

TRC Research Report

Why the IMR Case Files Differ from Today's TRC Investigations

TRC Research Report: RR-018

Prepared by: Dylan Carrillo

Classification: Public Release

Introduction

As we've continued organizing the newly recovered archives, many visitors have noticed something unusual.

Several documents originating from the **Institute of Mesilla Research (IMR)** contain case files that **do not match** the investigations currently listed by the **TRC Research Center**.

Some cases appear under different names.

Others have been combined.

Several have disappeared altogether.

This has raised an important question:

Which list is correct?

The answer is...

Both.

The IMR Was Conducting Different Investigations

The Institute of Mesilla Research operated for many years before the TRC Research Center was established.

Based on the recovered documents, IMR investigators often opened separate case files for every unusual event they encountered.

For example:

- A strange symbol might become one case.
- A missing rancher another.
- A mysterious light a third.
- An unusual artifact a fourth.

The result was **hundreds of small investigations**, many of which overlapped.

As more evidence accumulated, investigators realized many of these "separate" mysteries appeared to be connected.

The TRC Reorganized the Archive

When the TRC inherited portions of the IMR collection, researchers made an important decision.

Rather than preserve hundreds of fragmented investigations, they reorganized the material into **major case files** centered around recurring mysteries.

For example:

Current Case File No. 3 — The Mesilla Veil

contains information that originally appeared in numerous IMR investigations involving:

- unexplained disappearances
- strange weather
- distorted time
- unusual lights
- unidentified locations

Instead of treating these as unrelated events, the TRC grouped them into a single ongoing investigation.

Some Cases Were Merged

Several IMR investigations clearly described the same phenomenon from different perspectives.

Examples include reports involving:

- Captain Elias Voss
- the Enclosure
- the Old Desert

- mysterious symbols
- unidentified artifacts

Rather than duplicate information, the TRC merged these records into broader investigations that better reflect the evidence currently available.

Other Cases Were Retired

Not every IMR investigation survived.

Some files consisted of:

- newspaper rumors
- second-hand stories
- unsupported claims
- duplicate reports
- incomplete notes

When no corroborating evidence could be located, those investigations were archived rather than maintained as active cases.

Importantly, **retiring a case does not mean the event never happened.**

It simply means there is currently insufficient evidence to justify a separate active investigation.

New Evidence Has Changed Priorities

Since receiving the **TOX Archive**, researchers have gained access to thousands of additional pages of journals, maps, interviews, and field notes.

This new material has dramatically reshaped our understanding of several long-standing mysteries.

Cases once considered unrelated now appear to share common people, locations, or events.

Because of that, today's case list reflects **current evidence**, not simply historical tradition.

The Current Ten Priority Cases

The TRC has identified ten investigations that appear repeatedly throughout more than a century of historical records.

1. The Mark on the Wrist
2. Symbols in the Sand
3. The Mesilla Veil
4. The Lost Expedition of Captain Elias Voss
5. The Enclosure
6. The Scorpion King
7. The Desert Crow
8. The TOX Archive
9. The Lost Trains of the Old Desert
10. The Whisper Stones

These investigations continue to evolve as additional documents are authenticated and cataloged.

Could the IMR Cases Return?

Absolutely.

The archived IMR files remain preserved.

If new evidence supports reopening an older investigation—or creating an entirely new one—the TRC will do so.

Research is never static.

Every recovered journal, forgotten photograph, or family letter has the potential to change what we think we know.

Dylan's Notes

"One of the first things I noticed when I started reviewing the IMR files was how different their case list looked from ours. At first I thought someone had made mistakes. Then I realized something else had happened—the investigators before us were working with only a fraction of the evidence we have today. They were trying to solve individual mysteries. We're beginning to see that many of those mysteries are connected. That doesn't make the IMR wrong. It makes their work the foundation we continue to build on."

— Dylan Carrillo

TRC Conclusion

The IMR archive remains one of the most important historical resources in The Mesilla Files.

Its investigators preserved thousands of observations that might otherwise have been lost. The TRC's role has not been to replace their work, but to **reorganize it, compare it, and expand it** as new evidence becomes available.

The investigation continues to evolve—just as the archive itself does.

Collect Everything. Verify What You Can. Question Everything Else.

The records have been preserved. The investigation continues.