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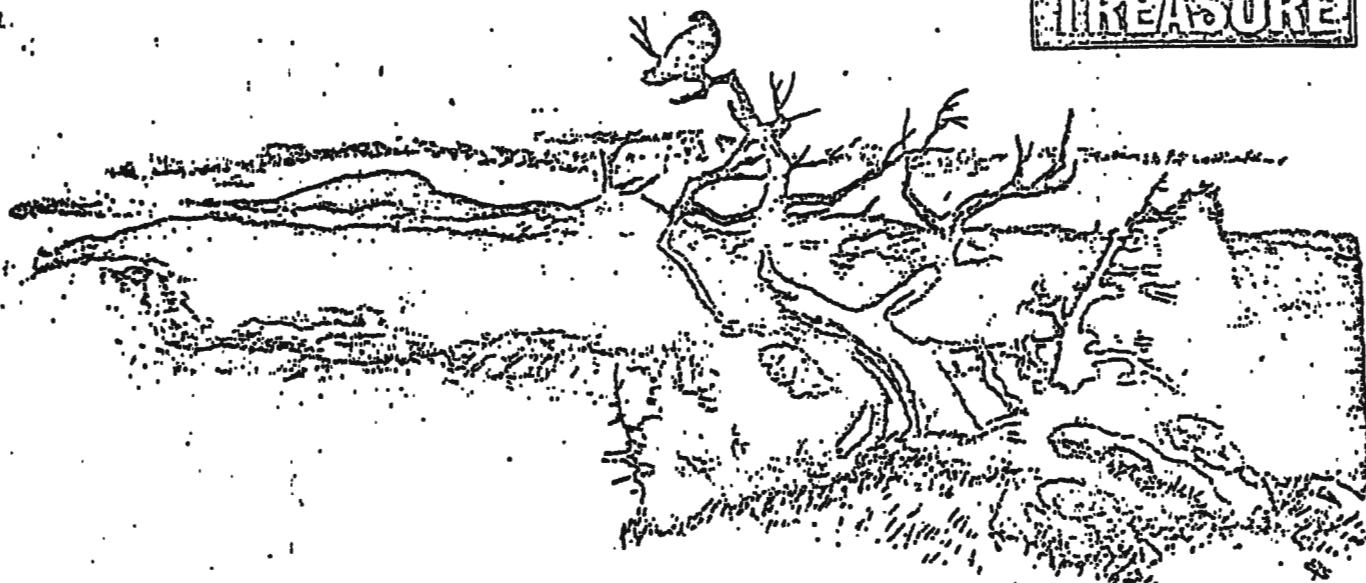


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Case #: 41052

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 confound 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 |
| When, | in | the | course | of | human |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| events, | it | becomes | necessary | for | one |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | | | |
| 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 choose 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 59 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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----------|--------|------|-----|------|------|
| 132 | 71 | 194 | 38 | 1701 | 09 | 76 | 11 | 83 | 1629 | 48 | 94 | 63 |
| 213 | 16 | 111 | 95 | 84 | 341 | 975 | 14 | 40 | 64 | 27 | 81 | 139 |
| 213 | 63 | 90 | 1120 | 8 | 15 | 3 | 126 | 2018 | 40 | 74 | 759 | 485 |
| 604 | 230 | 436 | 654 | 502 | 150 | 251 | 284 | 308 | 231 | 124 | 211 | |
| 486 | 225 | 401 | 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 | 460 | 25 | 485 | 18 | 436 | 65 |
| 84 | 200 | 283 | 118 | 320 | 138 | 36 | 416 | 280 | 15 | 71 | 224 | 961 |
| 44 | 16 | 401 | 39 | 83 | 61 | 384 | 12 | 21 | 24 | 283 | 134 | 92 |
| 246 | 406 | 682 | 7 | 219 | 164 | 360 | 760 | 18 | 64 | 463 | 474 | 131 |
| 160 | 79 | 73 | 460 | 95 | 18 | 64 | 581 | 34 | 69 | 128 | 367 | 460 |
| 17 | 81 | 12 | 103 | 820 | 62 | 116 | 97 | 103 | 862 | 70 | 60 | 1317 |
| 471 | 540 | 206 | 121 | 890 | 346 | 36 | 150 | 59 | 568 | 614 | 13 | |
| 120 | 63 | 219 | 812 | 2160 | 1700 | 99 | 35 | 18 | 21 | 136 | 872 | 15 |
| 28 | 170 | 88 | 4 | 30 | 44 | 112 | 10 | 147 | 436 | 195 | 320 | 37 |
| 122 | 113 | 6 | 140 | 8 | 120 | 305 | 42 | 58 | 461 | 44 | 106 | 301 |
| 13 | 400 | 680 | 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 | 629 | 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 | 1030 |
| 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 | 150 | 1000 | 162 | 286 | 19 | 21 | 17 | 349 | 19 | 242 | 31 |
| 86 | 234 | 149 | 607 | 115 | 33 | 191 | 67 | 104 | 86 | 52 | 88 | 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 | 1495 | 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 | 220 | 469 | 538 |
| 27 | 88 | 612 | 1431 | 90 | 716 | 275 | 74 | 83 | 11 | 426 | 89 | 72 |
| 84 | 1300 | 1706 | 814 | 221 | 132 | 40 | 102 | 34 | 858 | 975 | 1101 | |
| 84 | 16 | 79 | 23 | 16 | 81 | 122 | 324 | 403 | 912 | 227 | 936 | 447 |
| 55 | 86 | 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 | 227 | 736 |
| 820 | 214 | 11 | 60 | 760 | | | | | | | | |

CODE NO. 2

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

CODE NO. 3

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-----|
| 317 | 8 | 92 | 73 | 112 | 89 | 67 | 318 | 28 | 96 | 107 | 41 |
| 631 | 78 | 146 | 397 | 118 | 98 | 114 | 246 | 340 | 116 | 74 | 88 |
| 12 | 65 | 32 | 14 | 81 | 19 | 76 | 121 | 216 | 85 | 33 | 66 |
| 108 | 68 | 77 | 43 | 24 | 122 | 96 | 117 | 36 | 211 | 301 | 15 |
| 11 | 46 | 89 | 18 | 136 | 69 | 317 | 28 | 90 | 82 | 304 | 71 |
| 198 | 176 | 310 | 319 | 81 | 99 | 264 | 380 | 56 | 37 | 319 | 2 |
| 53 | 23 | 44 | 75 | 98 | 102 | 37 | 85 | 107 | 117 | 64 | 88 |
| 48 | 151 | 99 | 175 | 89 | 315 | 326 | 78 | 96 | 214 | 218 | 311 |
| 89 | 51 | 90 | 75 | 128 | 96 | 33 | 28 | 103 | 84 | 65 | 26 |
| 84 | 270 | 98 | 116 | 32 | 59 | 74 | 66 | 69 | 240 | 15 | 8 |
| 77 | 89 | 31 | 11 | 106 | 81 | 191 | 224 | 326 | 18 | 75 | 52 |
| 201 | 39 | 23 | 217 | 27 | 21 | 84 | 35 | 54 | 109 | 128 | 49 |
| 88 | 1 | 81 | 217 | 64 | 55 | 83 | 116 | 251 | 269 | 311 | 96 |
| 32 | 120 | 18 | 132 | 102 | 219 | 211 | 84 | 150 | 219 | 275 | 312 |
| 10 | 106 | 87 | 75 | 47 | 21 | 29 | 37 | 81 | 44 | 18 | 126 |
| 132 | 169 | 181 | 203 | 76 | 81 | 299 | 314 | 337 | 351 | 96 | 11 |
| 97 | 318 | 238 | 106 | 24 | 93 | 3 | 19 | 17 | 26 | 60 | 73 |
| 126 | 138 | 234 | 286 | 297 | 321 | 365 | 264 | 19 | 22 | 84 | 56 |
| 107 | 98 | 123 | 111 | 214 | 136 | 7 | 33 | 45 | 40 | 13 | 26 |
| 107 | 196 | 227 | 344 | 198 | 203 | 247 | 116 | 19 | 8 | 212 | 230 |
| 31 | 6 | 328 | 65 | 48 | 52 | 59 | 41 | 122 | 33 | 117 | 11 |
| 71 | 36 | 45 | 83 | 76 | 89 | 92 | 31 | 65 | 70 | 83 | 27 |
| 44 | 50 | 61 | 24 | 112 | 136 | 149 | 176 | 180 | 194 | 143 | 171 |
| 296 | 87 | 12 | 44 | 51 | 89 | 98 | 34 | 41 | 208 | 173 | 66 |
| 16 | 95 | 8 | 113 | 175 | 90 | 56 | 203 | 19 | 177 | 183 | 206 |
| 200 | 218 | 260 | 291 | 305 | 618 | 951 | 320 | 18 | 124 | 78 | 65 |
| 19 | 32 | 124 | 48 | 53 | 57 | 84 | 96 | 207 | 244 | 66 | 82 |
| 11 | 66 | 77 | 213 | 54 | 82 | 316 | 245 | 303 | 86 | 97 | 106 |
| 18 | 37 | 15 | 81 | 89 | 16 | 7 | 81 | 39 | 96 | 14 | 43 |
| 29 | 55 | 109 | 136 | 172 | 213 | 64 | 8 | 227 | 304 | 611 | 221 |
| 819 | 375 | 128 | 296 | 11 | 18 | 53 | 76 | 10 | 15 | 23 | 19 |
| 120 | 134 | 66 | 73 | 89 | 96 | 230 | 48 | 77 | 26 | 101 | 127 |
| 210 | 439 | 170 | 171 | 61 | 226 | 313 | 215 | 102 | 18 | 167 | 262 |
| 114 | 210 | 66 | 59 | 48 | 27 | 19 | 13 | 82 | 48 | 162 | 119 |
| 127 | 139 | 34 | 128 | 129 | 74 | 63 | 120 | 11 | 54 | 61 | 73 |
| 180 | 66 | 75 | 101 | 124 | 265 | 89 | 96 | 126 | 274 | 896 | 917 |
| 461 | 235 | 890 | 312 | 413 | 328 | 331 | 96 | 105 | 217 | 66 | 118 |
| 22 | 77 | 64 | 42 | 12 | 7 | 55 | 24 | 83 | 67 | 97 | 109 |
| 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 | 218 | 343 | 417 | 845 | 951 | 124 | 209 | 49 | 617 | 856 | 924 |
| 936 | 72 | 19 | 29 | 11 | 35 | 42 | 40 | 66 | 85 | 94 | 112 |
| 115 | 118 | 236 | 244 | 166 | 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 | 116 | 138 | 164 | 212 | 218 | 296 | 815 | 380(390?) | 412 | 460 | 86 |
| 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 . . .