

HISTORICAL AND ANALYTICAL STUDIES IN RELATION TO THE BEALE CYPHERS

REPORT TO: Beale Cyphers Study Committee(BCSC), 15 April 1972 by  
Carl W. Nelson, Jr., 2606 N. Brandywine Street, Arlington, Va.

NOTICE: This report contains raw research information on the Subject which is incomplete. As noted in my report to the BCSC dated 7 March 1970, BCSC members are free to cite this study and to use this information within this limitation.

SITUATION: This report is an extension of the 7 March 1970 report to the BCSC. In general, the discussion will follow the future re-search plans found on page 11 of the earlier report and in the time frame of the Attachment I Chronology found on page 12 of the same document.

## I. Newspaper Research

For the periods of interest in the Beale Chronology and bearing in mind that the shortest observed elapsed time for mail delivery between St. Louis and Richmond(city), Va. is 42 days, the following newspapers have been carefully checked:

The Columbia(Mo.) Herald Statesman  
The Missouri Intelligenser, Franklin, Missouri  
The Illinois Intelligencer, Kaskaskia, Illinois  
The Illinois Emigrant, Shawnee Town, Illinois, succeeded by,  
The Illinois Gazette, Shawnee Town, Illinois  
The Richmond Enquirer, Richmond, Virginia(city)

1. The Columbia(Mo.) Herald Statesman carried news of activities in Franklin, Missouri which was the location where trail companies assembled during the Beale Party time frame. I found no reference to Thomas Jefferson Beale or to his trail party.

2. The Missouri Intelligencer, Franklin, Missouri contains a number of entries of possible usefulness in further research and one Beall reference:

a. The 1 April 1820 issue lists a letter being held at the Franklin(Mo.) Post Office for: "THOMAS BEALL"! In my letter to Fred Chesson dated 30 Nov. 1971, this listing was incorrectly noted as being S.J. Beale. Those having a copy of the letter to Chesson should correct this error of mine. A recheck of my notes and my recent correspondence on this point with the Missouri Historical Society clearly shows this listing as "Thomas Beall". Because the date 1 April 1820 is in reasonable agreement with Robert Morriss' statement that Beale and his party left Lynchburg for the West in March 1820, I suggest that this Thomas Beall IS Thomas Jefferson Beale. The difference in name spelling may be a consequence of poor or florid writing. Also, ALL Beale family genealogical references carry spelling variances such as: Beall, Beals, Beal, etc. Since the "THOMAS BEALL" name does not appear in subsequent Post Office listings in the Missouri Intelligencer(also confirmed by the Missouri Historical Society), I must conclude that a Thomas Beall(the Beale of interest) was in Franklin, Missouri to pick up his mail shortly after 1 April 1820, that he was traveling through Franklin; and, based on the Morriss information that he was traveling toward the West!

b. The 16 July 1819 issue carries a notice that after 23 July 1819, the Franklin(Mo.) Hotel would be operated by Messrs. William Beatty and George Armstrong. These two men become of research interest as possible "keepers of the Beale Cypher Keys". To date, I have done no research on these men. The former operator of the Franklin Hotel was Mr. John Means. If located, the Franklin

-Hotel guest list may

BCSC Report, 15 April 1972, C. Nelson, continued:

Hotel guest list may contain the names of the Beale Party. Recovery of the Franklin Hotel guest list is considered unlikely because the old city of Franklin, Missouri, was completely destroyed by river floods.

c. For use as a research aid, following is a listing of Franklin, Mo. tavern keeper licensees (\$10.00 p.a.) as of the 20 Nov. 1821 issue: John Shaw, Robert W. Morris, Foster Freeman, Edward O'Haire, Vibert & Fruit, Price Arnold, John Nanson, Daniel & William McKenzie, Beatty & Armstrong, Henry V. Bingham, Michael Collier, Laurent Vibert, William Pipes, Thomas Hickman. The following ferry boat licensees (\$5 - \$20) were listed in the same issue: Thomas Hardeman, \$5.00; Adam Woods, \$5.00; James D. Miller, \$20.00; and Shadrach Barnes, \$20.00. I suppose the differences in license fees reflect the size of vessels operated.

d. As a research aid on the Beale jewelry purchase, the following company advertisements were noted:

- 1). The April 1, 1820 issue listed M.J. Gregg, Jeweler.
- 2). The Sept. 3, 1819 issue listed Charles E. Jeaneret as offering a variety of jewelry and silverware.
- 3). The 12 Nov. 1819 issue listed a large stock of jewelry for sale by Charles F. Jarred.
- 4). No Beale association with these stores is implied. The names may be worth further checking in terms of the alleged Beale purchase of jewels. Bear in mind that old Franklin Missouri was completely destroyed by flood and that the probability of store and hotel records surviving is very low. Further and related, my check of Missouri Historical Society (St. Louis) archives reveals nothing of Beale interest relating to jewelry dealers in St. Louis.

### 3. The Illinois Intelligenser, Kaskaskia, Illinois:

a. Because Kaskaskia was the location of the principal Mississippi River ferry crossings on the trail to St. Louis from the East, The Illinois Intelligenser file in the Library of Congress has been read in detail for the period of interest. NO Beale Party references have been found.

b. Items of possible research value are:

The Kaskaskia Ferry was owned by Jonathon Findley and Samuel Rogers and was established in November 1818,

The Smeltzer Ferry,

The Jones Ferry.

The finding of ferry account books relating to the Beale time frame could produce direct evidence on overland travel by the Beale Party. Personal papers, letters diaries and the like from the owners of the ferries may also be of value in researching the Beale Party story.

c. Beale(Beall) Family references in the Illinois Intelligenser: As noted above, no reference to the Beale Party has been found in this paper. While not exclusively newspaper references, the following items are related and are included at this point in the report in order to fill out the the related items I have collected on Botetourt County, Virginia.

1). The issue of 9 June 1819 carried a financial notice concerning a bank correspondent, NORBORNE B. BEALL, Office of Discount and Deposits, Bank of Kentucky, Louisville, Ky. Norborne B. Beall is a member of the Beale Family. His presence in Louisville in 1819 increases the probability that Thomas Jefferson Beale's travels to and from Virginia may have been via Louisville, Ky. This point is well worth further research which will be done.

2). It is speculated that Norborne B. Beall was named for Norborne Berkeley, Baron de Botetourt, the Royal Governor of Virginia, 1763-1770, and after whom Botetourt County Virginia was named.

3). The so-called Beales home/estate in Botetourt County was named "Pendleton". Records of this period may be located in Fincastle, Va., the county seat.

4). A very interesting book - -

BCSC Report, 15 April 1972, C. Nelson, continued:

4). A very interesting book developed from the Fincastle, Botetourt County records is that by Robert Douthat Stoner, Title: "A Seed-bed of the Republic, Early Botetourt". Bear in mind that Botetourt County Va. once included all of what is now Illinois and a sector East from the Mississippi River. This book may be seen on Reference in the Virginia Room of the Arlington County Va. Library.

5). Because of immediate proximity to Bedford County Va., it is believed important to keep Botetourt County Beale families on the active research list.

6). Virginia Magazine of History (VMH), Vol. 29, p. 259, lists a Norborne Beale as a student at William and Mary College in 1798; and, gives his wife's name as Ann and a son Norborne Gantt, all of Louisville, Ky. The complete file of VMH is held in the Virginia Room of the Arlington County Library, Vols. 1 - ca 60 being on microfilm.

7). VMH, Vol. 4, p. 463, notes that Francis Madison of the President's family was married to a Taverner Beale and that they lived in Clifton Forge, Virginia.

8). VMH, Vol. 3, p. 316, notes that in 1895, the Corcoran Gallery was in possession of a portrait of "T. Beale" done in 1796 by St. Memin. Mrs. Phillips, Corcoran Research Director, advises that this item is an engraving of "a very handsome man", is listed as a "J. Beale" 1796, and that it may be seen on appointment with the Registrar, Corcoran Gallery. The Corcoran St. Memin collection contains over 800 items!

9). VMH, Vol. 30, p. 72 notes that Reuben Beale's farm, as of 1805, was located in Madison County, Virginia, Northwest of Botetourt County. Reuben is believed to have been an uncle of Thomas Jefferson Beale.

d. The Kaskaskia Illinois Intelligenser reading yielded useful information concerning Ohio/Mississippi/Missouri River steamboat services which will be discussed separately under future research plans.

4. THE ILLINOIS EMIGRANT succeeded on 18 Sept. 1819 by THE ILLINOIS GAZETTE both published every Saturday in Shawneetown Illinois by Eddy & Kimmel.

a. Being both the first capitol of Illinois and a principal ferry crossing of the Ohio River for Va./Mo. overland travel, this location is of particular interest in Beale Party research.

b. No Beale Party references were found in the Shawneetown Papers!

c. Items recovered having possible research use included names and the owners of the following hotels/taverns in Shawneetown:

1). 10 April 1819, "Hobson's Hotel & Tavern", a successor to Dr. James Wilson's Inn; C. Hobson, Prop.

2). 25 Sept. 1819, "New Tavern", successor to R.M. Tarlton; J. Newel, Prop.

3). 4 Dec. 1819, Henry Yost advertised his place, an overnight stop on the road to St. Louis serving the Ohio River - Flynn, Frazer, and Barker Ferries and the Smeltzer Ferry on the Mississippi. Yost's place was located 75 miles East of Kaskaskia. A former proprietor was John McCreerey Esq.

4). 27 April 1820, The inn "Sign of the Eagle", former proprietor a Colonel Campbell, "now property of Robert D. McLean".

d. Items recovered relating to Ohio River Ferries and owners were:

1). 2 Oct. 1819, Flynn's Ferry

2). 2 Oct. 1819, Frazer's Ferry

3). 2 Oct. 1819, Barker's Ferry

4). 11 Dec. 1819, Hezekiah Conn announces his plan to establish an Ohio River Ferry and landing on his property near Shawneetown in Gallatin County.

5). 28 July 1821, Harrison Wilson, Prop., Shawneetown Ferry announced a new policy of cash in advance and advertised he was collecting on notes on account outstanding. If obtained, his account book could provide information of value.

e. The Shawneetown Illinois -

BCSC Report, 15 April 1972, C. Nelson, continued:

e. The Shawneetown Illinois Gazette reading yielded useful information concerning Ohio/Mississippi/Missouri River steamboat services which will be discussed under future research plans.

f. MISCELLANY:

1). The 6 April 1822 Illinois Gazette contained an item which is furnished as a challenge to BCSC readers especially interested in analysis. Following is a complete quote of the item:

"Found 5 miles South of Tuscaloosa, Alabama - a flat sided stone cone apparently cut by art and of great antiquity, measuring 20 inches across the base, 23 inches in height, and 16 inches thick on which is the following inscription:

HISRANEHNDTDY

1232

This item was signed by a Mr. Samuel Maverick, Jan. 30, 1822. If 1232 is a valid date, Columbus and crew were just 260 years too late!

2). On 2 Oct. 1819, James Byers, a tailor in Shawneetown offered his services as follows: Coats, \$6.00; Pantelocns, \$2.00; Vests, \$2.00.

3). On 2 Oct. 1819, D.W. Ridgeway advertised his "New Store" as a successor to Peobles and Kirkpatrick.

4). On 10 April 1819, Stanley and Ludlow offered a variety of hardware for sale.

5. THE RICHMOND ENQUIRER, Richmond, Virginia

a. Based on the Morriss statement that two colleagues of Beale went home to "Richmond" for visits during the time of Beale's two-month visit with Morriss in Lynchburg beginning in January 1820, a thorough reading of the Richmond, Va. Enquirer has been completed. The periods selected were: Jan. 1817 - July 1817 to cover the Beale Party organization period; and, Jan. 1820 - 31 Mar. 1820 to cover the first Beale visit period.

b. NO BEALE PARTY ITEMS WERE FOUND. Hence, no further time is planned for reading the Richmond(city) newspapers. I am now of the opinion that when Morriss spoke of Beale's colleagues going to "Richmond", he may have been referring to Richmond County Virginia. Warsaw, Va., the county seat of Richmond County, is located ca 55 miles Southeast of Fredericksburg, Virginia on VA Route #3. The ancestral home of the Beale Family known as "CHESTNUT HILL" is near Warsaw. This plantation was patented by Col. Thomas Beale in 1662. He died and was buried at Chestnut Hill on 17 October 1679. Additional discussion of this will be found in the section of this report on future research plans. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT THE BCSC MEMBERSHIP AVOID SENDING A BARRAGE OF LETTERS TO THE COUNTY CLERK IN WARSAW, VA. TO DO SO MAY DENY THE BCSC OF VALUABLE INFORMATION! YOUR BCSC HISTORICAL COMMITTEE WILL CAREFULLY HANDLE THIS APPROACH AND KEEP THE BCSC FULLY ADVISED CONCERNING ANY BEALE PARTY FINDINGS.

c. Following are Beale Family notes for the period read from the Richmond Enquirer:

1). On 11 March 1817, as of 28 February 1817, the Richmond Post Office listed a letter being held for "Reuben Beale". This Beale is believed to have been the Uncle of Thomas Jefferson Beale, who married Francis Madison, and who lived at Clifton Forge, Virginia.

2). On 9 May 1817, a Membership List of the Virginia Commission on Erection of a Washington Monument included the name of Charles Beale of Botetourt County Virginia. As noted elsewhere, Charles Beale probably lived at the Beale estate named "Pendleton". He is believed to have been a son of Taverner and Elizabeth Beale of Orange County where the Beale family once owned over 2000 acres of land. As such, Charles would probably have been a cousin of Thomas Jefferson Beale.

3). On 6 June 1817, the Post Office listed a letter for W.C. Beale.

4). On 24 February 1820, James M. H. -

BCSC Report, 15 April 1972, C. Nelson, continued:

4). On 24 February 1820, James M. H. Beale was listed as one of the Commissioners of Navigation for the Kanawha River (now in West Virginia). A similar item appeared in the Lynchburg (Va.) Press as was reported to BCSC on 7 March 1970, page 7.

d. Items of Potential for Research Use:

1). The 17 Dec. 1816 issue contains an account written by a Mr. J. C. Brown in St. Louis on 7 Nov. 1816 in which he describes his survey of the Osage Boundary approximately 254 miles to the West on the Arkansas River in what is now the State of Kansas. Thus, J. C. Brown could have been a Beale contact in St. Louis for help in planning the Beale Party travel starting in May 1817.

2). The 21 Jan 1817 issue listed the membership of the Indian Commission in St. Louis. Any one of the following listed committee members could have been a Beale contact: Ninian Edwards, Wm. Clark, and Augustus Chouteau, Commissioner R. Wash, Sec'y Commission; R. Graham, Indian Agent for Illinois; J. Maub, Lt., 8th Infantry Regiment; P. Provanchere, Commission Interpreter; Maurice Blondeauz, Indian Agent; John Riland; M. Lewis Clark; Samuel Solomon, Commission Interpreter and Translator; Jacques Mette, Interpreter.

3). The 28 Jan. 1817 issue reported the sinking and the loss of the Kaskaskia Illinois Mississippi River Ferry.

4). The 22 April 1817 issue reported a 16 March 1817 from the St. Louis Gazette in which George Sibley describes the depredations of the Osage Indians. Hence, Sibley is a likely Beale contact in St. Louis. (Please note that this letter, mail/transit time included was published in Richmond within 44 days.

5). The 29 April 1817 issue carried a long article on Spanish/Mexican problems written by "AURORA". This pen name has been observed in many papers on this subject.

6). The 27 May 1817 issue carried a letter by Dr. John H. Robinson, (Monroe's Special Agent) to the Spanish Ambassador, Don Louis de Onis. This letter was written in Natchez on 23 April 1817 in which Robinson notes that the "King of Spain is too concerned with his young wife's toilette to be interested in Spanish/U.S. relations". For more on Robinson's activities, see the BCSC Report of 7 March 1970, page 5. This could have been the cause for Monroe's firing of Robinson.

7). The 24 May 1817 issue quoted St. Louis newspapers reports that "the Kansas and Otto Indian tribes were at war".

8). The 3 March 1817 issue reports sharp debate in the Congress over authority to publish the SECRET Journal of Congress re the Peace Treaty of 1783. Three volumes of this Journal may be seen in the Nathaniel B. Tucker Library at The College of William and Mary. Perhaps the Library of Congress SECRET papers of the period of interest should be scanned for Spanish/Mexican items on the chance that any Beale Party special agent activity might be revealed.

e. MISCELLANY. Because the Richmond (Va.) Enquirer contains such a wealth of interesting historical detail, the following items are shared with the BCSC:

1). 30 January 1817: The term "Cowboy" was defined as a derogatory term describing 'Andre's Captors'. This is the earliest reference I have seen making use of the word "cowboy". This issue also reported a shameful disturbance among the students and professors at Princeton College (New Jersey) on 25 Jan. 1817. Note the 5 day elapsed time.

2). 4 January 1817: Announcement of Henry Clay as Chairman, Assoc., Free People of Color. Francis Scott Key was member of the Committee.

3). 11 January 1817: A Congressional Committee report was quoted giving the decision to limit the number of stripes in the U. S. Flag to 13 with the star field to represent the balance of the states.

4). 11 April 1817: A long letter by Thomas Jefferson on the repatriation of slaves to Africa - which he favored.

5). 25 April 1817: The Delinquent

BCSC Report, 15 April 1972, C. Nelson, continued.

5). 25 April 1817: The Delinquent Tax List showed that Thomas Jefferson still had not paid the real estate taxes on the Natural Bridge parcel. This notice first appeared on 5 April 1817 citing a real estate tax bill of \$6.21. Hard times!! Also, the Kentucky River was reported to <sup>1 1/2</sup> flooding 70 feet above its ordinary level.

6). 2 May 1817: A letter quoted from Benjamin Franklin contained the following short poem:

"Here saugg  
Lies snug  
As a bug  
In a rug",

an epitaph to a pet squirrel quoted from Franklin's letter to Miss Georgianna Shipley, London, 26 Sept. 1775. Considering the date and addressee location, the timing of this letter and its very famous quotation deserves some consideration for analysis as a code concealing certain revolutionary actions or positions.

7). 6 May 1817: Advertisement by Dicks & Moore & Co., Richmond, "Wanted, two waggons to transport goods to Kentucky".

8). 1 July 1817: Summarization of the Department of State Diplomatic Service Budget included \$156,000.00 for ambassador/consul salaries, world-wide!

9). 26 Feb. 1820 issue shows that sex publications were offered for sale by Goliath Werner, Title: "Conjugal Happiness". Nothing new under the sun!!

10). 29 February 1820: The assessed valuation of Virginia land was listed as \$206,893,978.00, an average value/acre of \$8.00.

11). 10 March 1820: A letter from Virginia Legislators calling for dissolution of the States over the Missouri Question.

## II. The Spanish Archives of New Mexico

1. The Library of Congress Manuscript Division (Annex, 3rd Floor) holds a microfilm copy of these archives for the period 1621 - 1821. Considering the Beale time frame, the following units were scanned:

- a. Roll 18, 1815-1817: Administrative Documents of (in Spanish) Governors Alberto Maynez and Pedro Maria Allande; and all the following in Spanish,
- b. Roll 19, 1818-1819: Same for Allande and Melgares Administrations.
- c. Roll 20, 1820-1821: Records of the Final Years of Spanish Sovereignty.
- d. Roll 21, Miscellaneous Spanish Archives of New Mexico
- e. Roll 22, Cédulas, Orders, and Decrees.

2. NO BEALE PARTY REFERENCES WERE FOUND! However, two items would have born directly on the Beale Party temporary residence in Santa Fe and in New Mexico. These are:

a. Roll 18, Frame 862, 13 Nov. 1817 is an official statement concerning the "Travel Regulations" for visitors. Since these may pin point the type of alien registration that would have been required of the Beale Party Membership and hence should point to file locations here, in New Mexico Historical Society files, in Mexico, and also in Seville, Spain, I have decided to obtain a copy of these Travel Regulations and have a translation made of them. As time permits, this will be done.

b. Roll 19, Fram 441, 11 November 1818 gives instructions on PASSPORTS. This too could have dictated the filing of certain papers and reports by members of the Beale Party and could serve as a guide and research control to other sources. Hence, it too will be obtained and translated as time permits.

3. Many of the items are written in a florid handwriting in illiterate Spanish which makes for very difficult scanning and translation. For this, a word of special appreciation is due to Yolanda O. Vigil for her very skillful, quick, effective scanning of the items selected for this Beale Study. An appreciation on behalf of the BCSC is expressed to Mrs. Vigil.

## III. The Beale Genealogy

To provide BCSC membership with a more complete and pertinent portion of the

BCSC REPORT, 15 April 1972, G. Nelson, continued:  
 Beale Family genealogy, the Attachment "Beale Family History" has been assembled from the Virginia Magazine of History (VMH) summary on the Beale Family. See Vol. 32, pp 51-54. This summary relates primarily to the Beale Family residence in Richmond County Virginia (ca 65 miles Northeast of Richmond City). With this information, it is believed that a better understanding may be obtained in relating the Beale records listed in the 7 March 1970 Report to the BCSC and for guidance of future research on the Beale Party.

#### IV Planning for Continuing Beale Party Research during 1972 and 1973.

1. Scanning of local newspapers, court house records and church registers for the periods defined in the Beale Chronology (See Attachment II) is suggested for the following locations in Virginia:

- a. Old Rappahannock County Virginia which as of 1662 included what is now Richmond County Virginia.
- b. Richmond County Virginia.
  - 1). Warsaw, Virginia (County Seat).
  - 2). Farnham, Va.
  - 3). Farnham, Va. Register (Church Records).
  - 4). Village, Va.
  - 5). Morattico, Va.
- c. Stafford County Virginia.
  - 1). Stafford Court House, Va. (County Seat)
- d. Spottsylvania County Virginia
  - 1). Fredericksburg, Va.
  - 2). Rappahannock, Va.
  - 3). Spottsylvania, Va. (County Seat)
- e. Orange County Virginia
  - 1). Orange, Virginia (County Seat)
  - 2). Unionville, Va.
  - 3). Rapidan, Va.
  - 4). Burr Hill, Va.
  - 5). Gordonsville, Va.
  - 6). Montpelier Station, Va.
- f. Madison County Virginia
  - 1). Madison, Va. (County Seat)
  - 2). Aroda, Va.
- g. Alleghany County Virginia
  - 1). Clifton Forge, Va.
- h. Botetourt County Virginia
  - 1). Fincastle, Va. (County Seat)
  - 2). Buchanan, Va.
  - 3). Troutville, Va.
- i. Bedford County Virginia
  - 1). Bedford, Va. (County Seat)

j. In general, the best starting place for this newspaper research will be found in the accession lists of the Library of Congress, Newspaper and Periodical Division, 2nd Floor, Annex. Perhaps a schedule for doing this work may be arranged among BCSC membership who live in the Washington Area.

#### 2. Court House Records

a. Court House records are of use in listing names, verifying relationships, disposition of property through wills and the like which may point up the whereabouts of parties of interest at the time.

b. From experience in looking at similar records in Stafford Court House, Virginia Court House, I know that care must be taken to avoid an overwhelming barrage of letters and visitors on the Beale Question. For example, the Archivist in St. Louis is tired of us and there is some sign of the same from the State Historical Group in Columbia, Mo. Because I took care to explain my historical research about

"this very interesting"

BCSC REPORT, 15 April 1972, C. Nelson, continued:

"this very interesting Beale Family", I received full cooperation and assistance from the Stafford County Records Staff (NO MENTION IS EVER MADE OF THE BEALE GOLD/SILVER. IF DONE, THE APPROACH IS DESTROYED. NO SUCH MENTION NEED BE MADE EVER!). Hence, it is requested that BCSC members avoid making contact with county records clerks until I have had chance to plan the approach and to schedule the work.

### 3. Church Records

a. The same line of reasoning applies to the Church and Parish records. If the material can be located in library sources, BCSC members are encouraged to look it over and to report on it.

b. However, if the approach involves direct contact with the Parish leaders in person or by letter, caution is the word. After all, the Beale family is alive and still very active in these communities. Hence, great care needs be taken with these research approaches. The same goes for any contact that is made in the Goose Creek community in Bedford County. The country is a very fine agricultural community - really beautiful farming country. As you or I would, they do not take kindly to trespass on their farms!

### 4. Steamboat Transport of the Beale Party Gold & Silver.

a. Except for the single instance of a letter being held for a Thomas Beall in the Franklin, Missouri Post Office on 1 April 1820, I have found NO reference to a Thomas Beale (Beall) or to the Beale Party at any other point along the overland trail back to Virginia.

b. This situation suggests that another means of transport for the gold and silver may have been used. It seems only logical that some mention of the large Beale Party and its heavily loaded wagons would have been made in the papers. The fact that Becknell used heavy wagons in his trade with Santa Fe in the early 1820's has been seen in a number of reports of his activity.

c. In view of this circumstance, I believe it to be important that we check the manifests and logs for the following steamboats which, during the period of interest, were providing river steamer services as follows:

1). On 20 Jan. 1819, the Kaskaskia Illinois Intelligencer (KII) reported the S/B "Franklin" providing service to St. Louis/New Orleans had been sunk, hence it was in service prior to this date.

2). On 31 May 1819, KII reported S/B "Mississippi" service New Orleans St. Louis with connections to Havana, Cuba. More details on New Orleans, Havana, Norfolk steamboat services can be obtained by checking the local newspaper for the period of interest. This information is probably obtainable from Library of Congress files.

3). On 5 May 1819, KII reported services of S/B "Jefferson" on the St. Louis/Wheeling, W. Va. run; and, S/B "Expedition" on the St. Louis/Frankfurt, Ky. run via the Ohio River.

4). On 16 June 1819, KII reported S/B "Independence service to Franklin, Mo. under the command of Captain Nelson (no relation, HII!).

5). On 10 Nov. 1819, KII reported S/B "Yankee" service to Franklin under Captain Jacob Reed.

6). On 1 July 1820, the Illinois Gazette, Shawneetown, Illinois reports the following Ohio River S/B services: "Kentucky"; "Bezaliel Wells", St. Louis/Louisville; "Calhoun", St. Louis/Louisville, Ky.; "James Ross" and "Washington", St. Louis/Louisville, Ky.; "City of Commerce"; and, "Napoleon".

7). On 30 April 1821, the Franklin Missouri Intelligencer reported S/B "Washington" under Captain Shreve with service from St. Louis to Franklin in 6 days 20/30 days of very hard work via keel boat. The Missouri River has the most rapid current of all major U.S. Rivers. In this regard, it is similar to the Rhone River in France.

d. Undoubtedly many more vessel/captain names can be recovered. For Beale Party research purposes, considerable emphasis should be given to the possibility that the gold and silver was transferred to Virginia, either by steamboat via the Ohio River from Franklin or from St. Louis; or, similarly via New Orleans via the



BCSC REPORT, 15 April 1972, G. Nelson, continued:

ocean route via Havana to Norfolk and then by wagon train to Bedford County. Further, there was extensive wagon freight service from Wheeling, W.Va. which could readily handle such loads. It is believed that Ohio and Mississippi River port masters may have kept detailed lists of passengers and cargo carried on each run. Back in 1933, I saw such records in Cairo, Illinois (confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers). Whether the Library of Congress or other reference source in the Washington Area or the various old ports along these routes has retained river traffic logs for the Beale Party time frame remains to be determined. Once a research approach has been devised and sources identified, the work can be distributed to BCSC members who have interest and time for doing it. Again, the Library of Congress clearly is the best starting point on this type research. The history and lore of river steamboat service is extensive.

#### V ADDENDUM

The above information is reported to the BCSC as of 21 March 1972. Any additional information obtained prior to 15 April 1972 will be provided as an addendum to this report at the time of the BCSC Meeting now scheduled for 15 April 1972.

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VIRGINIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY, Vol. 32, pp 51 - 54 (Arlington County Library)

BEALE FAMILY HISTORY

Thomas Beale, emigrant ancestor of the family was born prior to 1626, married prior to 1647, and emigrated to Virginia prior to March 25, 1649; was J.P. for York County 1652 and Major of militia in 1661. He was appointed to the Council in 1662 and probably remained a member of that body until his death. King Charles II, in a letter dated Sept. 30, 1668 to the Governor of Virginia, recommended for appointment as Commander of the fort at Point Comfort, Thomas Beale, of "whose ability and prudence the King hath had long experience". He apparently left no will and the exact date of his death is not known; but it could doubtless be ascertained from the order books of York County. He married Alice \_\_\_\_\_ (possibly a widow) who made a deed, Sept. 23, 1702, as "widow of Col. Thomas Beale" conveying land in York to her grandson Peter Goodwyn, with remainder to her grandson Thomas Beale of Rappahannock. Her will dated Oct. 9, 1700 was proved in York County. Her legatees were her granddaughter, Elizabeth Powell, grandsons Thomas Beale, Thomas, son of Francis Reade, Benjamin, son of Thomas Reade and Peter Goodwyn.

Col. Thomas Beale had an only son Captain Thomas Beale, Jr. (born 1647, died 1679) who patented land in Rappahannock County (then including Richmond county) in 1662, was appointed J.P. for York 1673, and soon afterwards removed to "Chestnut Hill" in the present Richmond County. He married Ann, Daughter of William Gooch, member of the Council (whose broken tomb remains at the site of the old church near Yorktown). His tomb at "Chestnut Hill" has the following epitaph:

"Here lyes the body of  
 Capt. Thomas Beale Jr. who  
 Took to wife Ann daughter  
 of Col. William Gough  
 And had by her two sons &  
 Two daughters. He departed  
 this life the 17th day  
 of Oct. 1679  
 AEtates suae 32  
 In midst of tempests when the  
 torrents raved  
 Deeply for mercy to the Lord  
 I craved  
 Whose goodness thus so pittied  
 Me distrest  
 His mercies wrought my soul's  
 eternal rest."

Thomas and Ann Beale had issue:

1. Ann, born Aug. 10 1672 (Farnham Register).
2. Thomas, born Jan. 29, 1675 (ibid)
3. Charles, born Oct. 20, 1678 (ibid)
4. Daughter, name unknown

Thomas Beale of "Chestnut Hill", married Elizabeth, daughter of Capt. John Taverner. His will was dated Feb. 22, 1728 and proved in Richmond County June 4, 1729. Legatees: his wife, son William, daughter Ann Beale, daughter Elizabeth Beale, son Thomas; four youngest sons Taverner, Charles, Richard, and Robert, son John. The will of his wife Elizabeth was dated March 17, 1728 and proved in Richmond County June 4, 1729. Legatees: sons Thomas, William, John, Taverner, Charles, Richard and Reuben, daughters Ann and Elizabeth.

On August 27, 1728 Thomas Beale had bought from Henry Willis 3333 acres on the East side of the Little Mountains in St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania. This was doubtless the land in the later Orange on which several of his sons afterwards settled. Thomas and Elizabeth Beale had issue:

1. Anne, born Sept. 3, 1711 (Farnham Register).
2. Thomas<sup>Beale</sup> of Richmond Co., born . . . died Oct. 9, 1732. He married (License Richmond County, April 27, 1728) Sarah McCarty and had a son: Thomas born May 17, 1729 (Farnham Register). This son probably died unmarried. The will of Thomas Beale was dated Sept. 27, 1732, and was proved in Richmond Co., Feb. 5, 1733. He made bequests to his son Thomas, when he was aged 20 years, to his (testator's) sister Nancy, and to his (the testator's) "little brothers and sisters", John, Taverner, Charles, Richard, Reuben, and Elizabeth Beale, to be paid when they were 18 years old; brother William Beale.
3. William of Richmond County, J.P. 1748, etc.; married Ann Harwar (License Richmond County, April 29, 1720, with her name as "Harwar Harwar"). The will of William Beale was dated March 9, 1776, and proved in Richmond County July 6, 1778. Legatees: sons William and Reuben, daughter Susanna, sons Richard and Robert; Mr. William Ball, who married daughter Ann; daughters Sarah and Mary; children John, William, Reuben, Richard, Robert Elizabeth, Winifred, Travers, Susannah, Sarah and Mary. Sons-in-law Richard Parker and Robert Wormely Carter, executors. The will of William Beale (the son named in the will) was dated Jan 25 and proved in Orange Feb. 24, 1800. He left his estate to his brothers Robert, Richard, Thomas, John and Reuben. Robert Beale (another son named in the will), served in the Revolution as Captain. He married Martha Felicia, daughter of George Lee Turberville of Richmond County, and was the father of Brig.-General Rt Lee Turberville Beale, C.S.A., of Ireland County. An account of the descendants of Capt. Rbt Beale is in Miss Hardy's Colonial Families, p. 515. That Rev. G. W. Beale, D.D. son of General Beale, did not write a history of the Norther Neck and its people, is a real loss to Virginia local history. A life-long residence and most thorough and judicious study of its records and other antiquities, gave him a knowledge of the subject, which now, when so many changes have taken place, can never be equalled. His papers must be of great value especially his diary which evidently was as much a note book of antiquities as a record of the events of the day. His unstinted generosity in giving from his great store of knowledge to those who asked him deserves a full acknowledgment.
4. John of Richmond County, born . . . died ~~1766~~ 1767. He married Elizabeth . . . His will was dated Dec. 22, 1766, and proved Aug. 1, 1767. Legatees: wife Elizabeth, daughters, Anne, Sarah, Winifred, Eustace, Elizabeth and Charlotte Beale; John and Hancock Eustace and Richard Edwards, executors and guardians.
5. Richard (Beale), born Dec. 19, 1723 (Farnham Register), died 1771. He removed to Orange County. He married Elizabeth . . . His will was dated Aug. 11, 1768, and proved in Orange Aug. 22 1771. Legatees: daughters Molly and Ann, wife Elizabeth, daughter Winifred, wife of Mr. William Dangerfield, and previously of Mr. Willis. The will of his widow, Elizabeth was dated Dec. 11, 1772, and proved in Orange Jan. 28, 1773. She left her estate to her three daughters.
6. Reuben, born Dec. 19, 1725.
7. Taverner, born \_\_\_\_\_, died 1756. He removed to Orange County. He married Francis (born March 6, 1726), daughter of Ambrose Madison and aunt of the President. She afterwards married Jacob Hite and was killed by the Indians. The will of Taverner Beale was dated Nov. 3, 1754, and proved in Orange, Oct. 29, 1756. Legatees: wife, son Charles, children Taverner, Frances Elizabeth and Anne. Wife Frances and brothers Charles Beale, Richard Beale, and James Madison (Sr.) executors.
8. Robert.

7 MAR 1970

## A CHRONOLOGY RELATING TO THE BEALE CYPHERS

Based on: "The Beale Papers", by George L. Hart, Sr., Pub. Roanoke(Va) Public Library, 1964.

Jan/April 1817: A Missouri Territory hunting party was organized somewhere in Virginia by thirty young men, all unidentified except for Thomas Jefferson Beale. Where in Virginia and on what date this party was organized is not known. After reaching Missouri Territory, Beale was elected to serve as Trail Captain of the Party.

19 May 1817: The Beale Party left St. Louis for Santa Fe.

Circa 1 Dec. 1817: The Beale Party arrived in Santa Fe.

March 1818: The Beale Party members discover gold at a location several days ride to the North of Santa Fe. This distance is further defined as 250 or 300 miles in Beale's letter to Robert Morriss dated 4 January 1822.

SUMMER 1819: First Beale Party shipment of gold and silver from New Mexico to Virginia.

November 1819: Burial of the first gold and silver hoard within five miles of Buford's Tavern, Bedford County, Virginia. Gold weight: 1014 lbs. Silver weight: 3812 lbs.

Jan/Mar 1820: Thomas Jefferson Beale visits Robert and Sarah Morriss at the Washington Hotel, Lynchburg, Virginia (As shown in this study, no other reference has been found to a Washington Hotel or to Robert Morriss' association with it). Two men of Beale's Party went to Richmond for visits with family and friends.

March(late) 1820: Beale and friends depart Lynchburg for New Mexico.

FALL 1821: Second Beale Party shipment of gold and silver from New Mexico via St. Louis into Virginia. James B. Ward's solution of Beale Cypher No. 2 shows that this shipment was reduced in size through the purchase of jewels in St. Louis in exchange for gold. These jewels were valued at \$13,000 dollars.

December 1821: Burial of the second gold and silver hoard and the jewels at the same location as the first near Buford's Tavern, Bedford County, Virginia. Gold weight: 1907 lbs. Silver Weight: 1288 lbs.

January 4, 1822: Date of Beale's letter to Robert Morriss written in Lynchburg in which the Beale Party operations were described. Morriss did not read this letter until 1845 when he opened Beale's lockbox.

January 5, 1822: Date of Beale's letter to Morriss written in Lynchburg. Beale gives a short description of the Cypher No. 3 message stating that the cypher protected the list of Beale Party members and certain relatives who were heirs. This letter was not read by Morriss until after he had opened the lockbox in 1845.

Jan/Mar 1822: Period of Thomas Jefferson Beale's last visit with Robert and Sarah Morriss in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Late March 1822: Beale gives custody of his lockbox containing letters and the cyphers to Morriss and Beale departs for St. Louis.

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e. On 14 June 1817, "Married in Dumfries, Virginia"(just happen to have a lot in Dumfries too - but it's not for sale! Hi!)"on Monday last(9 June) by Rev. Mr. Leach, Mr. George Brooke of Culpeper to Miss Winifred Travis Beale of Richmond County".

f. On 12 Jan. 1822, the Postmaster, Falmouth, Va., listed two letters being held for Wm. C. Beale.

g. On 15, and 22 April 1820, George F. Strother gave notice of his trip to Missouri Territory and his plan to return in November. He named Colonel Armistead Long as having authority to received and to pay his bills. Because Strother's schedule agrees with the Beale Chronology, He is a resonable candidate for Beale Party Membership, i.e. one of the two who went up to Richmond in Jan. 1820 as was noted by Robert Morriss.

h. M.M. Marmaduke was listed frequently as the Deputy to John Stonard who was Clerk of the Fredericksburg District Court of Chancery. Marmaduke also acted as Trustee in many land and other property transactions. His activities were noted, for example, in items dated 8 January 1820, 22 April 1820, and 19 Jan. 1822. However, on 2 Feb. 1822, Mr. Stonard listed a new Deputy. This suggests that M.M. Marmaduke, who handled many property sales in Richmond County, may have been associated in some way with Thomas J. Beale on his last recorded trip in 1822. Further, a Meredith Miles Marmaduke become very widely known for his activities in Western trade out of St. Louis. See "Journal of M. M. Marmaduke, 1824", Published 1911 with notes by F. A. Sampson and many other references to Marmaduke's activities. I have him listed in my 7 March 1970 Report to the BCSC. Thus, Marmaduke's Western trading activities should be studied in the context of Beale Party activities.

i. On 26 April 1820, the Fredericksburg Virginia Herald gave a summary of trade on the Ohio River which noted sixty(60) steamboats in the range 25 - 700 tons displacemen serving Cincinnati, Ohio on regular schedules. This is less than five years after the introduction of steamboat service in New York and this supports my idea that the Beale Treasure may have been transported via river steamboat; thus, accounting for the apparent lack of references to the Beale Party on the overland routes. Hence, this point should be researched as it may be very revealing of the circumstances relating to movement of the treasure trove as it would be described according to Virginia Law!

3. A check has been made in the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, for their guidance on viewing records of Missouri, Mississippi, and Ohio River steamboat traffic. At this stage, it appears the research must be done on references to the boats by name. Hence, collections of names of steamboats on these rivers in the trade during the Beale time frame will be most welcome. Also, work on river port city records will have to start with general city historical records as a lead into the Subject.

4. Until work is further advanced on the Beale Party in relation to the various Virginia counties named earlier, my research on the Beale Party in Santa Fe and as to whether Thomas Jefferson Beale was in some sort of operational activity against the Spaniards and the Mexicans using a pseudonym will be kept warm on the "back burner".

5. To close the newspaper research phase of my work on the Beale Party, how about an item or so of Federalist Period humor to lighten this heavy research story with the following items picked from the Fredericksburg Virginia Herald:

a. On 24 February 1816, a short story titled: "Fair Punning on a Fowl Amour"  
"Lately, a Mrs. Chick, of Cock-lane, . . . eloped with the son of a poulterer of note by the name of Henn. The cockney punsters, one and all, began to peck upon the incident, declaring it fowl play in every point of view" - - - and another about the Corporal in the army who had broken some rule and the problem was how to punish the young man - - "wh with Corporal Punishment, of course" - and I might add, with the 1816 spelling, that's some Punnishment - but I won't! Hi!

b. On 1 February 1817, a free form poem titled: "Punning" "At a Tavern one night Messieurs More, Strange, and Wright, Met to drink and good thoughts exchange. Says More, of us Three, There's one knave and that's Strange. Says Strange, rather Sore, I'm sure there's one More, a terrible knave and a bite; Who cheated his mother His Sister his Brother, "O Yes", replied More, "That's Wright".

c. On 22 Feb. 1817, one "Timothy Dry" signed an article titled "Drunkeness"

d. And not so funny, on 26 September 1816, a long article about Protestants of Orange murdering worshippers AND the priest at the altar celebrating Mass - So there's nothing new in '72, 156 years later!!!!

## ADDENDUM

## HISTORICAL AND ANALYTICAL STUDIES IN RELATION TO THE BEALE CYPHERS

BY: Carl W. Nelson, Jr.

SITUATION: Significant additional information has become available which warrants issuance of this addendum to my report to the Beale Cypher Study Committee as of 15 April 1972. This addendum is subject to the restrictions placed on the basic report.

## I NEWSPAPER RESEARCH

1. In paragraph IV, p. 7, of the 15 April 1972 Report to ECSC, an outline of future newspaper research was given. A check has been made in Library of Congress references for newspapers which were published in the cited towns during the Beale Party time frame. All communities listed were found to have sponsored newspapers; but only one, "The Virginia Herald" Fredericksburg, Va. was published during the period of interest.

2. A detailed reading of the Virginia Herald has been completed. My findings are presented, in general, by subject rather than by time sequence:

a. The Postmaster, Fredericksburg, Va. listed a letter being held for delivery to "Thomas Beal" on 31 March, 2 April, 9 April, and 12 April 1817. Of all listings following this period which were examined, none listed the name Thomas Beal. The above dates fit very well with the Beale Party organization period. Further, the spelling of "Beal" agrees exactly with that noted in the Postmaster's list published in Franklin, Mo. on 1 April 1820. Hence, I suggest:

1). That Thomas Jefferson Beale may have used his name with the spelling Thomas Beal,

2). That the Beale Party was organized in the Fredericksburg vicinity, its membership was drawn from among residents of Richmond, Spottsylvania, Stafford, Orange, and Botetourt Counties in Virginia,

3). That U.S. Postmaster listings of letters attest to the existence of a Thomas Beal, a valid variant of Beale, conducting activities which are in good time correspondence to the Beale Party activity time frame,

4). That, at this point in the research, the usefulness of newspaper research on the Beale Party is largely exhausted; and, that it is timely to do more research work with the official records of the counties cited above.

b. There were sharp differences among members of the Beale Clan as is attested by the following Virginia Herald notice published first on 21 December 1816 and repeated on 4 January 1817:

## NOTICE!

"Whereas the suit against me by the Executors of Mr. Thomas Beale\*, deceased, has been decided in favor of the Legatees - I do request again, they would come forward and receive their respective claims, and give me the bonds of indemnity. The amount due, as ascertained by the Commissioners appointed by the Court of Orange, is fifty-eight pounds, three shillings, and six pence half-penny. Robert Beale, Executor of Wm. Beale, deceased"  
\*Considerable research is needed to determine just which Thomas this may be. Shortly, I will go to Orange Court House (I own property in Orange County. Any one want to buy a nice cottage in a beautiful lake development? Hi!) to check on my own property and I will take time to have a look at the Beale records at the same time. Apparently, these family differences had held over some time since Jan. 25, 1800, the date of William Beale's will which was proved in Orange County on 24 Feb. 1800.

c. On 12 Oct. 1816, John G. Beale announced sale of 500 acres near Culpeper, Va. John G. Beale lived in Fauquier County, Va. at Fallis's Mill on Deep Run.

d. On 1 March 1817, an advertisement: "Twenty Dollars Reward, Ran away from Mr Beale" (John G.) "living at Fallis' Mill, Deep Run, Fauquier County, a few days before Fast last, a Negro woman named Nancy, who was hired to Beale by me, Pope Claxton, Morrisville, Fauquier County". (Note: Robert Morriss and his Wife, Sarah, moved from this part of Virginia to Lynchburg, Va.).

e. On 14 June 1817 -

May 9, 1822: Date of Thomas Jefferson Beale's last letter to Robert Morriss written in St. Louis. George L. Hart, Sr. (page 9) states that Beale was staying at the Planter's Hotel in St. Louis. Where Hart obtained this information is not known. This letter authorized Morriss to open the lockbox if Beale is not heard from after ten years.

SPRING 1832: Robert Morriss did not open the lockbox as was authorized by Beale. Morriss did not receive a letter from a friend of Beale in St Louis. Per Beale's statement, this letter was to have given the keys to the three cyphers to Morriss.

SPRING 1845: Robert Morriss opened the Beale lockbox and made various attempts without success to obtain and test keys for the cyphers.

1861: Year Sarah Morriss died.

1862: Robert Morriss transfers custody of the Beale Papers to James B. Ward

1863: Year Robert Morriss died.

Date and Year Unknown: James B. Ward decyphers Beale Cypher No. 2 using the key he discovered which was based on numbering the words in The Declaration of Independence beginning with the words "When in the course of human event, . . ." Resultant numbers were selected after finding words with first letters which were the same as the letter of the text to be encyphered. In effect, the resultant is a multi-keyed multi-alphabet cypher.

1885: James B. Ward publishes a pamphlet on the Beale Cyphers which was printed for sale at the Virginia Job Print, Lynchburg, Va.

SUMMER 1897: Clayton I. Hart, brother of George L. Hart, Sr., obtained copies of Beale Cyphers Nos. 1, 2, and 3 from N. H. Hazelwood of Montvale (formerly Buford), Bedford County, Va.

1903: Clayton I. Hart talked with James B. Ward and with Ward's son. Ward and his son confirmed their work on the cyphers and of the elder Ward's association with Robert Morriss. Clayton I. Hart obtained a copy of the Ward pamphlet.

1919: Period ending George L. Hart, Sr., intensive work and search for keys to the Beale Cyphers. Clayton I Hart continued work on the cyphers until his death.

December 1924: Beale Cyphers Nos. 1 and 3 were submitted for analysis to Colonel George Fabyan of Riverbank Laboratories in Illinois with no results.

September 6, 1949: Clayton I. Hart dies.

1964: George L. Hart, Sr. summarizes his knowledge of the Beale Papers which included the three cyphers. This file may be seen at the Roanoke Public Library, Roanoke, Virginia. Copies of this file are on sale by the Library. When I bought mine, the price was \$16.85.

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