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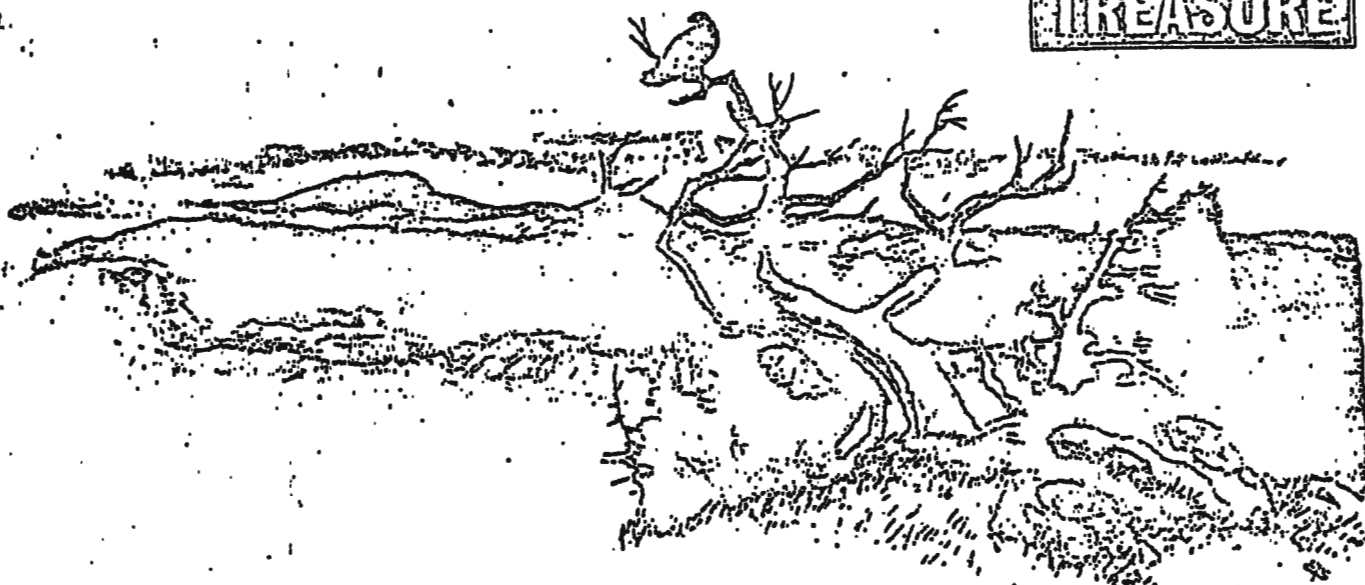


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TRUE
TREASURE



HAS THE BEALE TREASURE CODE BEEN SOLVED?

The Beale Treasure code holds the secret to the location of over \$2 million in gold, silver and jewels buried somewhere in Virginia, but no one has been able to break it for the past 150 years. Now, at last, it may be solved

In the June, 1968 issue of True Treasure, I told the strange but true story of the "Secret Treasure Code of the Blue Ridge."

The story related how, in a secret location in the famed Virginia mountains, frontiersman Thomas Jefferson Beale buried over \$2 million in gold, silver and jewels. Then, in preference to showing the treasure site by map, he devised and drew up a series of three strange, numerical

codes which, when deciphered, would reveal:

Code No. 1—the exact location of the treasure.

Code No. 2—exactly what the treasure consisted of.

Code No. 3—the names of those to whom the treasure belonged, as well as their next of kin.

My story told how James B. Ward of Campbell County, Virginia succeeded many years later in breaking



What became of Thomas Jefferson Beale and his band of hardy mountain men, no one knows. But his treasure codes have lingered on to baffle and confuse treasure hunters for the past 150 years.

Beale Code continued

definitely think it's there. We have located positively 13 out of 15 landmarks surrounding the treasure, and we have compass directions and measurements to it—that's what makes it so exciting.

"We have two motives in looking for the treasure. First, of course, we want to prove that it does exist. If we can't do that, then we want to prove that it has either been removed or never existed at all."

The members of the group, or team if you want to call them that, prefer not to talk about the methods used in deciphering the code. But who can blame them? With millions possibly at stake, who would want to talk about it? About all they will say is that the code has references and terms related to ancient Spanish lore, and also incorporates part of Code No. 3.

"From this," they say, "we assume the gold was obtained elsewhere than in the New Mexico mine. Also, we

believe it to be much more valuable, because we think the gold could be in the form of molded objects, as were found in the old Spanish churches of the time."

This possibility brings to mind a tantalizing thought: Could it be that Beale and his men vandalized old Spanish missions? The west was tough, rough and rugged in those old days, and so were the characters lured by its call. Western history indicates that very few, if any, of these

self-styled vagabonds were of the Boy Scout type!

The spokesman for the group freely admits that "one small portion" of the code is still undeciphered. "It's just a little part that is puzzling us now," he says, "and when that part is decoded, it could change all we know. So far, each clue leads us on but also tends to change what we have already learned."

Viewed critically, the fact that "one small portion" of the code is still undeciphered means but one thing—that there is still as much chance for someone else to completely break the code as there ever was.

To this possibility, the group says: "We're not worried that someone will locate it before we get there. The only way the gold can be found is by decoding the document. We are convinced the pit holding the treasure is so cunningly devised that to locate it by happenstance is nearly impossible."

They should know, for they have camped in the forest by the Peaks of Otter and tramped over acres of woodland, bringing metal detectors into the picture in an effort to accomplish by mechanical means that which their code-breaking methods—however secret—have so far been unable to accomplish.

A local historian, who lives near-



"... And now we're submerging to search the harbor bottom, and we fully expect to find the sunken treasure."

Beale Code *continued*

Code No. 2, and learned what Beale's treasure consists of — 2,921 pounds of gold, 5,100 pounds of silver, and jewels then valued at \$13,000.

Ward broke Code No. 2 by discovering that Beale had used the Declaration of Independence as the key base for that code. Here is how it worked.

First of all, Beale wrote down what Code No. 2 would say, as follows:

"I have deposited in the County of Bedford about four miles from Buford's in an excavation or vault six feet below the surface of the ground the following articles belonging jointly to the parties whose names are given in number three herewith.

"The first deposit consisted of ten hundred and fourteen pounds of gold and thirty eight hundred and twelve pounds of silver, deposited November 1819.

"The second was made December 1821 and consisted of nineteen hundred and seven pounds of gold and twelve hundred and eighty eight pounds of silver, also jewels obtained in St. Louis in exchange to save transportation and valued at thirteen thousand dollars.

"The above is securely packed in iron pots with iron covers. The vault is roughly lined with stones, and the vessels rest on solid stones and are covered with others.

"Paper number one describes the exact locality of the vault so that no difficulty will be had in finding it."

Then Beale chose the Declaration of Independence as his key base and numbered each word in the Declaration, as follows:

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15			

"When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve," etc.

Note that Code No. 2, above, starts: "I have deposited," etc. First, Beale looked through the Declaration and found a word starting with the letter "i." He chose the 115th word in the Declaration, which is the word "instituted." Since only the

115, then, meant "i." To spell "have," Beale chose the 73rd word (hold), the 24th word (another), the 818th word (valuable), and the 37th word (equal). Take the first letter of each chosen word and we find: h-a-v-e.

The numerals 73, 24, 818 and 37 thus mean "have."

Although this method of concealment and recovery is much more complicated than a map, Beale felt that it would be much safer and prevent anyone from finding his treasure—and it has, for almost 150 years!

What became of Thomas Jefferson Beale and his gang of mountain men no one knows, but his treasure codes have lingered on, just as confusing, as intriguing—and unsolved—as they ever were.

Not long after the Beale story appeared in True Treasure, I received information that a group of four unidentified men, by pooling their knowledge, time and resources, had succeeded in breaking the main Beale treasure code—that is, Code No. 1 which tells the exact location of the treasure.

Working practically from scratch, I finally located the spokesman for the group. He has insisted, however, that neither his identity nor that of his cohorts may be revealed. While this desire for "strictly no publicity" must be legally respected, it can be revealed that the spokesman for the group is red-haired, 58 years of age, a free lance writer, a former feature writer for two large newspapers, and that his present post is that of public relations officer for a large insurance company. He is also the author of a fairly successful current book.

A second member of the group is a 35-year-old New England carpenter. A third member, also 35, is a New England postal employee. Last, but by no means least, the fourth member of the group is 55 years old and a scholarly cryptographer. He is rated by the other three men as the most important member of the quartet, since "he has broken codes for the government and had been working on this one before we joined forces."

Is there any chance of the treasure being a myth or a will-o'-the-wisp?

The red-haired leader says: "We

efforts: "I knew Clayton Hart well (Hart spent 52 years, until his death in 1949, trying to track down this elusive treasure), and if he looked for this money and didn't find it, chances that others will find it are

to assist anyone who might still be interested in attempting to solve the 147-year-old secret of this treasure, we are reprinting Code No. 1—and also printing Code No. 2 and Code No. 3, as requested by many

this is the first time all three codes have appeared simultaneously in one article.

Following is Code No. 1 describing the exact locality of the vault where the treasure is buried:

Note: On this and the following two pages are all three of the Beale treasure codes!

CODE NO. 1

This code—which a cryptographic team claims it has partially deciphered—describes the exact locality of the vault where the treasure is buried

	71	194	38	1701	09	76	11	83	1629	40	94	63
132	16	111	95	04	341	975	14	40	64	27	81	139
213	63	90	1120	8	15	3	126	2018	40	74	750	425
604	230	436	654	502	150	251	204	308	231	124	211	
486	225	451	370	11	101	305	139(130?)	189	17	33	83	
208	193	145	1	94	73	416	918	263	28	500	538	356
117	136	219	27	176	130	10	400	25	405	18	436	65
84	200	283	118	320	138	36	416	280	15	71	224	961
44	16	401	39	89	61	304	12	21	24	203	134	92
246	406	682	7	219	184	360	780	18	64	463	474	131
160	79	73	440	95	18	64	581	34	69	128	367	460
17	81	12	103	820	62	116	97	103	062	70	60	1317
471	540	208	121	890	348	36	150	59	568	614	13	
120	63	219	012	2160	1700	99	35	18	21	136	072	15
28	170	88	4	30	44	112	18	147	436	195	320	37
122	113	6	140	8	120	305	42	58	461	44	106	301
13	400	600	93	86	116	530	02	568	9	102	38	416
89	71	216	728	965	818	2	38	121	195	14	326	148
234	18	55	131	234	361	824	5	61	623	48	961	19
26	33	10	1101	365	92	68	181	275	346	201	206	66
36	219	320	829	840	68	326	19	48	122	85	216	284
919	861	326	985	233	64	68	232	431	960	50	29	81
216	321	603	14	612	81	360	36	51	62	194	78	60
200	314	676	112	4	28	18	61	136	247	819	921	1060
464	895	10	6	66	119	38	41	49602*	423	962	302	
294	875	78	14	23	111	109	62	31	501	823	216	280
34	24	159	1000	162	286	19	21	17	349	19	242	31
86	234	140	607	115	33	191	67	104	86	52	08	16
80	121	67	95	122	216	548	96	11	201	77	364	218
65	667	890	236	154	211	10	98	34	119	56	216	119
71	218	1164	1496	1817	51	39	210	36	3	19	540	232
22	141	617	84	290	80	46	207	411	150	29	38	46
172	85	194	36	261	543	897	624	18	212	416	127	
931	19	4	63	96	12	101	418	16	140	230	460	538
27	88	612	1431	90	716	275	74	83	11	426	09	72
84	1309	1706	814	221	132	40	102	34	858	975	1101	
04	16	79	23	16	81	122	324	403	912	227	936	447
55	06	34	43	212	107	95	314	264	1065	323	428	601
203	124	95	216	814	2905	654	820	2	301	112	176	
213	71	87	96	202	35	10	2	41	17	84	221	736
820	214	11	60	760								

* or 49 602—number is uncertain.

CODE NO. 2

This code, broken by James B. Ward, describes the contents of the vault

15	115	73	24	818	37	52	49	17	31	62	657	22	7		
195	140	47	29	107	79	84	56	238	10	26	822	5			
122	308	85	52	159	136	59	210	36	9	46	316	543			
250	106	95	53	58	2	42	7	35	122	53	31	82	77		
147	195	56	96	118	71	140	207	20	353	37	994	65			
78	818	24	3	8	12	47	43	59	818	45	316	101	41		
73	154	994	122	138	190	16	77	49	102	57	72	34			
629	85	35	371	59	195	81	92	190	106	273	60	394			
400	270	219	106	388	287	63	3	6	190	122	43	233			
110	106	290	314	47	48	81	96	26	115	92	157	190			
616	77	05	196	46	10	113	140	353	49	120	106	2			
158	61	420	822	29	125	14	20	37	105	28	248	16			
51	7	35	19	301	125	110	496	287	98	117	520	62			
18	219	37	113	140	818	138	549	8	44	287	388	117			
154	79	344	34	20	59	520	557	107	612	219	37	66			
30	41	20	50	6	584	122	154	248	110	61	52	33			
43	5	38	8	14	84	57	549	216	115	71	29	63			
44	131	29	138	47	73	238	549	52	53	79	118	51			
566	63	195	12	238	112	3	49	79	353	105	56	371			
14	210	515	125	360	133	143	101	15	284	73	549	252			
316	204	140	344	26	822	138	115	48	73	34	284				
818	616	63	219	7	52	150	44	52	16	40	37	157			
49	37	121	12	95	10	15	35	12	131	62	115	102	818		
818	53	135	138	30	31	62	67	41	85	63	10	106			
50	138	8	113	20	32	33	37	353	287	140	47	05			
207	37	49	47	64	6	7	71	33	4	43	47	63	1	27	609
33	229	15	190	246	65	94	520	2	270	20	39	7			
210	44	22	40	7	10	3	822	106	44	496	229	353			
287	199	31	10	38	140	297	61	612	320	302	676				
37	2	44	33	32	520	557	10	6	250	566	246	53			
10	52	83	47	320	38(39?)	33	818	7	44	30	31	250			
66	15	35	106	159	113	31	102	406	229	549	320	29			
549	33	101	818	138	301	316	353	320	219	37	52	28			
11	320	33	8	48	107	50	822	7	2	113	73	16	125		
19	110	67	102	818	33	59	81	157	38	43	590	138			
35	85	400	38	43	77	14	27	8	47	138	63	140	44		
25	22	176	106	250	314	216	2	10	7	994	4	20			
44	44	49	7	26	46	110	229	818	190	34	112	147			
63	110	121	125	96	41	51	50	140	56	47	152	549			
26	818	28	42	250	138	591	98	653	32	107	140	112			
136	85	138	549	50	20	125	371	38	36	10	52	110			
37	102	420	150	112	71	14	20	7	24	18	12	818			
84	67	110	62	33	21	95	219	520	102	822	30	83			
242	305	629	15	2	10	8	219	106	353	105	106	60			
95	72	8	50	204	184	112	125	549	65	106	818	190			
106	110	16	73	33	818	150	409	400	50	154	285	96			
34	316	270	204	101	822	400	8	44	37	52	40	240			
85	204	38	16	46	47	85	24	44	15	64	73	138	818		
106	78	110	33	420	515	53	37	38	22	31	10	110			
96	101	140	15	38	3	5	44	7	98	287	135	150			
106	33	84	125	818	190	96	520	118	459	370	653	463			
207	41	107	612	219	275	30	150	105	49	53	287	250			
495	134	7	53	12	47	85	63	138	110	21	112	140			
25	496	515	14	73	85	584	994	150	199	16	42	5	4		
405	42	8	16	822	125	159	32	204	612	818	81	95			
159	41	609	136	14	20	28	26	353	302	246	8	131			
204	140	84	440	42	16	822	40	67	101	102	193	138			
288	51	63	240	549	122	8	10	63	140	47	49	140			

CODE NO. 3

This code tells the names of those to whom the treasure belonged, as well as their next of kin

631	317	8	92	73	112	89	67	318	28	96	107	41
12	78	146	397	118	98	114	246	340	116	74	88	
108	65	32	14	81	19	76	121	216	85	33	66	15
11	68	77	43	24	122	96	117	36	211	301	15	44
198	46	89	18	136	69	317	28	90	82	304	71	43
53	176	310	319	81	99	264	380	56	37	319	2	44
48	20	44	75	98	102	37	85	107	117	64	88	136
89	151	99	175	89	315	326	78	96	214	218	311	43
84	51	90	75	128	96	33	28	103	84	65	26	41
77	270	90	116	32	59	74	66	69	240	15	6	121
201	89	31	11	106	81	191	224	328	18	75	52	82
88	39	23	217	27	21	84	35	54	109	128	49	77
32	1	81	217	64	55	83	116	251	269	311	96	54
10	120	18	132	102	219	211	84	150	219	275	312	64
132	106	87	75	47	21	29	37	81	44	18	126	115
97	160	181	203	76	81	299	314	337	351	96	11	28
126	318	238	106	24	93	3	19	17	26	60	73	88
107	130	234	286	297	321	365	264	19	22	84	56	
107	90	123	111	214	136	7	33	45	40	13	28	46
31	196	227	344	198	203	247	116	19	0	212	230	
71	6	320	65	48	52	59	41	122	33	117	11	10
44	36	45	83	76	89	92	31	65	70	83	96	27
296	50	61	24	112	136	149	176	180	194	143	171	205
16	87	12	44	51	89	93	34	41	208	173	66	9
200	95	8	113	175	90	56	203	19	177	183	206	157
19	32	210	260	291	305	618	951	320	18	124	78	65
11	32	124	48	53	57	84	96	207	244	66	82	119
18	66	77	213	54	02	316	245	303	06	97	106	212
29	37	15	81	89	16	7	81	39	96	14	43	216
219	55	109	136	172	213	64	0	227	304	611	221	364
120	375	128	296	11	18	53	76	10	15	23	19	71
210	134	66	73	89	96	230	48	77	26	101	127	936
114	439	170	171	61	226	313	215	102	18	167	262	
127	210	66	59	48	27	19	13	82	48	162	119	34
180	139	34	128	129	74	63	120	11	54	61	73	92
461	66	75	101	124	265	89	96	126	274	896	917	434
22	235	890	312	413	328	381	96	105	217	66	118	
181	77	64	42	12	7	55	24	83	67	97	109	121
684	203	219	228	256	21	34	77	319	374	382	675	
74	717	864	203	4	18	92	16	63	82	22	46	55
186	112	135	186	175	119	213	416	312	343	264	119	
936	210	66	59	48	27	19	13	82	48	162	119	34
115	139	34	128	129	74	63	120	11	54	61	73	92
72	66	75	101	124	265	89	96	126	274	896	917	434
934	235	890	312	413	328	381	96	105	217	66	118	
103	77	64	42	12	7	55	24	83	67	97	109	121
495	181	203	219	228	256	21	34	77	319	374	382	675
	684	717	864	203	4	18	92	16	63	82	22	46
	74	112	135	186	175	119	213	416	312	343	264	119
	186	210	66	59	48	27	19	13	82	48	162	119
	936	72	19	29	11	35	42	40	66	85	94	112
	115	118	236	244	186	172	112	85	6	56	38	44
	72	32	47	73	96	124	217	314	319	221	644	617
	934	922	416	975	10	22	18	46	137	181	101	39
	103	176	138	164	212	218	296	815	380(390?)	412	460	
	495	675	820	952								

Here in their entirety, then, are the mysterious and exciting Beale treasure codes. Since Code No. 2 has already been deciphered, and Code No. 3 is no longer valid, only Code No. 1—the really important code, at this stage—remains to baffle its would-be solvers. But this statement may not stand for long, for even now a serious cryptographic team has successfully completed the decoding of

this, except for a small portion that keeps defying their efforts.

Is their success, nevertheless, just around the corner? Is the final breakthrough imminent?

In this connection, it should be reported that since Code No. 1 was published in the June issue of True Treasure, the editors have had five telephone calls and four letters from readers claiming to have solved all,

or a part, of the strange code. But no firm evidence had been received, as of this writing, to substantiate any of these claims.

So we wait and wonder whether the baffling mystery has finally been solved—or whether it will remain the riddle that it has for nearly 150 years.

Only time will tell . . .