

(Lieut. Thomas Fawcett and I)

We left Washington Saturday, 30 April 1949 at 12 noon (D.T.). We arrived at Skibo Lodge, three miles north of Charlottesville and took a cabin there at 1800 (S.T.). During the evening we visited the Library of the University of Virginia and examined the card files for books on Lynchburg. We found no new references to the Beale Papers or to any person involved in that story. We met a Mr. Watson, a student at the University, who told us that he had applied for a job at Arlington Hall Station.

On Sunday morning, 1 May, we drove to Lynchburg and put up at Ash's Brick Motor Court. Sunday afternoon we visited the Library at Randolph-Macon University and searched the catalogue without success. Later in the lobby of the Virginian Hotel, Mr. Friedman spoke to ^{a Mr. Payne,} one of the old residents ^{of Lynchburg (since 1895),} who said he had no knowledge of anything connected with the Beale Papers. He suggested that Mr. Bell of the J.P. Bell Book Store be consulted. Nothing further was accomplished on Sunday.

On Monday morning we first visited Mr. Bell, whose memory went back to 1890. When shown the Ward letter to the Library of Congress, Mr. Bell recognized the type and told us that he had set-up the letterhead. The ^{Adams} ~~Ward~~ Brothers and Payne Company, which he well remembered, had long since been out of business. Mr. Bell knew nothing of the Beale Papers but gave us some useful leads. His first suggestion was that we see the Librarian at the Lynchburg Memorial Library and that we contact a Mrs. Adams at the Lynchburg News Office.

(Reference to the Beale Papers, without success. I did find in the room on the west side of the one referred to above, an amazing tale of a buried treasure, the Beale Papers, and there it was reported by the paper about the Beale Papers)

Sucille T.

At the Lynchburg Memorial Library we met Mrs. Dickerson, the Librarian, who told us that an inventory of Lynchburg historical documents was under way but that it had not proceeded far enough to include papers of the period to which the Beale Papers belong (1885). In the old files of the Lynchburg Independent, however, a news item, referring to the publication of the Beale papers, was found. Mrs. Dickerson telephoned Mr. Phil L. Scruggs of the Lynchburg News who is compiling Lynchburg history. Mr. Scruggs said that Mr. Tom Gillam of the Lynchburg National Bank had only a few days since mentioned the Beale Papers. Mr. Tom Gillam later denied any knowledge of the Beale Papers. He said: "If there was any buried treasure in Bedford County it has long since been dug up." Another lead given us by Mrs. Dickerson was Mr. ^{Gerham B.} (Bunny) Walker* of the Lynchburg Trust Company. Mr. Walker said that his great-grandmother was the wife of the Mr. Ward who signed the letter to the Librarian of Congress as the agent of the author of the Beale Papers.

Our next visit was to the office of Mr. Walker. Mr. Walker admitted having a copy of the Beale Papers, in which he placed no credence. He said that occasionally advertisements would appear in the paper for copies of the Beale Papers. He did not think that there were other copies aside from those held by members of his own family. From him we verified the fact that his great-grandfather Ward had spent many years of his life working at the Beale ciphers and thought that undoubtedly Mr. Ward was the true author of the Beale Papers. He said that he could vouch for the penurious conditions of his great-grandfather.

*Does the "B" stem from James B. (everly) Ward, his great grandfather?

to see if I could find any other

was rather reluctant to discuss the subject until I established my bona fides by mentioning my long-standing friendship with Ambassador D. Rivers Childs, and the DePue family of Lynchburg.

*of Adamsville
I was by showing
her a copy
of her letter
to Dr. Janssen,
Secretary of
Congress, dated
Feb. 15, 1934,
concerning
the Beale
Papers. Mrs.
Adams' confi-
dence having
been obtained
there.*

We next visited the office of the Lynchburg News where we talked first with Mr. Scruggs. Mr. Scruggs said that he had no knowledge of the Beale Papers but was sure that we could get information concerning them from Mrs. Adams, ^{one of the chief reporters on the News.} ~~the social page editor of the paper.~~

Mrs. Adams told us immediately about a story which she had written, she said, in February 1934 about the Beale Papers, a copy of which she had seen. We later attempted to find the story but after searching the files of the News for the first quarter of the calendar year 1934 were unable to locate it. Mrs. Adams told us about descendants of the Ward family who were still living in Lynchburg. She telephoned Mr. "Bunny" Walker ^{and possibly others.} his mother, and his grandmother, Mrs. McVeigh. Mrs. Adams told us that she had the utmost confidence in the authenticity of the Beale story and that Mrs. McVeigh believed the story as she believed the Bible. ^{Ward's daughter and Mr. G. B. Walker's grandmother,} ~~took Mrs. Adams to lunch.~~ We had lunch with Mrs. Adams at The Columns and through her efforts on our behalf we obtained lodging at The Columns where our every want was satisfied by the attentive Marcellus.

On Monday evening together with Mrs. Adams and her daughter, we visited the home of Mrs. Walker, ^{Gorham B.} who brought out the Beale pamphlet which had been given to her by her grandmother, ^{and some correspondence with Col. Halsey,} Mrs. Walker said that she had always believed that the story was authentic. Her attitude is curious. To her Mr. Friedman unfolded the entire story of his connection with the Beale Papers. Mrs. Walker had never seen the "box" containing the original Beale cryptograms, although she remembered her grandfather, Ward. ^{Secretary of the Senate.} ~~The investigation which we made, while it did not clear up all points,~~ tended to support the view that the whole story of gold buried in

had talked with her many times about the Beale Papers but would always caution her not to spend any time on them, as she would ruin herself as did her father, Mr. Ward.

3
McVeigh was 96 on her death and of sound memory.

clearly (she was 5 when he died). Her mother, Mrs. McVeigh, she said, implicitly believed the story to be true. Mrs.

Bedford County by Captain Beale and his associates was spun from the imagination of Mr. Ward. Unanswered is the question as to why he wrote the story. It seems that if his motive was profit he was disappointed in that hope. It is believed that before the matter is dropped a study should be made of the logistics of Captain Beale's alleged journey into the uncharted region north of Santa Fe.

Note: James Beverly Ward entered ^{Library} in 1838
Sometimes there is a ~~Ward~~ graduated from the U.S. M.A. and resigned
in the Army a couple of years, marrying Mrs. W at
Jefferson Barracks. He resigned and became a civil
engineer, but apparently was not prosperous, either because
of indolence, or lack of ability, or — maybe he did
spend all his time in trying to solve Cryptogram No. 2!

Reg of Grad USMA

James Beverly Ward

Entered 1838 - Class 1841
But did not graduate