

# Nugget News

July

2020

PROMOTING SMALL SCALE MINING , CASUAL GOLD PROSPECTING , RECREATIONAL GOLD PANNING & METAL DETECTING



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## Important Notice

Until further notice, we will be meeting the **SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH @ 7pm** at the Rathdrum Senior Center.

The annual claims tour will be July 11th. We will meet @ 9am at Eagle City Park to set up car pools and caravan and start tour at 10am.

Outings will still be on the weekend after the second Thursday of the month starting July.

Eagle City Park is open.

## Dues are Due!

You can pay your dues at the meetings, at Eagle City Park or by mailing your check to:

NWGPA  
PO Box 2307  
Post Falls, ID 83877

(\$20 for Single, \$25 for Couple & \$30 for Family)

## RATE CHANGES

As we all know, the cost of everything continues to go up. Eagle City Park will increase their camping fees for the first time in 24 years, starting this season.

Day use during a club outing will still be free! If you plan to camp during the club outing weekend, the cost will now be \$20 (Friday thru Sunday).

The fees for non-outing visits are now \$20 per day, \$30 per weekend (Friday thru Sunday), \$75 per week and \$275 per month.

These fees are for families (husband & wife or significant other w/ kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews 18 and under).

## THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A PIONEER

This was the first place since we left Los Angeles where we could buy any kind of breadstuff, and we were here enabled to get a change of diet, including greens. This seemed to be one end or side of another valley, and as we went along it seemed to widen away to the east; but our course was to the north, and we followed the road. The architecture of all the buildings except the churches was all the same, being built of the sun dried adobes or bricks made by mixing up a clay mud with tough grass and letting it get dry and hard. We saw the same kind of roof material as before, a sort of mineral tar which I supposed they must find somewhere about.

I could imagine why the houses were built in this way, for when the Jesuit missionaries first came in they found the country occupied by Indians who used their arrows to good effect, as they were jealous of all outside occupation. The early settlers evidently made the walls of their dwellings thick and strong enough to resist all kinds of weapons used by Indians. They could not set fire to them for they were fire proof and arrow proof, and the hostile Indian could dance on the roof without

*(Continued on page 3) Autobiography*



The Northwest Gold Prospectors Association meets at 7:00pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Rathdrum Senior Center located at 8037 W Montana Street, Rathdrum, ID  
Our regular outings (May thru October) are at Eagle City Park on the weekend following the monthly meeting with a potluck at 4pm on Saturday. Other outings will be announced by the President and posted in the newsletter. November thru March members are invited to meet each Saturday morning at 8:00AM at Kootenai Medical Center Cafeteria in Coeur d'Alene to solve the world's problems. Please join us.



# Letters to the Editor & Other fun "Stuff"

By "GoldFever Bob" Lowe, Editor



North of the Priest River and three or four miles below Priest Lake, in northern Idaho, Zak Stoneman, in 1888, had to unload three mules carrying gold because they died from eating poisoned weeds. He buried all the gold except what he could backpack to Coeur d'Alene.

The gold he carried into the little town created a sensation in a place used to seeing gold in large quantities. But Stoneman had pieces of gold half as large as a mans fist. He and his cronies got drunk and stayed that way for a week. Then he got help, outfitted more mules, and went back to clean out the caches.

Large wild animals had eaten the carcasses, scattering the bones of the mules over several acres of ground. Stoneman had so cleverly disguised his caches in relation to the position of the dead mules, that he could not now find where he had buried them. Twice more, he attempted to locate his hidden gold before winter snows put an end to further searching. The failure addled his mind and afterwards, he was not remotely sure of the area where he had hidden the gold.

Around 1900, Felix Warren operated a stage line between Grangeville and Lewiston. Two coaches made the 60-mile run daily. On the southward run from Lewiston there existed a steep grade known as Waha, which led to the Camas Prairie. Customarily, the horses were rested at the top. At this stop one day, two bandits rode out of the brush with drawn guns and demanded the strongbox. The driver quickly surrendered the box and the outlaws raced away down a road leading to Lake Creek Trail.

When the robbers were out of sight, the driver turned his stage around and went flying back to Lewiston. In less than an hour a heavily-armed posse was hot on the trail.

The posse leader surmised the outlaws would head toward the breaks of the Snake River. However, he knew a shortcut which might enable the posse to head them off before they reached the remote region.

The ambush was successful. Both gunmen were shot from their saddles, but the stolen loot could not be found. Apparently, the bandits had hidden it somewhere along the trail they had covered, a distance of about 12 miles.

Wherever the gold was hidden, it has reportedly never been found.

The **Beale Ciphers** (or *Beale Papers*) are a set of three ciphertexts, one of which allegedly states the location of a buried treasure of gold, silver and jewels estimated to be worth over US\$43 million as of January 2018. Comprising three ciphertexts, the first (unsolved) text describes the location, the second (solved) ciphertext the content of the treasure, and the third (unsolved) lists the names of the treasure's owners and their next of kin.

The story of the three ciphertexts originates from an 1885 pamphlet detailing treasure being buried by a man named Thomas J. Beale in a secret location in Bedford County, Virginia, in the 1820s. Beale entrusted a box containing the encrypted messages to a local innkeeper named Robert Morriss and then disappeared, never to be seen again. According to the story, the innkeeper opened the box 23 years later, and then decades after that gave the three encrypted ciphertexts to a friend before he died. The friend then spent the next twenty years of his life trying to decode the messages and was able to solve only one of them which gave details of the treasure buried and the general location of the treasure. The unnamed friend then published all three ciphertexts in a pamphlet which was advertised for sale in the 1880s.

Since the publication of the pamphlet, several attempts have been made to decode the two remaining ciphertexts and to locate the treasure, but all efforts have resulted in failure.

There are many arguments that the entire story is a hoax, including the 1980 article "A Dissenting Opinion" by cryptographer Jim Gillogly, and a 1982 scholarly analysis of the *Beale Papers* and their related story by Joe Nickell, using historical records that cast doubt on the existence of Thomas J. Beale. Nickell also presents linguistic evidence demonstrating that the documents could not have been written at the time alleged (words such as "stamping", for

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Editor: Bob Lowe

Address:  
NorthWest Gold  
Prospectors Association  
PO Box 2307  
Post Falls, Idaho 83877-2307

Email:  
bob@goldfeverminingsupply.com

Phone:  
208-699-8128

Web Page:  
www.nwgoldprospectors.org

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instance, are of later vintage). His analysis of the writing style showed that Beale was almost certainly James B. Ward, whose 1885 pamphlet brought the Beale Papers to light. Nickell argues that the tale is thus a work of fiction; specifically, a "secret vault" allegory of the Freemasons; James B. Ward was a Mason himself.

## Back-ground

A single pamphlet published in 1885, entitled *The Beale Papers*, is the only

source of this story. The treasure was said to have been obtained by an American named Thomas J. Beale in the early 1800s, from a mine to the north of Nuevo México (New Mexico), at that time in the Spanish province of Santa Fe de Nuevo México (an area that today would most likely be part of Colorado). According to the pamphlet, Beale was the leader of a group of 30 gentlemen adventurers from Virginia who stumbled upon the rich mine of gold and silver while hunting buffalo. They spent 18 months mining thousands of pounds of precious metals, which they then charged Beale with transporting to Virginia and burying in a secure location. After Beale made multiple trips to stock the hiding place, he then encrypted three messages: the location, a description of the treasure, and the names of its owners and their relatives. The treasure location is traditionally linked to Montvale in Bedford County, Virginia.

Beale placed the ciphertexts and some other papers in an iron box. In 1822 he entrusted the box to a Lynchburg innkeeper named Robert Morriss. Beale told Morriss not to open the box unless he or one of his men failed to return from their journey within 10 years. Sending a letter from St. Louis a few months later, Beale promised Morriss that a friend in St. Louis would mail the key to the cryptograms, however, it never arrived. It was not until 1845 that Morriss opened the box. Inside he found

(Continued on page 5) *Idaho Treasures*

## Grubstakin', Swappin' & Peddlin'

being able to get in or do any injury. Thus the poor Indian was fairly beat and eventually became a better Indian.

The Indians of what is now Nevada and Arizona used to come over into these rich valleys and clandestinely capture a band of a hundred or more head of cattle or horses and make their escape. They were often followed by the herders, but if they did not overtake the thieves before they got into the deep canyon of the mountains, they would usually turn back and let them go rather than be led into ambush in some strange narrow place where escape would be impossible and they might be filled with arrows. No doubt the trail we had followed across the plains, where there were so many horses' bones, was one of these trails along which the thieving Indians took their booty which died upon the trip.

Our road from here was near the foot-hills on the west side of a level, grassy, thinly timbered valley, and as we advanced we noticed that the timber grew more plentiful and the trees larger, without much underbrush. We also noticed that the vegetation was ranker and no doubt the soil was very rich. We then came to a point where the mountain reaches out almost across the valley to meet the mountain on the east side. Here we found a gravelly creek with but little water, but as soon as we passed this point we saw the valley suddenly widening out, and beautiful groves of live oak trees scattered all around. The vegetation here was very rank, the mustard ten feet high in places, making it difficult to see out of the road. This was perhaps the strongest contrast to the arid desert that we had seen.

As we went on down the valley the hills seemed to stand farther and farther back as if to make more room for those who would soon settle in this fertile place, and we soon came in sight of the village or pueblo of San Jose (St. Joseph) where we camped. Here we learned that the two owners of the horses intended to go to San Francisco instead of Sacramento, and as we considered the former place a very poor one for a penniless person to go we concluded to break up the company camp and each do the best he could for himself, for our objective point was the gold mines, and the sooner we reached them the better.

The drovers who had been anxious to have us go with them and help them now began to talk about a settlement with us, as if they had done us great favors, and called on the other fellows to help pay

**Stop at the Sprag Pole Sports Bar & Museum** for Great Food & Good Times in Murray, Idaho.

**Cedar Village Campground & RV Park** at Prichard, ID offers the best in "ROUGHING IT". A full service campground that is near some of the best dining and nightlife on the Coeur d'Alene River. Call 208-682-9404 for reservations. (They have showers at reasonable rates for those who are really "roughing it")

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Visit the **Bedroom Gold Mine Bar** in Murray. Enjoy beer, wine and cocktails while playing darts or pool. See how it looked in the old days. They now have a kitchen with Pizza and deli sandwiches as well as dinner specials on the weekends, we also serve breakfast on weekends during the summer months and hunting season. Many great pictures to look at.

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**Wanted:** Mining videos, books and pamphlets, old owners manuals for detectors, dredges, pumps, etc. for the NWGPA library. Call Bob Lowe @ (208)699-8128.

**The Gold Sniper** by Gold Fever Bob. Get this effective crevice tube for that hard to reach gold in the cracks of bedrock. Four models to chose from. From \$25 to \$75 Call 208-699-8128.

**The Snake Pit (Enaville Resort)**, in Kingston serves the best "Smoked Prime Rib" in the Northwest. They have a full menu with fast, courteous service.

**Rugged Country Outpost**, A must-stop, go to food trailer serving the best breakfasts and lunches on the Coeur d'Alene River. Located on Beaver Creek Rd a hundred yards or so from Babin's Junction. Open summers from early morning to mid-afternoon (6am to 4:00pm). See ad on page 4!

for their board upon the way. When they came to me they said my share would be an ounce. This struck me hard, but they said I had ridden their horse all the way and the charge was very low. I told them I had furnished the most of the provisions I had eaten, and my mule had packed a good load all the way, which I considered worth as much as the use of the horse. But they refused to allow me anything for the use of the mule and became very urgent in their demand for money.

These men were evidently of the tribe of Skinflint, who had no souls, or they would not have attempted to rob an almost penniless emigrant in this way of the last few dollars he had, and all the hope he had of reaching the mines. I did not desire to give up to such narrow principles as this and hesitated, but they were bound to have the money or make a quarrel, and talked pretty loud of the way they collected debts in Sacramento, so that to avoid trouble and get out of the clutches of such mean scoundrels as these I counted out sixteen dollars, almost every cent I had, and reluctantly gave them to my enemy. I immediately mounted my mule, and without stopping to say goodbye rode off. I may have quoted a part of the speech Capt. Hunt made when the party wanted to leave the trail and take the cut-off, especially that part where he alluded to their going to h—I. I very much fear the little piety my mother taught me was badly strained on that occasion, and I thought of a good many swear words if I did not say them, which I suppose is about as bad. I could see how cunningly they had managed to get me to ride their horse that it might serve as the foundation for a claim on me for about all the money I had in the world.

I hitched my mule in the edge of the town and went in to look at the place. The houses were situated very much as in other places we had come through—scattered around over much ground and built low, but had a different style of roof, a peaked or sloping one, and covered with half round tile two feet or more long and an inch thick. One course of these would be laid with the hollow side up, and then a course with the hollow side down, covering the joints of the lower course. This allowed the air to circulate freely and was proof against rain. I saw no flat roofs such as I had seen down along the coast. I saw one gambling house and about all the men in town were gathered there, and some women, too. This was the busiest place in town and situated near the plaza. This was the largest town I had yet been in. There seemed to be plenty of women and lots of dogs, but the men were as scarce as they had been in any of the towns—gone to the gold mines to make a stake. I took in the sights pretty well, and there were a great many new things for me to see, and when pretty well satisfied concluded I would go back to my mule and camp in some place just out of town for the

(Continued on page 4) *Autobiography*

(Continued from page 3) *Autobiography*

night.

Before I reached my animal whom should I meet but my old traveling companion John Rogers whom I thought to be a hundred miles away by this time. We shook hands heartily and he told me that Bennett, Moody and Skinner were camped not far off, and he was still with them. He wore a pair of blue overalls, a blue woolen shirt and the same little narrow rimmed hat he had worn so long. I observed, too, that he was barefoot, and told him I had a dollar or two which he could take and get some shoes. He said it was no use for there was not a pair of shoes in the town to buy, and he had not found any material of which he could make himself a pair of moccasins. I told him how I had been swindled coming up, and he was about as angry as I had been. I think if I had known that my friend John Rogers had been so near I should have bidden the rascals an unceremonious goodbye and we would have been able to hold our own on a claim for the services of myself and mule.

We went up to the place where our people were camped, perhaps a mile above town on the bank of a river, nearly dry, but where plenty of wood, water and grass were at hand; such a place as we had looked for in vain for many a weary day upon the desert. This was as far above Death Valley as a king above a pauper, and we hoped never to see such a country again.

In camp we talked about moving on to the mines. Rogers said he was going to start next day, and in answer to exclamations of surprise that he should start off alone, he said that some fellows camped a little way down the river were going to start and he had made arrangements to go with them, as the Bennett party would not go yet for a week. In the morning he shook hands and bade us goodbye and good luck, and started off down the river bank, lost to us, as it proved, for many years.

(Continued on page 5) *Autobiography*

## Club T-Shirts Are Available

S, M, L & XL are \$14 each  
2XL & 3XL are \$16 each

New caps & visors are available  
See and purchase at the meetings and the outings  
Makes Perfect Gifts

### Editor's Note

We are always looking for stories to fill our pages.

Please take a minute to jot down a story (fact or fiction) and send it into me.

Tell us about your experiences, plans or ideas.

Letters to the editor, pictures, jokes (clean, of course), cartoons and ads are all welcome.

Recipes, web pages of interest, email, magazine and news clippings are also needed.

A newsletter is only as good as the article and content submitted.

Please give it a try and wake up the writing genius in you.

### Rugged Country Outpost

Located on Beaver Creek Road (red food trailer behind G&G Riverstop Store), RCO serves the best "made to order" breakfast & lunch food items around.

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**Gold is \$1,784.20 an ounce! This time last year it was \$1,391.20 an ounce!**

*To get your copy of the Nugget News early via email, please send an email to: bob@goldfeverminingsupply.com with "Newsletter" in the subject box.*

**Prichard Tavern** – Still home to its Famous Broasted Chicken also serving Alligator Bites, Frog Legs, Hand Formed Hamburgers and Ice Cold Beer! A great place to meet old friends and make new ones!

**Editor's Note: Be sure to try their "Flat Iron Steak"**

#### Notice

Eagle City Park is privately owned and operated and is for the exclusive use of Eagle City Park Members and their guests and is open to all NWGPA members the weekend after the second Thursday of the month from May thru October, free of charge for day use. Overnight camping during this weekend is \$20 per family for the whole weekend (Friday thru Sunday). Potluck picnic is at 4pm on Saturday that weekend.

You are welcome to come and prospect and / or camp at other times. The fees are \$20 per family per day, \$30 per family per weekend (Friday thru Sunday), \$75 per family per week and \$275 per family per month.

Please call 208-699-8128 or 208-682-4661 for reservations.

To get to Eagle City Park take I-90 to Kingston (Exit 43), then take the Coeur d'Alene River Road to Thompson Falls/Prichard Creek Road (Mile Post 23), take Thompson Falls/Prichard Creek Road (2.6 miles) to Eagle Creek Road, take Eagle Creek Road (1/2 mile) to Eagle City Park entrance on left side of road. GPS is 47°38'51"N & 115°54'37"W

(Continued from page 4) *Autobiography*

The next day as we were all sitting on the ground I felt a sort of moving of the earth under me and heard rumbling sound that seemed very queer. It seemed there was a motion also to the trees around us. We all started and looked a little frightened, and Skinner said he believed it was an earthquake, for he said he could see the motion in a sort of wave. It was gone in half a minute. Moody said:—"How do you like California now?" I said I thought this part of it was a pretty good place for there was plenty of wood water and grass, and that was better than we had seen in some places.

He then went on to say that he had heard Mr. Bennett's story of their sufferings and narrow escape from death, and it was the most wonderful story he had ever heard. He said the idea of Mrs. Bennett walking over such a country for twenty-two days was almost beyond belief, for he would not have thought her able to walk one-third the distance. He never knew before how much women could do when they were called to do it, and they proved in emergencies to be as tough as anybody. He said if he ever got back home he should move to give them all the rights and privileges of men for sure.

One day I mounted my mule for a ride to the eastern foothills, and sat down on a little incline and overlooked the valley, a beautiful landscape, while my mule cropped the rich grasses in a circle described by the rope which confined him. I was always a great admirer of nature, and as I sat there alone I could see miles on miles of mammoth mustard waving in the strong breeze which came down over the San Francisco Bay just visible to the northward, and on the mountain summits to the west could see tall timber reaching up into the deep blue of the sky. It was a real contented comfort to be thus in the midst of luxuriance and beauty, and I enjoyed it, coming as it did at the end of the long and dreary road I had been traveling for the past twelve months. Up the Platte; across the Rockies; down the Green River canyons in my canoe; across the mountains to Salt Lake; out over the "Rim of the Basin," and across the desert, guided only by the fact that we knew the Pacific Ocean was to the west of us, and choosing our road as best we could in view of the lofty, snowclad, impassible mountains; seeing thirteen of our comrades lie down never to rise again, and, when hope and strength were almost gone, to suddenly come out into a fertile region on the seventh of March, 1850. How I wished the fellows who slept in Death Valley could have seen this view. The change from all that barrenness and desolation to this beautiful, fertile country, covered with wild flowers and luxuriant live oaks, was as strong a contrast as one could imagine a sudden coming from purgatory to paradise in the space of a single hour.

I waked up from my dreamy thoughts, mounted my mule and rode to camp. As I rode along the nimble ground squirrel, with his keen black eye, would climb to the top of the high mustard stalks to get a better view and, suspicious of an enemy within his almost undisputed territory, disappear in a wink to his safe underground fortress. Fat cattle and horses would appear before me a moment, and then, with a wild look and high heads, dash through the tall mustard out of sight.

To be continued.....

(Continued from page 2) *Minutes*

two plaintext letters from Beale, and several pages of ciphertext separated into Papers "1", "2", and "3". Morriss had no luck in solving the ciphers, and decades later left the box and its contents to an unnamed friend.

The friend, then using an edition of the United States Declaration of Independence as the key for a modified book cipher, successfully deciphered the second ciphertext which gave a description of the buried treasure. Unable to solve the other two ciphertexts, the friend ultimately made the letters and ciphertexts public in a pamphlet entitled *The Beale Papers*, which was published by yet another friend, James B. Ward, in 1885.

Ward is thus not "the friend". Ward himself is almost untraceable in local records except that a man with that name owned the home in which a Sarah Morriss, identified as the spouse of Robert Morriss, died at age 77, in 1863. He also is recorded as becoming a Master Mason in 1863.

## Authenticity

There has been considerable debate over whether the remaining two ciphertexts are real or hoaxes. An early researcher, Carl Hammer of Sperry UNIVAC, used supercomputers of the late 1960s to analyze the ciphers and found that while the ciphers were poorly encoded, the two undeciphered ones did not show the patterns one would expect of randomly chosen numbers and probably encoded an intelligible text. Other questions remain about the authenticity of the pamphlet's account. In the words of one researcher "To me, the pamphlet story has all the earmarks of a fake. [There was] no evidence saves the word of the unknown author of the pamphlet that he ever had the papers."

The pamphlet's background story has several implausibility's, and is based almost entirely on circumstantial evidence and hearsay.

Later cryptographers have claimed that the two remaining ciphertexts have statistical characteristics which suggest that they are not actually encryptions of an English plaintext. Alphabetical sequences such as *abfdefghijklmmnohpp* are both non-random, as indicated by Carl Hammer, and not words in English.

Others have also questioned *why* Beale would have bothered writing three different ciphertexts (with at least two keys, if not ciphers) for what a single message in the first place is essentially, particularly if he wanted to ensure that the next of kin received their share (as it is, with the treasure described, there is no incentive to decode the third cipher).

Analysis of the language used by the author of the pamphlet (the uses of punctuation, relative clauses, infinitives, conjunctives, and so on) has detected significant correlations between it and the writing style of Beale's letters, including the plaintext of the second cipher, suggesting that they may have been written by the same person.

The letters also contain several English words, such as "improvise", not otherwise recorded before the 1820s in English, but used from  
(Continued on page 6) *Idaho Treasures*

***A number of us meet at Zips, across the highway from the Senior Center for dinner at 4:30pm on the day of the meeting. Come join us!***

## Eagle City Park Memberships for Sale

#95 Robin & Becky Bird (208-691-1721)  
#55 & 56 James Bonham (208-582-2471)  
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#68, 69, & 71 Margie Coe (208)660-7795  
#85, 86 & 87 Doug & Cathy Boseth (208-773-4701)

### Treasurer's Report June 2020

<b>Balance Forward from May 31, 2020</b>	\$14,474.91
<b>Income</b>	
Memberships:	\$485.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$485.00</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Consumer Cellular:	\$17.72
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$17.72</b>
<b>Ending Balance: June 30, 2020</b>	<b>\$14,942.19</b>

French from 1786 in the New Orleans area and *stampede* (Spanish) "an uproar". Beale's "stampeding" apparently first appears in print in the English Language in 1832 but was used from 1786-1823 in New Orleans in French and Spanish.

The second message, describing the treasure, has been deciphered, but the others have not, suggesting a deliberate ploy to encourage interest in deciphering the other two texts, only to discover that they are hoaxes. In addition, the original sale price of the pamphlet, 50 cents, was a high price for the time (adjusted for inflation, it is equivalent to \$14.23 today, and the author writes that he expects "a wide circulation").

The third cipher appears to be too short to list thirty individuals' next of kin.

If the Declaration of Independence is used as a key for the first cipher, it yields alphabetical sequences such as *abfdefghijklmmnohpp* and others. According to the American Cryptogram Association, the chances of such sequences appearing multiple times in the one ciphertext by chance are less than one in a hundred million. Although it is conceivable that the first cipher was intended as a proof of concept letting decoders know that they were "on the right track" for one or more of the subsequent ciphers, such a proof would be redundant, as the success of the key with respect to the second document would provide the same evidence on its own.

Robert Morriss, as represented in the pamphlet, says he was running the Washington Hotel in 1820. Yet contemporary records show he did not start in that position until at least 1823.

There have been many attempts to break the remaining cipher(s). Most attempts have tried other historical texts as keys (e.g., Magna Carta, various books of the Bible, the U.S. Constitution, and the Virginia Royal Charter), assuming the ciphertexts were produced with some book cipher, but none have been recognized as successful to date. Breaking the cipher(s) may depend on random chance (as, for instance, stumbling upon a book key if the two remaining ciphertexts are actually book ciphers); so far, even the most skilled cryptanalysts who have attempted them have been defeated. Of course, Beale could have used a document that he had written himself for either or both remaining keys or either a document of his own or randomly selected characters for the third source, in either case rendering *any* further attempts to crack the codes useless.

#### Existence of Thomas J. Beale

A survey of U.S. Census records in 1810 shows two persons named Thomas Beale, in Connecticut and New Hampshire. However, the population schedules from the 1810 U.S. Census are completely missing for seven states, one territory, the District of Columbia, and 18 of the counties of Virginia. The 1820 U.S. Census has two persons named Thomas Beale, Captain Thomas Beale of the battle of New Orleans 1815 in Louisiana originally from Virginia Botetourt County – Fincastle area 12 miles from Bedford County and one in Tennessee, and a Thomas K. Beale in Virginia, but the population schedules are completely missing for three states and one territory.

Before 1850 the U.S. Census recorded the names of only the heads of households; others in the household were only counted. Beale, if he existed, may have been living in someone else's household.

In addition, a man named "Thomas Beall" appears in the customer lists of St. Louis Post Department in 1820. According to the pamphlet, Beale sent a letter from St. Louis in 1822.

Additionally, a Cheyenne legend exists about gold and silver being taken from the West and buried in mountains in the East, dating from roughly 1820.

#### Poe's alleged authorship

Edgar Allan Poe has been suggested as the pamphlet's real author because he had an interest in cryptography. It was well known he placed notices of his abilities in the Philadelphia paper *Alexander's Weekly (Express) Messenger*, inviting submissions of ciphers which he proceeded to solve. In 1843 he used a cryptogram as plot device in his short story "The Gold-Bug". From 1820, he was also living in Richmond, Virginia at the time of Beale's alleged encounters

*(Continued on page 8) Secret*

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**Some tools of a Prospector!**

## Refreshment Signup

We have some spots still open for signup. Pick a month that you will be willing to bring snacks to the monthly meeting. Make note of the month you choose so if by some chance you can't make it to the meeting on that date, you can give us a call to find someone to fill in for you. We would like to get at least three volunteers for each month for variety.

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**Mini Gold Grabber**  
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## Club Officers

2020

### President:

**Wayne McCarroll**

208-262-6837

[mccarroll2297@roadrunner.com](mailto:mccarroll2297@roadrunner.com)

### Vice President:

**Bryan McKeehan**

509-999-8710

[doorguybryan@hotmail.com](mailto:doorguybryan@hotmail.com)

### Secretary:

**Mary Lowe**

208-651-8318

[mary@goldfeverminingsupply.com](mailto:mary@goldfeverminingsupply.com)

### Treasurer:

**Mark Cook**

208-755-8853

[mark2697301@gmail.com](mailto:mark2697301@gmail.com)

### Sergeant of Arms:

**Skip Lindahl**

509-487-7831

[kd7fye@gmail.com](mailto:kd7fye@gmail.com)

### Club Merchandise:

### Directors:

**Bob Lowe** (1yr Jan 2020)

208-699-8128

[bob@goldfeverminingsupply.com](mailto:bob@goldfeverminingsupply.com)

**Bryan McKeehan** (3yr Jan 2020)

509-999-8710

[doorguybryan@hotmail.com](mailto:doorguybryan@hotmail.com)

**Mark Cook** (3yr Jan 2020)

208-755-8853

[mark2697301@gmail.com](mailto:mark2697301@gmail.com)

**Bryan McKeehan** (2yr Jan 2022)

509-999-8710

[doorguybryan@hotmail.com](mailto:doorguybryan@hotmail.com)

### Communication and Newsletter:

**Bob Lowe**

208-699-8128

[bob@goldfeverminingsupply.com](mailto:bob@goldfeverminingsupply.com)

### Membership:

**Mary Lowe**

208-651-8318

[mary@goldfeverminingsupply.com](mailto:mary@goldfeverminingsupply.com)

### Claims & Gold Show Chairman:

**Mark Cook**

### Activities:

### Nomination:

**Law and Regulations:** Wayne McCarroll

**Legislation Liaison:**

**Internet Website:** Bill Izzard

**Programs:**

**Financial Audit:**

Please email [bob@goldfeverminingsupply.com](mailto:bob@goldfeverminingsupply.com) of any changes of your email address or home address to ensure delivery of your newsletter each month!

## 2020 Club Calendar

July 9	Meeting
July 11	Outing
Aug 13	Meeting
Aug 15	Outing
Sept 10	Meeting
<b>Sept 12</b>	<b>Eagle City Park's Annual Pig Roast</b>
Sept 12	Outing
Oct 8	Meeting
Oct 10	Chili Feed Outing
<b>Oct 11</b>	<b>Eagle City Park closes for season</b>
Nov 12	Meeting
Dec 10	Meeting
<b>Dec 13</b>	<b>Christmas Potluck &amp; Food Drive</b>
<b>Mar 13-14 2021</b>	<b>NWGPA Gold &amp; Treasure Show</b>

All dates are subject to change & other events will be added when dates are known. Check back often & mark your calendars.

(Continued from page 6) *Idaho Treasures*

with Morriss. In February 1826 Poe enrolled as a student at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. But with mounting debts, Poe left for Boston in April 1827.

However, research and facts debunk Poe's authorship. He died in 1849 well before *The Beale Papers* were first published in 1885. The pamphlet also mentions the American Civil War that started in 1861. William Poundstone, an American author and skeptic, had stylometric analysis performed on the pamphlet for his 1983 book *Biggest Secrets*, and found that Poe's prose is significantly different from the grammatical structure used by the author who wrote *The Beale Papers*.

### Search attempts

Despite the Beale Papers' unproven veracity, treasure hunters have not been deterred from trying to find the vault. The "information" that there is buried treasure in Bedford County has stimulated many expeditions with shovels, and other implements of discovery, looking for likely spots. For more than a hundred years, people have been arrested for trespassing and unauthorized digging; some of them in groups as in the case of people from Pennsylvania in the 1990s.

Several digs were completed at the top of Porter's Mountain, one in late 1980s with the land owner's permission if any treasure found was split 50/50. However, the treasure hunters only found Civil War artifacts. As the value of these artifacts paid for time and equipment rental, the expedition broke even.

### Media attention

The story has been the subject of multiple television documentaries, such as the UK's *Mysteries* series, a segment in the seventh special of *Unsolved Mysteries*; and the 2011 *Declaration of Independence* episode of the *Histo-*  
(Continued on page 9) *Idaho Treasures*



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## Refreshment Volunteers

We have some spots still open for signup. Pick a month that you will be willing to bring snacks to the monthly meeting. Make note of the month you choose so if by some chance you can't make it to the meeting on that date, you can give us a call to find someone to fill in for you. We would like to get at least three volunteers for each month for variety.

## 2020 Refreshment Volunteers

<b>January:</b>	Neil Oliver - Mary Lowe - Wayne & Diane McCarroll
<b>February:</b>	Mike & Nadine Ferry - Steve Booras - Crystal McNeil
<b>March:</b>	Mike Phillips - Bill Pease -
<b>April:</b>	Dan Boss - Julia McCormack - BJ Scheckler
<b>May:</b>	Bob & Pat Beck - Anne Stephens - Mary Lou Robinson
<b>June:</b>	Mel Ellegood - Mike & Nadine Ferry - Steve Goodman
<b>July:</b>	Julia McCormack - Nick Masten - John Fee
<b>August:</b>	Bob & Pat Beck - Mike & Nadine Ferry - John Fee
<b>September:</b>	Wayne & Diane McCarroll - BJ Scheckler -
<b>October:</b>	Russ Brown - Steve Burris -
<b>November:</b>	Bill Pease - Julia McCormack - Mike Fisher
<b>December:</b>	Mary Lowe - Anne Stephens

We need more volunteers.  
Would like to have at least 3 people per month.

(We need 1 more for September, October & December)

Sign up at the meeting.

Thanks to all who have signed up!

## Field Guide to Recreational Prospecting in Montana

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Tom Bohmker (503)606-9895



(Continued from page 8) *Idaho Treasures* ry Channel TV show *Brad Meltzer's Decoded*. There are also several books and considerable Internet activity. In 2014, the National Geographic TV show *The Numbers Game* referred to the Beale ciphers as one of the strongest passwords ever created. In 2015 the UKTV series *Myth Hunters* (also known as *Raiders of the Lost Past*) devoted one of its seasons 3 episodes to the topic. Also in 2015, the Josh Gates series *Expedition Unknown* visited Bedford to

investigate the Beale Ciphers and search for the treasure.

Simon Singh's 1999 book *The Code Book* explains the Beale cipher mystery in one of its chapters.

In 2010, an award-winning animated short film was made concerning the ciphers called *The Thomas Beale Cipher*.

Various information related to the incident has been described on social media as well.

Below is the first cipher. It is supposed to disclose the location of the hidden treasure. Have fun & good luck!

71, 194, 38, 1701, 89, 76, 11, 83, 1629, 48, 94, 63, 132, 16, 111, 95, 84, 341, 975, 14, 40, 64, 27, 81, 139, 213, 63, 90, 1120, 8, 15, 3, 126, 2018, 40, 74, 758, 485, 604, 230, 436, 664, 582, 150, 251, 284, 308, 231, 124, 211, 486, 225, 401, 370, 11, 101, 305, 139, 189, 17, 33, 88, 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, 88, 61, 304, 12, 21, 24, 283, 134, 92, 63, 246, 486, 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, 862, 70, 60, 1317, 471, 540, 208, 121, 890, 346, 36, 150, 59, 568, 614, 13, 120, 63, 219, 812, 2160, 1780, 99, 35, 18, 21, 136, 872, 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, 408, 680, 93, 86, 116, 530, 82, 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, 81, 623, 48, 961, 19, 26, 33, 10, 1101, 365, 92, 88, 181, 275, 346, 201, 206, 86, 36, 219, 324, 829, 840, 64, 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, 49, 602, 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, 340, 19, 242, 31, 86, 234, 140, 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, 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, 39, 261, 543, 897, 624, 18, 212, 416, 127, 931, 19, 4, 63, 96, 12, 101, 418, 16, 140, 230, 460, 538, 19, 27, 88, 612, 1431, 90, 716, 275, 74, 83, 11, 426, 89, 72, 84, 1300, 1706, 814, 221, 132, 40, 102, 34, 868, 975, 1101, 84, 16, 79, 23, 16, 81, 122, 324, 403, 912, 227, 936, 447, 55, 86, 34, 43, 212, 107, 96, 314, 264, 1065, 323, 428, 601, 203, 124, 95, 216, 814, 2906, 654, 820, 2, 301, 112, 176, 213, 71, 87, 96, 202, 35, 10, 2, 41, 17, 84, 221, 736, 820, 214, 11, 60, 760.

**We now accept major credit & debit cards for membership renewals and purchases of club merchandise.**

## 2019 Refreshment Sign-Up

Need at least 3 volunteers to bring refreshments to each months meeting. Please signup at the meeting and do your part to help out. See page 8 to find dates we need to fill. Thanks!

## Notice

The phone number for the NorthWest Gold Prospectors Association is (208)262-6518

Email: [info@nwgoldprospectors.org](mailto:info@nwgoldprospectors.org)

Website:

[www.nwgoldprospectors.org](http://www.nwgoldprospectors.org)

## DID YOU KNOW.....

That 1 oz. of pure gold is approx. the size of a cube of sugar? That 1 oz. of gold can be flattened out to 300 sq. ft.? That a mixture of one part nitric acid and 3 parts hydrochloric acid (*aqua regia*) will dissolve gold? That in 1966 all the refined gold in the world would make a cube 50 feet on a side?

### What is gold?

Symbol: AU  
Atomic Weight: 196.967  
Atomic Number: 79  
Melting Point: 1063° C (1945° F)  
Boiling Point: 2966° C ( )  
Specific Gravity: 19.2  
MOH's Scale of Hardness: 2.5 - 3

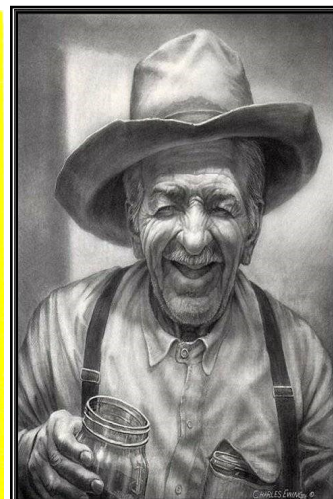
### What is a carat?

Pure gold is expressed as 24 carats. When alloyed (mixed with other metals) the following table is used to determine the carat.

24K donated by 100% Pure Gold  
18K donated by 75% Pure Gold  
14K donated by 58% Pure Gold  
10K donated by 42% Pure Gold

### How is gold weighed?

0.0648 grams = 1 grain  
24 grains = 1 pennyweight (dwt.)  
20 pennyweight (dwt.) = 1 troy oz.  
12 troy oz. = 1 troy pound



**Live simply.  
Love generously.  
Care deeply.  
Speak kindly.  
Leave the rest to God.**

# Recipe(s) of the Month

## Skillet Chicken a la King

- 1-pound skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - cut into bite-size pieces
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup milk
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup fresh sliced mushrooms
- 2 tablespoons chopped pimento peppers
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper

In a large skillet, heat oil. When hot add chicken and sauté 4 to 5 minutes until about halfway cooked. Add mushrooms and continue to sauté until chicken is lightly browned and cooked through (juices run clear). Stir in the milk, soup, pimentos, onion powder and pepper. Bring all to a boil. Cover skillet and reduce heat. Let simmer for 2 to 3 minutes. Stir together and serve over rice, toast or a thick slice of a crusty bread if desired. For added richness, top with a dollop of fat free sour cream.

# The Wisdom of Eagle City Ed

**I'm old enough to know better, but young enough to do it anyway!**

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it to everyone in your  
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people who did not realize  
how close to success they  
were when they gave up!

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PO Box 2307  
Post Falls, Idaho 83877-2307

