD:
   Hide Inspector (4 years) Member of Benevolent Lodge
   Deputy Sheriff 1876 Member of Presbyterian church
   County Treasurer 1831 (4 years)
   County Attorney 1882
   County Commissioner (8 years)
   Member of Odd Fellows Lodge

13. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND DATES IN THE LIFE OF #2 ABOVE:
   Served with 84th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and 5th Ohio Cavalry in the Civil War
   Arrived in Ft. Davis in 1867 and became a baker for the troops of General Wesley Merritt.
   Opened Keesey & Co. with his brother, Otis, in 1873.
   Sold out in 1908 and moved to California.*
   Died in La Jolla, California on March 18, 1918
   *It is not known when Whitaker Keesey left Ft. Davis; however, he does not appear in the 1910 Federal Census of Jeff Davis County
COLLECTION TITLE W. KEESLEY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n.d.

NAME OF BUSINESS (GIVE NAME CHANGES AND DATES) Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Company

PRINCIPAL NAME AROUND WHICH COLLECTION IS FORMERD Whitaker Keesey

DATE OF FORMATION PLACE

DATE OF DISSOLUTION January 1, 1921 PLACE Study Butte, Texas

REASON FOR DISSOLUTION Exhausted funds to keep the mine open

LIST PURPOSE OF BUSINESS:

To produce quicksilver from the Big Bend Mine located in Study Butte, Texas.

LIST OWNERS OF BUSINESS, DATES OF MEMBERSHIP, AND TYPE OF BUSINESS STRUCTURE (partner--ship, corporation, single owner, etc.):

Corporation

In 1908 E. G. Gleim, G. W. Gleim, H. S. Gleim, Spencer Gregg, and Morris P. Kirk were the major stockholders of Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Company.

LIST EMPLOYEES, POSITIONS, AND DATES OF EMPLOYMENT:

F.W. Gleim-1909 Secretary
F.S. Gleim-1909 Assistant Secretary
Spencer Gregg-1915 Secretary
E. G. Gleim-President

PRIMARY LOCATIONS AND DATES:

Study Butte, Texas -1921

LIST OTHER SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ABOVE NAMED COMPANY:

The Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Company owned the Big Bend Mine located in Study Butte, Texas. They hired the Study Butte Mining Company to mine it at a profit in 1915. By 1921 their funds were exhausted and with labor shortage and the dropping price of quicksilver, they were forced to close the mine. It was at this time that the Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Company and the Study Butte Mining Company dissolved.
COLLECTION TITLE W. KEESEY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n.d. 

NAME OF BUSINESS (GIVE NAME CHANGES AND DATES) Chisos Mining Company

PRINCIPAL NAME AROUND WHICH COLLECTION IS FORMED Whitaker Keesey

DATE OF FORMATION May 8, 1903

PLACE State of Maine

DATE OF DISSOLUTION October 1, 1942

PLACE Terlingua, Texas

REASON FOR DISSOLUTION Admitted insolvency-bankrupt

LIST PURPOSE OF BUSINESS: Mining and prospecting of quicksilver and operation of the company store. Perry’s Terlingua settlement consisted a church, commissary, bank, a school, homes of varying degrees, and the necessary garages and repair shops for machinery and other needs.

LIST OWNERS OF BUSINESS, DATES OF OWNERSHIP, AND TYPE OF BUSINESS STRUCTURE (partner-ship, corporation, single owner, etc.):

Howard Everett Perry - corporation, 1903-1942
Howard E. Perry-Wayne R. Cartledge - partnership, 1918-1943
Texas Railway Equipment Company of Houston, Texas- operated as the Esperado Mining Company, 1943-1945

LIST EMPLOYEES, POSITIONS, AND DATES OF EMPLOYMENT:

C. A. Hawley - store clerk (bookkeeper and manager), 1910-1913
Wayne R. Cartledge - store clerk and bookkeeper, 1909-1918
Robert L. Cartledge - store manager and purchasing agent, 1910; general manager of the Chisos mine in 1913
Robert L. Cartledge - store manager and purchasing agent, 1913-1940; (continued)

PRIMARY LOCATIONS AND DATES: Terlingua, Texas 1903-1945

LIST OTHER SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ABOVE NAMED COMPANY:

H.E. Perry originally purchased the land in 1884 (4 ½ sections). C. 1990 Eugene Cartledge, Sr. was the Austin attorney and land specialist whose legal research gave Mr. Perry title to the land. Mr. Perry had a church built in 1920 in Terlingua. In 1932 the Texas-Mariposa Company was sold to the Chisos Mining Company. In 1938, Mr. Perry purchased the Rainbow Company for $12,500. In 1942, the Chisos Mining Company purchased a Scott furnace. The mine reached its peak of production in 1917. During the years 1919-1941 the mine produced a creditable amount of quicksilver (39,094 flasks). Quicksilver was produced through 1937.
Robert L. Cartledge - Justice of the Peace, 1913 Eugene Cartledge, Sr. - Austin attorney, c. 1900-
J. D. Wade - truck driver and mail carrier G. Ed Babb - 1920-1940
E. J. Dahlgren - furnace operator
J. E. Anderau - mechanical operator Frank E. Lewis - mining superintendent
Arthur Ekdall - bookkeeper
Marcus Hulings - mine superintendent and engineer Emma Calanhan - store manager, 1942
Earl Anderau - store clerk
H. A. Ferguson - purchasing agent for the mine, resigned August, 1910
Harry Fovargue - mine superintendent, 1906-1918, resigned, 1939-1942, bookkeeper
Dr. William Battle Phillips - mine engineer and geologist, became first superintendent of the Chisos mine in 1905
Jim Lafarelle - replaced Dr. Phillips, c. 1906
Johnson - furnace operator, c. 1908 (first name unknown)
Hamiton - position unknown, c. 1908 (first name unknown)
Quayle - assistant superintendent, c. 1908 (first name unknown)
Knight - position unknown, c. 1908 (first name unknown)
Cipriano Hernandez - mine employee, killed in the mine in 1933
O'Connor - position unknown (first name unknown)
Bennett - position unknown (first name unknown)
Swanson - assistant to E. J. Dahlgren (first name unknown)
Adams - principal of school (first name unknown)
Fred Demas - truck driver
Water - position unknown (first name unknown)
Jimmy Fahay - [assayer], worked in mine office
W. D. Burcham - mining engineer
Collection Title: W. Keesey Collection 1872-1964 & n.d.

Name of Business (Give Name Changes and Dates): Keesey & Co.

Principal Name Around Which Collection Is Formed: Whitaker Keesey

Date of Formation: 1873

Place: Ft. Davis, Texas

Date of Dissolution: 1908

Place: Ft. Davis, Texas

Reason for Dissolution: Business was sold

List Purpose of Business:

Sold general merchandise in many small towns such as Valentine, Marfa, Study Butte, and Ft. Davis.

List Owners of Business, Dates of Ownership, and Type of Business Structure (partner­ship, corporation, single owner, etc.):

Otis & Whitaker·Keesey 1873-
E. G. Gleim became a partner in 1892.

List Employees, Positions, and Dates of Employment:

Primary Locations and Dates:

Ft. Davis, Texas 1873-1908  *Marfa, Texas c. 1902
*Valentine, Texas 1894-c. 1904  *Study Butte, Texas c. 1892
*The dates for Valentine, Marfa and Study Butte were taken from the actual documents found in the collection. They do not reflect the formation or dissolution dates of

List Other Significant Information About the Above Named Company: Keesey & Co. in those towns.

In 1908 W. Keesey sold the business to a group of men who changed the name to Union Trading Company.
COLLECTION TITLE: KEESKEY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n. d.
NAME OF BUSINESS (GIVE NAME CHANGES AND DATES): Study Butte Mining Company

PRINCIPAL NAME AROUND WHICH COLLECTION IS FORMERD: Whitaker Keesey

DATE OF FORMATION: October 1, 1915
PLACE: Study Butte, Texas

DATE OF DISSOLUTION: January 1, 1921
PLACE: Study Butte, Texas

REASON FOR DISSOLUTION: Labor shortage and the drop of the price of quicksilver

LIST PURPOSE OF BUSINESS:
To mine the Big Bend Mine owned by Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Company

LIST OWNERS OF BUSINESS, DATES OF OWNERSHIP, AND TYPE OF BUSINESS STRUCTURE (partner-ship, corporation, single owner, etc.):

E. M. Gleim and W. D. Burcham—Partnership

LIST EMPLOYEES, POSITIONS, AND DATES OF EMPLOYMENT:
E. M. Gleim — operator
William D. (W. D.) Burcham — mining engineer
John B. Hunley — Superintendent

PRIMIART LOCATIONS AND DATES:
Study Butte, Texas 1915-1921

LIST OTHER SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ABOVE NAMED COMPANY:
Study Butte Mining Company was under contract with Big Bend Cinnabar Mining Company to mine the Big Bend Quicksilver Mine.
ARCHIVES OF THE BIG BEND BUSINESS RECORDS ACCESSION NUMBER
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY INFORMATION SHEET ACCESSION DATE

COLLECTION TITLE W. KEESLEY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n.d.

NAME OF BUSINESS (GIVE NAME CHANGES AND DATES) Union Trading Company

PRINCIPAL NAME AROUND WHICH COLLECTION IS FORMED Whitaker Keesey

DATE OF FORMATION 1908 PLACE Ft. Davis, Texas
DATE OF DISSOLUTION PLACE

REASON FOR DISSOLUTION

LIST PURPOSE OF BUSINESS:

General Store

LIST OWNERS OF BUSINESS, DATES OF OWNERSHIP, AND TYPE OF BUSINESS STRUCTURE (partner-ship, corporation, single owner, etc.):


LIST EMPLOYEES, POSITIONS, AND DATES OF EMPLOYMENT:

J. P. Weatherby—Secretary / Treasurer

PRIMARY LOCATIONS AND DATES:

Ft. Davis, Texas 1908-

LIST OTHER SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ABOVE NAMED COMPANY:

In 1908, the above list of owners bought Keesey & Co. in Ft. Davis and changed the name to Union Trading Company. Sometime later the business was sold and the name changed to Morrisson & McWhorter. In 1942 Tyrone Kelly and Sid Bouchette bought the business and named it the Union Mercantile. Tyrone Kelly bought out Sid Bouchette in 1964 and continued alone until he sold the business in 1983. In 1983 Bill Miller and Bob Dillard bought the Union Mercantile and changed the name back to the Union Trading Company.
DATA SHEET FOR THE NATIONAL UNION CATALOG OF MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Name of Repository: Archives of the Big Bend
Reported by: Cindy L. Marquez
Date: May 14, 1986

1. Name of collection and inclusive dates of material:
   W. KESEY COLLECTION 1872-1964 & n.d.

2. Principal name around which the collection is formed; i.e., person (full name, birth and death dates), family, business, society, governmental agency, or some other corporate body:
   Whitaker Keesey 1843-1918
   Give relationship to the collection; i.e., writer, address, collector: * other (specify) __

3. Occupation or type of activity of the principal person, family, or corporate body; significant events and dates in the career or activity; and place of residence or location of activity:
   Owner of J. Keesey & Company stores in Ft. Davis, Valentine, Study Butte, and Marfa, Texas.

4. Number of linear shelf feet (if 1 foot or more) __________: or number of items 17,367 (known* or estimated__).

5. If the collection contains copies of manuscripts, describe the form(s) of reproduction (handwritten or typewritten transcripts, positive or negative photocopies, positive or negative microfilm with no. of reels) and give the number (or fraction of total) of each kind. Give location of originals, and dates and circumstances under which the copies were made:

6. Nature of acquisition (gift, permanent deposit, etc.), date(s) and source(s) of acquisition and former owner(s):
   Gift of Tyrone Kelly, August 17, 1982
   Gift of Bill Miller, July 20, 1985

7. Research access restricted _____, unrestricted*, State nature of restriction and when it will be terminated:

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