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MS 409

**KITE, ROBERT EDWARD LEE, 1877?-1955  
DIARIES, 1898-1899****DESCRIPTION**

The collection contains five original diaries kept by Kite as a soldier during the Spanish-American War in 1898-1899. He was a corporal in Company D, First Texas Volunteer Guard under the command of Capt. J. L. Veazey. His diaries give a detailed account of basic training and of army service in Cuba. His diaries give an excellent account of an enlisted man's view of army life including explanatory notes of army duties and rank. He gives a good account of relations between officers and enlisted men and how this differs in a volunteer army. He describes the various camps where he was posted (Texas, Louisiana, Miami) and of his time in Cuba.

2 Boxes, .5 linear feet

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Robert Edward Lee Kite, veteran and building contractor, was born in Tennessee but enlisted in 1898 from Texas. He came to Arizona in 1923 and entered general contracting. In Tucson, he was well known in military circles and was a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Camp Ben Daniels Post of the Spanish War Veterans. He died in Tucson in 1955.

**ACQUISITION**

Donated by Ora Lee Kite, widow of Robert Kite in 1956.

**ACCESS**

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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**PROCESSING**

The collection was processed by Riva Dean in November 1997.