

The Last Haunting of Edgar Allan Poe: Word Repetition in *The Beale Papers*

Robert Ward

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"...I cannot add one word to the segments herein contained."

The Beale Papers

The Beale Papers contains a phenomenal amount of word repetition. The anonymous author of this mysterious treasure story, published in 1885 in Lynchburg, Virginia, embedded hundreds of words from the Declaration of Independence, many of which repeat throughout the tale, into the text of this cryptographic enigma. The Beale author also created dozens of word doublings that appear in most of the paragraphs throughout his short story. There are also hints within the text, primarily through word pairings, that the Beale author may have been striving to create some type of symmetrical balance in the construction his short story. The pervasiveness of these word repetitions throughout the Beale tale presents strong evidence that *The Beale Papers* was written by one person.

Words from the Declaration of Independence

The Beale Papers text is saturated with words from the Declaration of Independence. These DOI words are so voluminous that the *fact* of their deliberate placement into the story can hardly be refuted. The tough question is not whether the Beale author deliberately placed these words into his story but *why* he did so. Whoever eventually answers this riddle may ultimately solve the 130 year old cryptographic mystery that is *The Beale Papers*.

There are an infinite number of approaches to analyzing the placement of these DOI words within the Beale text, but one logical starting place for such an analysis might include an identification of:

All identical words that appear once in the DOI and once in the Beale text

There are 50 words which appear only once in both the embedded version of the DOI and the text of *The Beale Papers*. These words, in various orders, are provided here:

Order in DOI

nature
respect
opinions
created
liberty
pursuit
safety
indeed
established
changed
experience
suffer
pursuing
design
reduce
patient
prove
let
submitted
immediate
pressing
till
relinquish
unusual
manly
elected
returned
danger
within
dependent
erected
multitude
sent
standing
military
giving
neighboring
away
complete
scarcely
head
amongst
bring
Indian
unfit
interrupt
assembled
publish

Order in Beale Text

immediate
pressing
dependent
relinquish
pursuit
indeed
erected
head
assembled
amongst
scarcely
changed
interrupt
created
opinions
established
unusual
manly
within
returned
fortunes
safety
away
liberty
Indian
giving
experience
let
patient
prove
bring
suffer
pursuing
design
danger
standing
establish
elected
military
reduce
sent
unfit
neighboring
nature
till
respect
complete
submitted

Alphabetical Order

amongst
assembled
away
bring
changed
complete
created
danger
dependent
design
elected
erected
establish
established
experience
fortunes
giving
head
immediate
indeed
Indian
interrupt
let
liberty
manly
military
multitude
nature
neighboring
opinions
patient
pressing
prove
publish
pursuing
pursuit
reduce
relinquish
returned
respect
safety
scarcely
sent
standing
submitted
suffer
till
unfit

establish
fortunes

multitude
publish

unusual
within

As can be seen in the alphabetical listing above, not all letters of the alphabet would be represented if the Beale author were using the first letters of these words to create some kind of secret writing within the text; note that the letters (jkqvxyz) are not represented. These letters, perhaps not coincidentally, are among the least frequently used of the English alphabet. Fifty words, representing fifty letters, would hardly seem worth all the trouble, as any secret writing would be limited to fifty letters. Still, there is always the possibility that the DOI words found in the Beale text tie back, in some way, to the ciphers, or have some other unknown significance, so, at least for now, Beale researchers might not wish to discard any possibilities in their analysis of this phenomenon. Also, these words possess an appealing definiteness, with only one word in the DOI for each corresponding word in the text.

A skeptic may argue that there are so many words in the Declaration of Independence that some, even many, are bound to appear in an approximately 8,000 word short story such as *The Beale Papers*. Any argument that all of these DOI words appear in the Beale text *accidentally*, however, must explain the overwhelming *volume* of DOI words and the manner in which they appear in the Beale text. A close study of these DOI words suggests that the Beale author deliberately placed at least some of these DOI words into the story for some yet undiscovered purpose. An examination of select words from this list hints at the skill of the Beale author as he hid these words within the Beale text. Looking at just a few examples, note how the Beale author placed into the text three words from the DOI (highlighted below) first penned by Thomas Jefferson in this famous clause:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are **created equal: that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights: **life, liberty, and the pursuit** of happiness;**

In the Beale text, the three highlighted words, *created*, *liberty* and *pursuit*, appear in paragraphs 11, 30 and 3, respectively, in these sentences:

Inviting me to his room, with no one to interrupt us, he gave me an outline of the matter, which soon enlisted my interest and **created an intense longing to learn more.**

Mr. Morriss felt much uneasiness about him, but had had no means of satisfying his doubts; ten years had passed; 1832 was at hand, and he was now at **liberty to open the box, but he resolved to wait on, vainly hoping that something definite would reach him.**

Until the writer lost all hope of ultimate success, he toiled faithfully at his work; unlike any other **pursuit with practical and natural results, a charm attended it, independent of the**

ultimate benefit he expected, and the possibility of success lent an interest and excitement to the work not to be resisted.

The placement of these words into the Beale text at their respective locations in the tale reveals no sign that they tie back to the DOI. It is perhaps not surprising that no Beale treasure hunter or cryptographer seems to have noticed this phenomenon; certainly no one published any such observation for over 125 years. Here, we are only discussing 50 words, yet the surreptitious placement of these DOI words into the text has an elegance which highlights the admirable writing skills of the Beale author and even hints of genius when one considers the hundreds of DOI words that were ultimately embedded into the Beale text. This is particularly so if the Beale author undertook to place select DOI words within the text in a specific order which would create a code or secret message.

Let us look at the next logical step; this time let us attempt to identify:

All identical words that appear once in the DOI but one or more times in the Beale text

There are 116 words which appear only once in the DOI but one or more times in the Beale text. (Chart includes DOI Words and number of times each appears in the Beale text.)

course	5	pressing	1	once	10
one	36	importance	6	own	6
connected	3	till	1	away	1
another	3	obtained	2	complete	1
nature	1	those	6	death	6
respect	1	relinquish	1	already	4
opinions	1	called	3	scarcely	1
created	1	together	3	head	1
certain	4	places	2	country	3
liberty	1	unusual	1	become	2
pursuit	1	depository	3	fall	3
secure	6	sole	3	hands	7
just	2	manly	1	amongst	1
shall	4	after	12	bring	1
safety	1	elected	1	Indian	1
indeed	1	returned	1	known	3
established	1	remaining	2	character	10
not	35	meantime	2	thus	5
changed	1	danger	1	marked	4
light	2	within	1	unfit	1
experience	1	prevent	2	nor	5
suffer	1	made	10	attention	4
while	4	dependent	1	common	2
than	16	alone	6	interrupt	1
but	46	amount	2	too	5
pursuing	1	erected	1	must	3
design	1	multitude	1	rest	4

reduce	1	sent	1	assembled	1
under	6	substance	2	judge	2
duty	2	kept	2	name	3
future	5	times	2	authority	4
patient	1	standing	1	publish	1
present	4	military	1	between	2
having	6	subject	9	conclude	2
prove	1	giving	1	establish	1
let	1	parts	2	each	12
facts	2	many	11	fortunes	1
submitted	1	beyond	2	honor	3
immediate	1	neighboring	1		

These words, which include the original fifty above, appear a total of 459 times in the Beale text. They could create a message of approximately 90 words assuming each DOI word that appeared in the Beale text was somehow coded to one letter of the alphabet and an average word length of five letters. Interestingly, only seven words of the 116 in the group are less than four letters in length.

Both categories of words above, those words which appear only once in the DOI and the Beale text, and those words which appear once in the DOI but one or more times in the text possess a quality of *exactness* which has a certain appeal. Each word in the Beale text matches its counterpart in the DOI exactly in spelling, although not necessarily in meaning. This quality of exactness is appealing because the next categories of DOI words in the Beale text include all words which do NOT match exactly the spelling of a DOI word but, instead, relate to the root of a particular DOI word. These “non-identical words,” defined as all words that have the same root but a different spelling, either from the addition of a suffix or some other modification, are the most numerous of the DOI words found in the Beale text.

As with the identical DOI words, let us see first how many matches there are in the Beale story of non-identical words that appear once in the DOI and once in the Beale text:

All non-identical words that appear once in the DOI and once in the Beale text

<u>DOI Word</u>	<u>Beale Text Word</u>
bands	band
organizing	organization
evinces	evinced
throw	thrown
guards	guarding
forbidden	forbid
operation	operations
neglected	neglect
distant	distance

fatiguing	fatigues
opposing	opposite
exercise	exertions
raising	raise
lands	Maryland
offered	proffered
superior	supercilious
constitution	constituting
punishment	punish
unacknowledged	acknowledged
commit	committing
paralleled	unparalleled
high	highest
executioners	execution
terms	term
correspondence	corresponding
consanguinity	sanguine
enemies	enemy
intentions	intention
solemnly	solemn
things	thing

There are 30 non-identical DOI words that appear once in the DOI and once in the Beale text.

A review of the above two listings containing one-for-one matches only, the first containing 50 words and the second 30 words, reveals a number of interesting word pairings that provide an insight into the literary gymnastics performed by the Beale author in placing these DOI words into his text. Some of the words are rather infrequently used in the English language; words like *executioners*, *consanguinity*, *constitution*, *fatiguing* and *organizing*. Seeing these DOI words occasionally in a story may not raise suspicion, but when hundreds of such words appear and re-appear in various guises throughout the tale, researchers may be justified in questioning whether the writer may have had some ulterior purpose in choosing the words that he used to create his short story.

Note particularly when the Beale author places two or more of these DOI words into the same paragraph. Creating an interesting story while choosing certain words from the DOI, possibly in a predetermined order, must have been quite a challenge. Observe, for example, the placement of the DOI words like *Indian*, *thing*, and *band* in the paragraph below:

During this period rumors of Indian outrages and massacres were current, but no mention of Beale's name ever occurred. What became of him and his companions is left entirely to conjecture. Whether he was slain by Indians, or killed by the savage animals of the Rocky Mountains, or whether exposure, and perhaps privation, did its work can never be told. One thing at least is certain, that of the young and gallant band, whose buoyant spirits

led them to seek such a life, and to forsake the comforts of home, with all its enjoyments, for the dangers and privations they must encounter, not a survivor remains. (P.31)

The DOI sources for the above words:

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless **Indian** savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

...as free and independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and **things** which independent States may of right do.

When, in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political **bands** which have connected one another.

This pattern of DOI word placement continues throughout the Beale story. It gets much more complicated though, particularly after adding the DOI words contained in the next category to the universe of possible code words that may have been used by the Beale author to create a secret writing within the text.

A Word Maze

The next group of DOI words is large, there are hundreds, but less exact. These are the words which constitute:

All non-identical words that appear once in the DOI and one or more times in the Beale text

<u>DOI Words</u>	<u>Non-identical DOI Words in the Beale text</u>			
events	event	eventful		
necessary	necessarily			
bands	band			
assume	assumed	assuming		
entitle	entitled			
respect	respectfully			
opinions	opinion			
requires	require	required	requirements	requiring
truths	truly			
evident	evidently			
certain	certainly	ascertained		
pursuit	pursuits			
secure	securely	secured	securing	
ends	end			
organizing	organization			

seem	seems	seemingly	seemed	
likely	like	likewise	unlike	
effect	effects			
safety	safe	safely	safest	
long	longing	longer	longed	
accordingly	according	accordance		
experience	experienced			
disposed	disposition	disposal		
evinces	evinced			
design	designed	designing		
reduce	reduced			
duty	duties			
throw	thrown			
provide	provision			
guard	guarding			
prove	proved	proving		
facts	fact			
submitted	submit			
forbidden	forbid			
operation	operations			
obtained	obtaining	obtain		
neglected	neglect			
attend	attended			
together	altogether			
places	place	placed	misplaced	
uncomfortable	comfortable	comforts	comfortably	
distant	distance			
depository	deposit	deposited		
sole	solely			
fatiguing	fatigues			
compliance	complied	comply		
houses	house	household		
opposing	opposite			
firmness	firm			
returned	return	returning		
exercise	exertions			
remaining	remain	remained	remainder	remains
exposed	exposure			
danger	dangers	dangerous	endanger	
prevent	prevented			
population	popular			
naturalization	natural			
encourage	encouraged	encouragement		
raising	raise			
appropriations	appropriate	appropriating		
lands	Maryland			
amount	amounting			
kept	keeping	keep		
standing	stands			
offered	proffered			

superior	supercilious			
civilized	civilization			
constitution	constituting			
unacknowledged	acknowledge			
quartering	quarters			
commit	committing			
parts	part	partial	partially	partiality
imposing	imposed	impose		
benefits	benefit	benefitted		
offenses	offended			
boundaries	bound	bounds	boundless	unbounded
valuable	value	valued		
towns	town			
works	work			
paralleled	unparalleled			
unworthy	worth	worthy		
head	heading			
high	highest			
bear	bearing	bears		
executioners	executioner			
hands	hand	handed		
excited	excitement			
Indian	Indians			
savages	savage			
known	unknown	know		
undistinguished	distinguished	distinguishing		
terms	term			
define	definite	indefinite		
wanting	want			
extend	extent	extended		
correspondence	corresponding			
consanguinity	sanguine			
rest	rested			
enemies	enemy			
assembled	assemblages			
intentions	intention			
solemnly	solemn			
publish	publication			
full	fully			
conclude	conclusion			
things	thing			
fortunes	fortune	misfortune		
honor	honest			

There are approximately 108 DOI words in this category. The Beale author placed hundreds of variations of these 108 DOI words in the Beale text, perhaps in an effort to insert a coded message or secret writing but also possibly to disguise or otherwise conceal the message. One possibility for a code suggested by the word *ascertained*, seen above in

connection with the DOI word, *certain*, is that the Beale author created a code by placing DOI words within other words in the Beale text. A close study of the Beale text reveals that the story is saturated with these non-identical words that are connected by the same root to a corresponding DOI word. In the process of writing the Beale story, or perhaps as a corollary to the tale, the Beale author has created a fantastic maze of words within the Beale text that may hide a solution to the enigma.

A final category of DOI words presented here is one which includes all DOI words, whether identical or non-identical, in the Beale text that appear *more than once* in the DOI.

All Words (identical or non-identical) which appear in the DOI more than once

And which appear at least once in the Beale text

There are dozens of these words, a sampling of which can be seen below:

Equal, necessary, happiness, among, consent, altering, themselves, absolute, necessity, great, injure, object, tyranny, State, States, public, should, large, would, purpose, other, others, without, transporting, system, render, independent, act, cases, offices, pretended, free, laws, same, lives, people, totally, ages, taken, against, friends, endeavored, war, conditions, every, most, circumstances, here, appealed, justice, connection, therefore, hold, united, time

The word *equal*, for example, appears twice in the DOI; it can be found six times in the Beale text, twice as *equally* and four times as *equal*. The most frequent of these words to be found in the Beale text, the word *time*, can be found 32 times in the text. The second most frequent, *friends*, can be seen 25 times in the Beale text. All of these words may or may not be part of some coded message embedded into the text by the Beale author, but their frequency in the story reinforces the proposition that they were purposely placed into the text.

Twenty-six Charges

One reason that the location and frequency of words within the DOI may be important involves the possibility that the Beale author has divided the DOI in some manner so as to represent particular letters of the alphabet. Nowhere is this approach more enticing than in an examination of the middle of the DOI where Britain's King George is charged with twenty-seven tyrannical abuses of the colonists. In *The Beale Papers*, the Beale author modifies his embedded version of the DOI to include twenty-six instead of twenty-seven separate charges against the tyrant by combining the first and second charges from the original Declaration of Independence.

Twenty-six separate charges could somehow be constructed into a source of words which represent 26 letters of the alphabet. For a detailed discussion of the twenty-six charges

in *The Beale Papers*' version of the DOI see *Hiding in Plain Sight: Observations concerning the Text of The Beale Papers* here: <http://www.lasthaunting.com/index.html#essays/galleryPage>.

Thirty-One

In the Beale tale, the Beale party consists of thirty individuals “of good character and standing” plus the Innkeeper Robert Morriss, a man of the “sternest integrity, unblemished honor and business capacity.” Upon discovery of the treasure, the Beale party authorizes Beale to enlist the services of Morriss and instruct him, should they all perish, to divide the treasure into thirty-one equal parts for distribution to himself and their heirs. Curiously, Robert Morriss’ statement concerning his interactions with Beale contains exactly thirty-one sentences.

DOI as Key

If the Beale author has concealed a secret message within the text of his story by somehow embedding words from the DOI into the tale then he may have divided the Declaration in some manner so that words from certain sections represent a particular letter of the alphabet. Or the DOI words in the Beale text may relate in some way to the unsolved ciphers. As discussed above, for example, the words in each charge against King George could be divided so that they represent a particular letter whenever a word from the designated paragraph appears in the Beale text. Or the entire DOI may have been divided by 26 sections to create a code of some type. Alternatively, a portion of the DOI, perhaps one delineated by the Beale author, may hide the key to unlocking the Beale enigma.

$$31 \times 26 = 806$$

Interestingly, $31 \times 26 = 806$, a calculation that is strikingly close to the 816 count total provided by the Beale author in his embedded version of the DOI. When one considers that the Beale author made a ten digit count error by counting twice from 480 to 490, and the author laments, at one point in the tale, of “retrieving his errors,” his count to 816 may have been a deliberate misrepresentation to conceal a DOI division of twenty-six segments of thirty-one words each.

Admittedly, these theories concerning the numbers 26 and 31 and whether there may be divisions involving those numbers in the DOI are highly speculative; but the DOI words contained in the Beale text are a fact and the Beale author expended considerable energy to surreptitiously place them within his text. To date, one hundred and thirty years of research into the ciphers has not borne fruit. The best observation in all of that time may be the discovery of the Gillogly strings, which tend to show that the ciphers, or at least the Beale “2” cipher, may be unsolvable. Perhaps it is time for Beale researchers to direct their focus onto the text.

Word Doubling

Another phenomenon within the text involving word repetition is the frequent doubling of words within the paragraphs of the Beale short story. The Beale tale contains over 200 pairs of words (longer than five letters) within its sixty-seven paragraphs exclusive of the embedded DOI. This word doubling is very apparent throughout the entire text, thus offering additional evidence that the Beale tale was authored by a single person.

Although there may be one, no apparent pattern appears in any initial examination of these doubled words. About half of the word pairs are identical, while in the other half the pairs are connected by the same root. Approximately 25% of the pairs are contained in the same sentence within a specific paragraph. Approximately one quarter of the words are followed by a punctuation mark.

Word doublings appear to have been placed most often within a paragraph, but the Beale author also created these doublings from sentence to sentence across consecutive paragraphs. The frequency of these doublings is the primary evidence that the Beale author deliberately created this pattern within the story, but the “proof” is not absolute. It may be that these word doublings are mere by-products of writing style or even accidental. As with the DOI words, Beale researchers are encouraged to examine this pattern of word doubling in the text.

Observe this paragraph (#27) from Beale’s May 9th, 1822 letter to Morris:

27

With regard to the box left in your charge, I have a few words to say, and, if you will permit me, give you some instructions concerning it. It contains papers vitally affecting the fortunes of myself and many others engaged in business with me, and in the event of my death, its loss might be irreparable. You will, therefore, see the necessity of guarding it with vigilance and care to prevent so great a catastrophe. It also contains some letters addressed to yourself, and which will be necessary to enlighten you concerning the business in which we are engaged. Should none of us ever return you will please preserve carefully the box for the period of ten years from the date of this letter, and if I, or no one with authority from me, during that time demands its restoration, you will open it, which can be done by removing the lock. You will find, in addition to the papers addressed to you, other papers which will be unintelligible without the aid of a key to assist you. Such a key I have left in the hands of a friend in this place, sealed, addressed to yourself, and endorsed not to be delivered until June, 1832. By means of this you will understand fully all you will be required to do.

There are ten pairs of doubled words (identical or non-identical) longer than five letters within this paragraph:

<u>1st Word</u>	<u>Followed By</u>	<u>2nd Word</u>	<u>Followed By</u>
concerning		concerning	
contains		contains	
papers		papers	
others		other	
engaged		engaged	period
business		business	
necessity		necessary	
letters		letter	comma
addressed		addressed	
yourself	comma	yourself	comma

Note that there are words smaller than six letters in paragraph twenty-seven that have also been doubled by the Beale author (left, some, its, key), but the volume of these words is significant and analysis can become challenging. For the present, an examination of the larger words that make-up a word pair should suffice to identify the pattern. More detailed study may be needed, however, to glean additional insight about this phenomenon and determine why the Beale author may have created this little pattern puzzle within his story.

One can immediately see, however, even in this tiny sample, that some DOI words (others, necessity) have been doubled. So it is possible that there is some relationship between the DOI words embedded into the text and these pairs of doubled words. Punctuation may also relate to any code or secret message that might be a product of this pattern of doubled words. For now, though, Beale researchers are encouraged to determine for themselves whether the word doubling pattern has been deliberately written into the story and, if so, toward what end.

Sentence to Sentence

The word doubling pattern can also be seen occurring from sentence to sentence in the Beale text, but less frequently than within individual paragraphs. Note the word pairs in this example of the transitions between paragraphs 37, 38 and 39:

37

...This visit was **made** by the request of my **associates**, and you can judge from their action whether my report was a favorable one.

38

I will now give you some idea of the enterprise in which we are engaged, and the duties which will be required of you in **connection** therewith; first assuring you, however, that your compensation for the trouble will be ample, as you have been unanimously **made** one of our **association**, and as **such** are entitled to share equally with the others.

39

Some five years since I, in **connection** with several friends, who, like myself, were fond of adventure, and if mixed with a little danger all the more acceptable, determined to visit the great Western plains and enjoy ourselves in hunting buffalo, grizzly bears, and **such** other game as the country would afford....

In this example, the words *made* and *associates (tion)* can be seen in the last sentence of paragraph 37 and the first (and only) sentence in paragraph 38. Likewise, the words *connection* and *such* appear in paragraph 38 and 39. The words *made* and *such* appear in the DOI.

A Word Puzzle

The doubling of words within paragraphs or between sentences is an interesting phenomenon within the Beale Papers text. And when the word doubling phenomenon is coupled with the DOI words embedded into the text, the “word maze” created by the Beale author suggests many possibilities for coded messages or other secret writings. Why these intriguing word repetitions were created is a question, to quote the Beale author, which is “most difficult to solve.” As noted previously, the DOI and doubled words may tie to the ciphers in some way. Remember, the story was written before the days of computer processing so the creation and subsequent identification of repeated words may have been more challenging. Yet, the repetition found in the story is a fact, the words are real, and the apparently surreptitious nature of their existence within the tale has an elegance “not to be resisted.” If, on the other hand, this tendency to repeat words is considered only a habit or style of the Beale author, then the presence of this trait throughout the text offers strong evidence that the tale is a work of fiction written by one person.

One more word pairing phenomenon, admittedly containing more tenuous connections, is explored below.

Word Pairing

Throughout the Beale text, there exists one type of word pairing which reaches across many paragraphs within the tale. In each of the more than *three hundred* examples (Appendix A below), these paired words are the only two identically spelled words within the entire Beale

text. To be sure, there are many word pairs throughout the text of any story and these combinations may merely be a product of the writing process. Still, the Beale author's emphasis on the DOI certainly justifies a close examination of DOI words in the tale. The fifty words in the Declaration of Independence which match exactly a corresponding word in the text are a subset of these word pairs. Some of the other word pairings apparent in the story may also be worth a detailed study.

The matching "word pairs" below, for example, can be found in the introduction and in the conclusion of the tale:

Requiring (P1 and P66), attended (P3 and P66), unmeaning (P3 and P54), publication (P4 and P66)

Other than for some type of closure or symmetry, there does not appear to be any obvious reason, with one exception, for establishing a pairing of words within two apparently unrelated parts of the story, but further research of this possible pattern of word pairings may generate an explanation.

The one exception is the word *visions*, which is found in paragraphs 7 and 45. The placement of this word in the tale may relate to an attempt by the Beale author to establish a doppelganger relationship between Thomas Beale and Robert Morriss. As discussed here: (See *Character Development in The Beale Papers: Another Tale of the Ragged Mountains* here: http://media.wix.com/ugd/090146_c71bd9d88fd1442595c7c27588f82bea.pdf), the relationship between Beale and Morriss appears to contain contrasts that may symbolize the evils of the lust for money on one hand (Beale as the ambitious, rugged, mercenary who lusts for treasure) vs. the goodness of those who value family and friends over wealth (Morriss as family man and good neighbor), on the other. The word *visions* appears in the Beale tale at the precise moment when Morriss "was left with nothing" after an ill-fated gamble on rising tobacco prices (P. 7) and later just after the Beale party discovered gold in the cleft of a Santa Fe mountain and thought of nothing else but "boundless wealth and future grandeur." The two sentences where the word *visions* appears describe the start for each man of a path exactly opposite of what one might think after the occurrence of a catastrophic financial loss or a magnificent windfall. For Morriss, encouraged by his wife, begins a life of love for family and friends and lives into his eighties as a beloved member of the Lynchburg community, while Beale, apparently in an effort to acquire and preserve his fortune, is thought to die a horrible death in his twenties.

Aside from the possible use of the word *visions* to convey meaning while linking the fates of both protagonists, there does not appear to be any meaningful link between the words

in these word pairs. They may serve some other purpose, however, related to a concealed message, code or secret writing.

Symmetry

Another possibility for creating word pairings in the Beale tale may relate to a desire by the Beale author to establish some kind of symmetrical relationship between different sections of the tale for some as yet undiscovered reason. Manipulation of words in different sections of a tale is not as unusual as it may seem. Commenting on Edgar Poe’s adventure/journey novel, *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*,” Citadel Professor James M. Hutchisson pointed out in his biography, *Poe* that the *Pym* tale was evenly divided so that “...white is the dominant color in the first half of the novel; black the other.” (*Poe*, James M. Hutchisson, University Press of Mississippi, 2009). Poe, in particular, used symmetrical literary techniques in his tales, as in *William Wilson*, especially when establishing his doppelganger relationships.

(See *Character Development in The Beale Papers: Another Tale of the Ragged Mountains* here: http://media.wix.com/ugd/090146_c71bd9d88fd1442595c7c27588f82bea.pdf)

The discovery of a relationship between segments in the Beale tale, such as a pattern between words in the DOI and the text, may have some significance involving a code or secret writing. The Beale author’s comment at the conclusion of his story that he had “...given all that I know of the matter, and that I cannot add one word to the segments herein contained...” may hint at some significance to the individual words in the composition of each section in the tale.

Black and White

One possible relationship involving segments of the Beale tale may exist between those segments that have been written with bold type and those that have not. A close examination of the original version of *The Beale Papers* reveals that the various bold (“black”) and unbolded (“white”) segments of the story can be divided into two relatively equal divisions within the tale as such (To view original version of *The Beale Papers*, see Ron Gervais’ *Beale Ciphers Analyses, Photographic Reproduction*, here: <http://www.angelfire.com/pro/bealeciphers/>):

<u>Black (Bold Type)</u>	<u>White (Unbolded Type)</u>
May 9, 1822 Letter (P. 26-29)	Introduction (P. 1-5)
Jan 4, 1822 Letter (P. 37-52)	Robert Morriss Background (P. 6-15)
Jan 5, 1822 Letter (P. 53)	Robert Morriss Statement (P. 16-22)
Declaration of Independence	Discovery of DOI as Key to “B2” Cipher (P. 23-25)

Decryption of B2 Cipher (P. 58-60)

Morriss et. al activity from 1822-1885 (P. 30-36)

Presentation of DOI and Ciphers (P. 54-57 and 61-62)

Conclusion (P. 63-67)

Total Words – 4225

Total Words – 4882

Although not exact, the “black” and the “white” sections of the Beale story are relatively close in number of words. A comparison between these two sections reveals 114 word pairs where one word is found in the “black” portion of the story and the other word of the pair can be found within the “white” section, as follows:

Wh. P. #	Word	Bl. P. #	Wh. P. #	Word	Bl. P. #	Wh. P. #	Word	Bl. P. #
1	details	42	11	interrupt	DOI	22	likewise	45
1	incident	39	11	created	DOI	22	worth	28
1	happened	28	11	intense	45	22	efforts	45
1	immediate	DOI	11	presence	45	23	impress	48
1	valued	59	11	resume	43	23	perceptible	44
1	pressing	DOI	11	delivered	27	23	how	26
1	dependent	DOI	12	afford	39	23	systematize	45
1	relinquish	DOI	12	finally	45	24	regular	41
1	through	48	12	distributed	50	24	procure	40
2	want	39	12	held	41	24	ascertained	45
2	fall	DOI	12	able	39	24	labors	45
2	use	30	12	demands	27	26	savage	31
3	pursuit	DOI	15	duties	38	26	cannot	66
3	experienced	45	15	particular	28	27	preserve	30
3	difficulty	60	15	ultimately	45	27	open	30
3	pleasure	42	16	provision	47	30	equally	38
4	perusal	37	16	horses	45	30	tell	49
4	quite	45	16	plans	45	30	liberty	DOI
4	result	28	16	accompanying	50	31	Indian	DOI
5	undertaking	39	16	established	DOI	32	aware	49
5	adventure	39	17	six	58	34	giving	DOI
5	lured	45	17	feet	58	34	experience	DOI
5	concealment	45	17	unusual	DOI	34	let	DOI
6	fine	26	17	altogether	26	34	patient	DOI
6	erected	DOI	17	manly	DOI	34	prove	DOI
6	head	DOI	17	within	DOI	34	bring	DOI
6	assembled	DOI	17	resulted	41	35	pursuing	DOI
6	Esq	26	18	western	39	35	suffer	DOI
7	visions	45	18	question	45	38	assuring	66
7	sincere	29	19	March	44	45	joint	62
8	excellent	29	19	returned	DOI	45	assistance	55

8	even	37	20	welcome	43	51	conclusion	65
8	amongst	DOI	21	handed	48	52	entire	66
8	personal	37	21	desired	41	60	describes	61
8	scarcely	DOI	21	hereafter	40	64	complete	DOI
8	worthy	28	21	articles	58	64	submitted	DOI
10	unblemished	37	21	lock	27	66	multitude	DOI
10	reposed	37	22	concealed	47			
11	changed	DOI						

So what does this table tell us, if anything, about the relationship between those sections with bold type and those without? First, the number of word pairs confirms that the Beale story involves a great deal of repetition. In the story, the same basic facts are conveyed from multiple points of view, but primarily by Thomas Beale in his 1822 letters and the narrator in 1885. Yet these two writers seem to have used many of the same words to relay their stories.

Compare, for example, the narrator’s description of Mr. Morriss’ character in paragraphs nine and ten, and Beale’s comments on the same subject in paragraph 37, which is the first paragraph of his January 4th, 1822 letter:

Note that both the narrator and Beale used the same or very similar words and phrases *in the same paragraphs* to describe Morriss. Observe the words and phrases below and compare the narrator’s writing style (paragraphs nine and ten) and Beale’s style in his January 4, 1822 letter to Morriss (paragraph thirty-seven). Note the similar words and phrases (red highlight) used by both men despite a span of sixty-three years (1822 v. 1885):

Stern v. sternest

House

Confidence v. confided

Eventful life passed mostly in business v. business capacity

unblemished character v. unblemished honor

“confidence reposed”

important trust v. importance of the trust

select him v. select you

“In manner Mr. Morriss was courteous and gentle; but when occasion demanded, could be **stern** and determined, too; he was emphatically the master of his **house**, and from his decision there

was no appeal. As an "old Virginia gentleman," he was *sans peur et sans reproache*, and to a remarkable extent possessed the **confidence** and affection of his friends. After a chequered and eventful life of more than eighty years, passed mostly in **business**, which brought him in contact with all classes of people, he died, lamented by all, and leaving not an enemy behind. His death, which occurred in 1863, was just two years subsequent to that of his wife. It can be truly said that no persons ever lived in a community for such a length of time who accomplished more good during their lives, or whose death was more universally regretted." (P.9)

"It was the **unblemished character** of the man, and the universal **confidence reposed** in him, that induced Beale to entrust him with his secret, and in certain contingencies **select him** for a most **important trust**; that his **confidence** was not misplaced, every one remembering Mr. Morriss will acknowledge." (P.10)

Lynchburg, January 4th, 1822.

My Dear Friend Morriss:--You will, doubtless, be surprised when you discover, from a perusal of this letter, the **importance of the trust** confided to you, and the **confidence reposed** in your honor, by parties whom you have never seen, and whose names even you have never heard. The reasons are simple and easily told; it was imperative upon us that some one here should be selected to carry out our wishes in case of accident to ourselves, and your reputation as a man of the **sternest integrity, unblemished honor, and business capacity**, influenced them to **select you** in place of others better known, but, perhaps, not so reliable as yourself. It was with this design that I first visited your **house**, two years since, that I might judge by personal observation if your reputation was merited. To enable me better to do so, I remained with you more than three months, and until I was fully satisfied as to your **character**. This visit was made by the request of my associates, and you can judge from their action whether my report was a favorable one. (P.37)

Other examples of repetition involving the narrator, Beale, or Morriss include:

Amplly compensated

Morriss Statmnt: Should you succeed, you **will be amplly compensated** for your work... (P. 22)

Beale Jan. 4 letter: ...your **compensation** for the trouble **will be ample**... (P.38)

Systematize...plan...order

Narrator: To **systematize a plan** for my work I arranged the papers in the **order** of their length, and numbered them, designing to commence with the first, and devote my whole attention to that until I had either unraveled its meaning or was convinced of its impossibility—afterwards to take up the others and proceed as before. (P.23)

Beale: Though all were at work, there was nothing like **order or **method in their plans**, and my first efforts were **to systematize** our operations, and reduce everything to **order**. (P.45)**

Undertaking...adventure...dangers...account

Narrator: What motives could have influenced him and so many others to risk their health and their lives in **such an undertaking**, except the natural **love of daring adventure**, with its consequent excitement, we can only conjecture. We may suppose, and indeed we have his word for so doing, that they were infatuated with the **dangers**, and with the wild and roving character of their lives, the charms of which lured them farther and farther from civilization, until their lives were sacrificed to their temerity. This was the opinion of Mr. Morriss, and in this way only can we **account** for the fact that the treasure for which they sacrificed so much, constituting almost fabulous wealth, lies abandoned and unclaimed for more than half a century. (P.5)

Beale: Some five years since I, in connection with several friends, who, like myself, were **fond of adventure, and if mixed with a little **danger** all the more acceptable, determined to visit the great Western plains and enjoy ourselves in hunting buffalo, grizzly bears, and such other game as the country would afford. This, at that time, was our sole object, and we at once proceeded to put it in execution. On **account** of Indians and other **dangers** incident to **such an undertaking**, we determined to raise a party of not less than thirty individuals, of good character and standing, who would be pleasant companions, and financially able to encounter the expense. (P.39)**

Beale researchers are encouraged to further explore these word pairs for any clues of the Beale author's intentions concerning a possible code. By digging "into the weeds" researchers may uncover a pattern or other idiosyncrasy of the Beale author.

Edgar A. Poe

In his series on cryptography published in the December 1841 issue of *Graham's Magazine*, Edgar Poe included a letter from a reader, Mr. W.B. Tyler, which provided an interesting comment concerning the appeal of secret writing. The first paragraph of that letter is particularly illuminating:

DEAR SIR:

I should perhaps apologise for again intruding a subject upon which you have so ably commented, and which may be supposed by this time to have been almost exhausted; but as I have been greatly interested in the articles upon "cryptography," which have appeared in your Magazine, I think that you will excuse the present intrusion of a few remarks. With secret writing I have been practically conversant for several years, and I have found, both in correspondence and in the preservation of private memoranda, the frequent benefit of its peculiar virtues. I have thus a record of thoughts, feelings and occurrences, — a history of my *mental* existence, to

which I may turn, and in imagination, retrace former pleasures, and again live through bygone scenes, — secure in the conviction that the magic scroll has a tale for *my* eye alone. Who has not longed for such a confidante? ... (Credit to the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore)

W. B. Tyler

What if, instead of the mysterious W. B. Tyler, these thoughts are really those of Poe? And Tyler's comment that "[w]ith secret writing I have been practically conversant for several years, and I have found, both in correspondence and in the preservation of private memoranda, the frequent benefit of its peculiar virtue..." were really Poe's confession that he had encoded some of his writings!

Poe's interest in cryptography makes him a logical suspect in any lineup of writers who may have encoded some of their writings but the W.B. Tyler letter seems to raise the stakes a bit. Identifying and cracking a code or secret writing invented and used by Poe would be a treasure indeed! Any discovery of this sort would be a literary treasure, to be sure, but a priceless find nonetheless, and an incredible gift for the world of literature.

Certainly, *The Beale Papers* is even more remote from Poe; his death in 1849 makes him a longshot as the author of a cryptographic enigma first published in 1885. But as long as there is a chance, it's worth exploring the possibility that one of the English languages' greatest writers made some contribution to this classic treasure mystery.

The connections between Poe and the Beale short story set forth in *The Last Haunting of Edgar Allan Poe* website here: <http://www.lasthaunting.com/index.html> are many and varied. To be sure, someone could have been mimicking or honoring Poe by creating the many Poe connections to *The Beale Papers*, so even if the connections are real they do not prove Poe's authorship of the story. Still, the possibility that Poe wrote the Beale story adds impetus to those attempting to solve this "Holy Grail" of cryptography. Only by identifying a coded message or secret writing, though, or solving the ciphers, can we have any chance to prove the identity of the Beale author. Certainly, though, "the game is worth the candle," particularly if that author turns out to be Poe.

Conclusion

The observations in this essay suggest that the writer of *The Beale Papers* may have used words, instead of numbers, to create and conceal a coded message or secret writing within the text of his short story. The frequent repetition of words throughout the text offers intriguing possibilities for a code and offers additional evidence that the Beale story was written by one person. The creation of a "word maze" by the anonymous Beale author by the use of repeated words and word pairings throughout the tale hints of a command of the written word possessed by only a few skilled writers, perhaps by Edgar A. Poe.

Appendix A –Word Pairs

Word Pair	1 st Par	2 nd Par	Word Pair	1 st Par	2 nd Par	Word Pair	1 st Par	2 nd Par
details	1	42	slightest	8	15	manuscript	24s	67
incident	1	39	remuneration	8	12	afforded	24	24c
happened	1	50 c	otherwise	8	12	follow	24	44
knowledge	1	12	master	9	12 c	ascertained	24	45c
limited	1	23	persons	9	11	labors	24	45p
circle	1 d	1s	length	9	11c	Mo.	26,	40c
immediate	1	DOI	universally	9	17	quarters	26	40p
valued	1	59	unblemished	10	37	reaching	26	45
pressing	1	DOI	reposed	10	37	buffalo	26	39c
dependent	1	DOI	secret	10c	11	savage	26	31
requiring	1	66	important	10	35	cannot	26	66
abandon	1	24	destined	11	24	fortunes	27	DOI c
seems	1	4	make	11	65	preserve	27	30
far	1	4 c	reveal	11	45	open	27	30
relinquish	1	DOI	speak	11	32	perilous	28	49
through	1	48	reluctance	11s	32c	careful	30	30
speedily	1	6	changed	11c	DOI	safety	30c	DOI
solve	1	23 p	interrupt	11	DOI	equally	30	38
prize	1	2	created	11	DOI	await	30	67
imagined	2	21	intense	11	45p	line	30	30
investigations	2 c	24 p	presence	11	45	message	30	30
want	2	39 c	Richmond	11c	16c	away	30	DOI
fall	2	DOI	prevented	11	32	four	30c	58
enjoyment	2 c	6	resume	11	43	tell	30	49 p
writer	3	14	delivered	11	27	felt	30	32
ultimate	3	3	afford	12	39p	liberty	30	DOI c
pursuit	3	DOI	finally	12	45	Indian	31	DOI
attended	3	66	regard	12	27	mention	31	32
experienced	3	45	regarding	12	65	aware	32	49
revealed	3	34	frequent	12	33	often	32	56
unmeaning	3 c	54	believed	12	63	giving	34	DOI
hitherto	3	6	greatly	12	24	experience	34p	DOI
difficulty	3	60	distributed	12	50	let	34	DOI
pleasure	3	42	held	12	41 c	avoid	34	66
induced	3	10	able	12	39	accomplish	34	64
legitimate	3	34	demands	12	27	patient	34	DOI
proved	3 c	12	legacy	12	14	interests	34	35
illusion	3p	34 s	promise	13	14c	prove	34	DOI
perusal	4	37	anxious	14	16	bring	34	DOI

failure	4	4	hours	14c	34	pursuing	35	DOI
attach	4	18	spared	15	34	suffer	35c	DOI c
seemingly	4	8	duties	15p	38	confided	37	47
quite	4	45	view	15c	39c	reliable	37	47
publication	4	66 c	particular	15	28	design	37	DOI
narrative	4 c	35	opinions	15	DOI	action	37	41p
result	4	28	ultimately	15	45	report	37	47
educated	5 c	16 c	provision	16	47	assuring	38	66
manners	5p	16	horses	16c	45	share	38	45c
undertaking	5 c	39 c	plans	16c	45c	danger	39	DOI
except	5	63	gentlemen	16	16c	standing	39c	DOI
adventure	5 c	39 c	accompanying	16	50	suggested	39	47
consequent	5	14	appeared	16	18	refusal	39p	41c
conjecture	5p	31 p	friendly	16	16	preparations	40c	45
suppose	5 c	21	particularly	16	30	Fall	40c	48
indeed	5	DOI c	established	16	DOI c	establish	40	DOI
wild	5	45	six	17	58	advised	41	45
lured	5	45	feet	17	58	military	41	DOI
sacrificed	5	5	eyes	17	65	elected	41	DOI s
way	5	9	unusual	17	DOI c	agreed	41	45
almost	5	8	dark	17	64	bound	41	45
abandoned	5	24 p	exposure	17	31 c	absence	41p	44p
unclaimed	5	11 c	altogether	17 c	26	conduct	41	41
half	5	12	manly	17	DOI	part	41	53
fortunate	5	6 c	resulted	17	41	wanderings	42c	43
concealment	5c	45p	within	17	DOI p	pleasures	42	45
feel	5	8	impression	18	24	recall	42	50
born	6	16 c	western	18	39	December	43	49c
removed	6	8	question	18	45	journey	43c	45p
Va	6	53	March	19c	44	preparing	44	45
fine	6	26	returned	19	DOI	arrived	44c	45
peculiarly	6	16	welcome	20	43	secured	44c	49
career	6	67 c	spring	21c	21	discovered	44	45
remember	6	8	handed	21	48	forgotten	45c	50p
shortly	6	6	value	21	21 p	reduce	45	DOI
thereafter	6	21 c	desired	21	41	joint	45	62
tobacco	6	7 c	hereafter	21p	40p	receptacle	45c	46
erected	6	DOI	articles	21	58c	favorably	45	48c
Main	6	6	killed	21	31	assistance	45	55
private	6	11	home	21c	31c	retain	45	50
Esq	6	26	lock	21	27p	sent	45	DOI
head	6	DOI	exception	21	33	cave	45	46c
assembled	6	DOI c	incomprehensible	21	33	Bedford	45c	58c

visions	7	45	concealed	22	47	perfectly	45	47
realized	7 c	24 p	responsibility	22	65	&c.	46c	49p
sincere	7	29	likewise	22	45	unfit	46	DOI
community	7	9	worth	22	28	neighboring	46	DOI
encouraged	8	32	reward	22	34p	respective	47	53
fate	8p	21 c	efforts	22p	45	shares	47c	50
excellent	8	29	impress	23	48	nature	48	DOI
management	8 c	67	perceptible	23	44	till	48	DOI
host	8 c	8	clue	23c	24	written	49c	53
even	8	37	how	23	26	conclusion	51c	65
met	8	67	commence	23	23	entire	52	66
friendship	8	12	systematize	23	45	respect	52	DOI
amongst	8	DOI	designing	23	24	residences	53	53
personal	8	37	take	23	34	foregoing	56	57
scarcely	8	DOI	thoughts	24c	35	thousand	59	59
distinguished	8 c	8	regular	24	41	twelve	59	59
wealthy	8-	11p	procure	24p	40	stone	60c	60c
worthy	8	28 c	comparing	24	57	describes	60	61
						complete	DOI	64
						submitted	DOI	64
						multitude	DOI	66
						publish	DOI	67

Total word pairs - 304