

The Last Haunting of Edgar Allan Poe

A Comparison of “Errors” in the Beale “2” Cipher and Poe’s 1840 “Broome County Cypher”

By Robert Ward, Ellicott City, Maryland, January 2012

From January to April 1840, Edgar Poe published a collection of cyphers as part of his popular series on cryptography, puzzles and conundrums in *Alexander’s Weekly Messenger*. Although Poe’s apparent skills as a cryptographer amazed the public, many of his cyphers contained errors in decipherment. The “translation” of one of these cyphers in particular, the “Broome County Cypher”, included many “errors” similar to those made in the decryption of the Beale “2” cipher contained in *The Beale Papers*, a cryptographic treasure mystery published anonymously in 1885 in Lynchburg, Virginia. This monograph examines the decryption of the Beale “2” cipher and Poe’s decryption of the Broome County cypher and explores the similarities in the deciphering “errors” of each cipher.

The Beale “2” Cipher and the Broome County Cypher, along with their decryptions, are very similar in appearance, although the Broome County cypher is much shorter:

Beale “2” Cipher with Instructions and Translation

115, 73, 24, 807, 37, 52, 49, 17, 31, 62, 647, 22, 7, 15, 140, 47, 29, 107, 79, 84, 56, 239, 10, 26, 811, 5, 196, 308, 85, 52, 160, 136, 59, 211, 36, 9, 46, 316, 554, 122, 106, 95, 53, 58, 2, 42, 7, 35, 122, 53, 31, 82, 77, 250, 196, 56, 96, 118, 71, 140, 287, 28, 353, 37, 1005, 65, 147, 807, 24, 3, 8, 12, 47, 43, 59, 807, 45, 316, 101, 41, 78, 154, 1005, 122, 138, 191, 16, 77, 49, 102, 57, 72, 34, 73, 85, 35, 371, 59, 196, 81, 92, 191, 106, 273, 60, 394, 620, 270, 220, 106, 388, 287, 63, 3, 6, 191, 122, 43, 234, 400, 106, 290, 314, 47, 48, 81, 96, 26, 115, 92, 158, 191, 110, 77, 85, 197, 46, 10, 113, 140, 353, 48, 120, 106, 2, 607, 61, 420, 811, 29, 125, 14, 20, 37, 105, 28, 248, 16, 159, 7, 35, 19, 301, 125, 110, 486, 287, 98, 117, 511, 62, 51, 220, 37, 113, 140, 807, 138, 540, 8, 44, 287, 388, 117, 18, 79, 344, 34, 20, 59, 511, 548, 107, 603, 220, 7, 66, 154, 41, 20, 50, 6, 575, 122, 154, 248, 110, 61, 52, 33, 30, 5, 38, 8, 14, 84, 57, 540, 217, 115, 71, 29, 84, 63, 43, 131, 29, 138, 47, 73, 239, 540, 52, 53, 79, 118, 51, 44, 63, 196, 12, 239, 112, 3, 49, 79, 353, 105, 56, 371, 557, 211, 505, 125, 360, 133, 143, 101, 15, 284, 540, 252, 14, 205, 140, 344, 26, 811, 138, 115, 48, 73, 34, 205, 316, 607, 63, 220, 7, 52, 150, 44, 52, 16, 40, 37, 158, 807, 37, 121, 12, 95, 10, 15, 35, 12, 131, 62, 115, 102, 807, 49, 53, 135, 138, 30, 31, 62, 67, 41, 85, 63, 10, 106, 807, 138, 8, 113, 20, 32, 33, 37, 353, 287, 140, 47, 85, 50, 37, 49, 47, 64, 6, 7, 71, 33, 4, 43, 47, 63, 1, 27, 600, 208, 230, 15, 191, 246, 85, 94, 511, 2, 270, 20, 39, 7, 33, 44, 22, 40, 7, 10, 3, 811, 106, 44, 486, 230, 353, 211, 200, 31, 10, 38, 140, 297, 61, 603, 320, 302, 666, 287, 2, 44, 33, 32, 511, 548, 10, 6, 250, 557, 246, 53, 37, 52, 83, 47, 320, 38, 33, 807, 7, 44, 30, 31, 250, 10, 15, 35, 106, 160, 113, 31, 102, 406, 230, 540, 320, 29, 66, 33, 101, 807, 138, 301, 316, 353, 320, 220, 37, 52, 28, 540, 320, 33, 8, 48, 107, 50, 811, 7, 2, 113, 73, 16, 125, 11, 110, 67, 102, 807, 33, 59, 81, 158, 38, 43, 581, 138, 19, 85, 400, 38, 43, 77, 14, 27, 8, 47, 138, 63, 140, 44, 35, 22, 177, 106, 250, 314, 217, 2, 10, 7, 1005, 4, 20, 25, 44, 48, 7, 26, 46, 110, 230, 807, 191, 34, 112, 147, 44, 110, 121, 125, 96, 41, 51, 50, 140, 56, 47, 152, 540, 63, 807, 28, 42, 250, 138, 582, 98, 643, 32, 107, 140, 112, 26, 85, 138, 540, 53, 20, 125, 371, 38, 36, 10, 52, 118, 136, 102, 420, 150, 112, 71, 14, 20, 7, 24, 18, 12, 807, 37, 67, 110, 62, 33, 21, 95, 220, 511, 102, 811, 30, 83, 84, 305, 620, 15, 2, 10, 8, 220, 106, 353, 105, 106, 60, 275, 72, 8, 50, 205, 185, 112, 125, 540, 65, 106, 807, 138, 96, 110, 16, 73, 33, 807, 150, 409, 400, 50, 154, 285, 96, 106, 316, 270, 205, 101, 811, 400, 8, 44, 37, 52, 40, 241, 34, 205, 38, 16, 46, 47, 85, 24, 44, 15, 64, 73, 138, 807, 85, 78, 110, 33, 420, 505, 53, 37, 38, 22, 31, 10, 110, 106, 101, 140, 15, 38, 3, 5, 44, 7, 98, 287, 135, 150, 96, 33, 84, 125, 807, 191, 96, 511, 118, 40, 370, 643, 466, 106, 41, 107, 603, 220, 275, 30, 150, 105, 49, 53, 287, 250, 208, 134, 7, 53, 12, 47, 85, 63, 138, 110, 21, 112, 140, 485, 486, 505, 14, 73, 84, 575, 1005, 150, 200, 16, 42, 5, 4, 25, 42, 8, 16, 811, 125, 160, 32, 205, 603, 807, 81, 96, 405, 41, 600, 136, 14, 20, 28, 26, 353, 302, 246, 8, 131, 160, 140, 84, 440, 42, 16, 811, 40, 67, 101, 102, 194, 138, 205, 51, 63, 241, 540, 122, 8, 10, 63, 140, 47, 48, 140, 288.

By comparing the foregoing numbers with the corresponding numbers of the initial letters of the consecutive words in the Declaration of Independence, the translation will be found to be as follows:

I have deposited, in the county of Bedford, about four miles from Buford's, in an excavation or vault, six feet below the surface of the ground, the following articles, belonging jointly to the parties whose names are given in number "3," herewith:.

The first deposit consisted of one thousand and fourteen pounds of gold, and three thousand eight hundred and twelve pounds of silver, deposited November, 1819. The second was made December, 1821, and consisted of nineteen hundred and seven pounds of gold, and twelve hundred and eighty-eight pounds of silver; also jewels, obtained in St. Louis in exchange for silver to save transportation, and valued at \$13,000.

The above is securely packed in iron pots, with iron covers. The vault is roughly lined with stone, and the vessels rest on solid stone, and are covered with others. Paper number "1" describes the exact locality of the vault, so that no difficulty will be had in finding it.

Broome County Cypher with Translation

**2.9.14.7.8.1.13.20.15.14 2 18.15.15 13 5. 3 15.
21.14.20 25. 1.16 189.12 1st 1840. 6.18. 15.13.
25 15 21.18.6.18 25.14.4. 8 5 14.18.25**

The translation is.--Binghampton, Broome county, N. Y.-- your friend, Henry.

Both ciphers contain “errors” which can be categorized as follows:

- 1.) Errors of Omission: Numbers included in the cipher that are not translated into the decipherment. An example of this type of error from the Beale “2” cipher occurs in the phrase “The first deposit consisted of one thousand and fourteen pounds of gold...” In fact, a literal translation of the cipher reads, “The first deposit consisted of *ten hundred* and fourteen pounds of gold...” The translation omitted the phrase “ten hundred” in favor of the phrase “one thousand.”
- 2.) Errors of Addition: Words or letters added to the translation that do not correspond to any numbers in the cipher. An example of this type of error from the Beale “2” cipher occurs in the phrase “...also jewels, obtained in St. Louis in exchange *for silver* to save transportation...” The cipher does not contain any numbers which correspond to the phrase “for silver.”
- 3.) Erroneous Substitution: Letters included in the translation that do not correspond to letters (numbers) provided in the cipher key. An example of an erroneous substitution can be seen where the Beale author codes number 84 as the letter “c” instead of the letter “e” in the word “the” in the phrase, “Paper number “1” describes *the* exact locality...” The eighty-fourth word in the Declaration of Independence is “created” (the 85th is “equal”) and the Beale author used this coded number correctly five times to represent the letter “c” in his decryption but erroneously substituted a “c” for and “e” on two occasions.

One may suspect that “errors” of omission and addition which involve entire words, phrases or dates are not errors at all but subtractions or insertions made for some purpose independent of the decipherment. When a letter or number is off by one count, a mistake in counting or viewing may be presumed, but when an entire word is involved, something other than a mistake in decipherment may be occurring.

The Broome County Cypher

In the April 8, 1840 edition of *Alexander’s Weekly Messenger*, Edgar Poe published this message as part of his popular series on cryptography:

A press of business has prevented us, for one or two weeks past, from paying attention to our enigmatical correspondents--favors from several of whom we have on hand. We now proceed to square all accounts by a full solution of every thing received.

The first cypher we take up runs as follows:

**2.9.14.7.8.1.13.20.15.14 2 18.15.15 13 5. 3 15.
21.14.20 25. 1.16 189.12 1st 1840. 6.18. 15.13.
25 15 21.18.6.18 25.14.4. 8 5 14.18.25**

The translation is.--Binghampton, Broome county, N. Y.-- your friend, Henry.

(Credit: The Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore)

An examination of Poe’s decryption reveals that he did not, as he promised, provide a “full solution” to the Broome County cypher but, instead, included a few inconsistencies. The cipher literally reads:

BINGHAMTON BROOME COUNTY APRIL 1ST 1840 FROM YOUR FRIEND HENRY

- 1.) The cipher contains no number which corresponds to the letter “P” in the word “Binghampton” although Binghamton is spelled with a “P” in the decryption.
- 2.) The cipher contains no numbers which correspond to the letters “NY” although these letters appear in the decryption.
- 3.) The cipher includes numbers which represent the word “April” although the word “April” does not appear in the decryption.
- 4.) The decryption does not include the plaintext “1st 1840” although this “date” appears in the cipher.
- 5.) The cipher includes numbers which represent the word “from” although the word “from” does not appear in the decryption.
- 6.) The number “2” in the cipher must represent the letters “B” and/or “I” in order to decrypt the word “friend” spelled as “friend” instead of “frbend” or “frynd” in the decryption.

The Beale “2” cipher and the Broome County cypher contain similar decryption “errors”:

I. The Ciphers contain no numbers which correspond to words or letters in the decryption

The Beale “2” decryption contains the phrase: “...obtained in St. Louis in exchange for silver to save transportation...” The cipher, however, contains no numbers which correspond to the words “**for silver.**”

Similarly, the Broome County decryption - **Binghampton, Broome county, N. Y.-- your friend, Henry** contains no numbers which correspond to the letters, “NY.”

II. The Ciphers contain numbers which are not translated into the decipherment

The Beale “2” cipher contains this string of numbers: **34, 20, 59, 511, 548**, which corresponds to these words from the Declaration of Independence: *the have requires exposed encourage*. Although the first letter of these five DOI words translates to the word “three” the word “three” does not appear in the decryption. Instead, the Beale author used the number “3” in the decryption: “...**the following articles, belonging jointly to the parties whose names are given in number "3," herewith:**”

The Beale “2” cipher also contains the numbers: **10, 106, 807**, which correspond to the DOI words: *necessary of valuable* and translate to the abbreviation “**Nov.**” The decryption, however, translates to the phrase, “... **three thousand eight hundred and twelve pounds of silver, deposited November, 1819.**” The full spelling of November, which appears in the decryption, does not appear in the cipher.

A similar “error” can be seen in the Broome County cypher. The string of numbers: **1.16 189.12**, which can also be read: 1, 16, 18, 9, 12, corresponds to the letters **APRIL**, yet that word does not appear in the decryption.

The Broome County cypher contains another string of numbers: **6, 18, 15, 13**, which correspond to the letters: **FROM**, yet that word also does not appear in the decryption.

III. Dates

Both the Beale “2” cipher and the Broome County cypher contain “errors” involving dates. In the Beale “2” cipher, the literal translations of the dates, **November 1819 and December 1821** reads **Nov eighteen hundred and nineteen** and **Dec eighteen twenty one**, respectively.

In the Broome County cypher, despite its small size, Poe makes two “errors” involving dates. First, Poe fails to translate the numbers 1, 16, 18, 9 and 12 into the word **April**. He then compounds the mistake by failing to include the plain text phrase “1st 1840” in the decryption, thus eliminating the date, “April 1st, 1840” entirely from the translation provided to his readers.

IV. Numbers

There are “errors” involving numbers in both the Beale “2” cipher and the Broome County cypher. The Beale author “shortcuts” his decipherment of the cipher by not including a literal translation of the numbers:

Three, one, 1819, 1821

Further, the Beale author substitutes the numbers: One Thousand and Three Thousand for the numbers: Ten Hundred and Thirty (Hundred), respectively, when translating cipher weights of gold and silver. Finally, he translates “thirteen thousand dollars” into \$13,000.

Similarly, Poe “shortcuts” or actually eliminates entirely, the plaintext number: 1st from his translation in the Broome County cypher.

Poe’s other *Alexander’s Weekly Messenger* Cyphers

All of Poe’s 1840 cyphers contained at least one error, most involving an erroneous substitution. In one cypher, the Temperance Cypher, published on January 15, 1840, Poe inserts the word “fifth” into his translation without any corresponding code symbols.

In the March 25, 1840 edition of *Alexander’s Weekly Messenger*, Poe published a cypher from a reader who resided in Butler county, Alabama. In comparing this “Butler County cypher” and the “Broome County cypher,” to the Beale “2” cipher, with its references to Bedford County, one can’t help but notice the similarities involving references and errors in the words “county” and “hundred”, as well as the aforementioned mistakes with dates.

Take a look at the Butler County cypher translation:

The village of Greenville, Butler county, Alabama, is about one hundred and forty miles from the city of Mobile.

Note the similar phrases, “...Butler county, Alabama, is about one hundred and forty miles from the city...” and the Beale “2” cipher wording, “...in the county of Bedford, about four miles from Buford’s...” Three ciphers, all involving the location of a county in the decryption, perhaps just a coincidence!

The Journal of Julius Rodman

At the same time Poe was solving his cyphers in *Alexander’s Weekly Messenger*, he published *The Journal of Julius Rodman* monthly from January to June 1840 in *Burton’s Gentleman’s Magazine*. *Julius Rodman* is very nearly the precise inverse of *The Beale Papers*. Both stories involve groups of honorable gentlemen, led by charismatic Virginians, who travel to the Western wilderness. In the course of their journey, Rodman’s men reverse motives from their initial mercantile objective of acquiring wealth by trapping peltries in the Rockies to a disdain for profit in favor of a love of nature. Just the opposite occurs with Beale’s group of

roving adventures, who initially seek only to hunt for pleasure in the wilds of the American Southwest but change immediately to a mercantile organization lusting for wealth when they discover gold and silver near Santa Fe. Interestingly, the metamorphosis of both groups occurs during the middle of the second April of their adventures. After a disagreement with Burton in June 1840, Poe discontinued publication of the incomplete *Journal of Julius Rodman*, and the story vanished from Poe's canon in the remaining decade of his life.

The similarity of the decryption errors in Poe's 1840 *Alexander's Weekly Messenger* cyphers, and those found in the Beale "2" cipher, along with the inverse relationship between the 1840 *Journal of Julius Rodman* and *The Beale Papers* may warrant further study.

Why insert deliberate "errors" in decipherments?

Why would Poe and the Beale author deliberately place "errors" in their decipherments? With respect to Poe, the answer may relate to his primary reason for introducing cyphers, or any other writing, into the news at all, to sell newspapers. Poe's "cypher campaign" was very successful, increasing subscription levels as much as five times by some accounts. It may be that Poe recognized the small thrill enjoyed by his readers every time they "caught" him in a deciphering error. Certainly his cyphers were the talk of the town and most readers were very impressed with Poe's code breaking skills.

Poe may also have wished to convey the image of a very successful but extremely busy editor. By deliberately placing errors in his decryptions he may have helped to present the picture of an extremely intelligent newspaper professional just barely able to keep pace with the crush of intellectual demands on his time. Certainly Poe's comments prior to publication of the Broome County cypher convey the image of a busy editor:

A press of business has prevented us, for one or two weeks past, from paying attention to our enigmatical correspondents--favors from several of whom we have on hand.

Of course, Poe may well have been very busy and the errors legitimate, who can say?

As to the Beale author, perhaps his motivations for placing errors in the Beale "2" decipherment were similar to Poe's motives for publishing "errors" in *Alexander's Weekly Messenger*, he wanted to develop interest in the story. By creating an "interest and excitement not to be resisted," the Beale author recognized that his readers would be enticed, perhaps even thrilled, to discover his "errors." Certainly, over the years the "errors," along with the rest of the idiosyncrasies surrounding the Beale story, have generated considerable interest.

Finally it should be noted that Poe never signed his name as author of any of the 1840 cyphers or *The Journal of Julius Rodman*. Over the years, Poe scholars have attributed various unsigned works to Poe but most of these attributions occurred long after 1885. Therefore, it is much less likely that the Beale author was honoring Poe by mimicking Poe's cypher "errors" or his story plot in *Julius Rodman* since Poe's authorship of these works was not publicly known in 1885. Of course, the possibility still remains that Edgar Poe, one of the greatest English language writers, is the author of *The Beale Papers*.

Reference

A decryption of the Beale “2” cipher and the Broome County cypher is provided for reference:

Beale “2” Cipher with Key, Translation and “Workpaper” Decryption

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

When¹, in² the³ course⁴ of⁵ human⁶ events⁷ it⁸ becomes⁹ necessary¹⁰ for one people to dissolve the political bands which have (20) connected them with another. and to assume among the powers (30) of the earth, the separate and equal station to which (40) the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, (50) a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that (60) they should declare the causes which impel them to the (70) separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that (80) all men are created equal: that they are endowed by (90) their Creator with certain inalienable rights: that among these are (100) life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure (110) their rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just (120) powers from the consent of the governed; that when any (130) form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is (140) the right of the people to alter or to abolish (150) it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation (160) on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, (170) as to them shall seem most likely to effect their (180) safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long (190) established, should not be changed for light and transient causes; (200) and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are now (210) disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right (220) themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. (230) But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing (240) invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under(250) absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, (260) to throw off such government, and to provide new guards (270) for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance (280) of these colonies, and such is now the necessity which (290) constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The (300) history of the present King of Great Britain is a (310) history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct (320) object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States. (330) To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid (340) world.

He has refused his assent to laws the most (350) wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden (360) his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, (370) unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be (380) obtained; and when so suspended he has utterly neglected to (390) attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws (400) for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those (410) people would relinquish their right of representation in the legislature, (420) a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. (430)

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable (440) and distant from the depository of their public records, for (450) the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his (460) measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly for opposing with (470) manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people. (480)

He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, (480) to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, (490) incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large(500) for their exercise, the State remaining, in the meantime, (510) exposed to all the danger of invasion from without, and (520) convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of (530) these States, for that purpose, obstructing the laws of naturalization (540) of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration (550) hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands. (560)

He has obstructed the administration of justice by refusing his (570) assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made (580) judges dependent on his will alone for the tenure of (590) their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. (600)

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent (610) hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat (620) out their substance.

He has kept among us in times (630) of peace standing armies, without the consent of our legislature.

He (640) has offered to render the military independent of and superior (650) to the civil power.

He has combined with others to (660) subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and (670) unacknowledged by our laws, giving his assent to their acts of (680) pretended legislation.

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among (690) us;

For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment, (700) for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants (710) of these States;

For cutting off our trade with all (720) parts of the world;

For imposing taxes on us without (730) our consent;

For depriving us, in many cases, of the (740) benefits of trial by jury;

For transporting us beyond seas (750) to be tried for pretended offenses;

For abolishing the free (760) system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein (770) an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries so as to (780) render it, at once, an example and fit instrument for (790) introducing the same absolute rule in these colonies;

For taking (800) away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws and altering (810) fundamentally, (811) the(812) powers (813) of (814) our (815) governments; (816)

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases, whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is, at this time, transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun, with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

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.

In every stage of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them, from time to time, of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them, by the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connection and correspondence. They, too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and consanguinity.

We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war--in peace, friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in general congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by authority of the good people of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these United Colonies are, and of right, ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved, and that, 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. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

The letter, or paper, so often alluded to, and marked "2," which is fully explained by the foregoing document, is as follows.

115, 73, 24, 807, 37, 52, 49, 17, 31, 62, 647, 22,

Instituted hold another valuable equal decent entitle political of should independent them

i h a v e d e p o s i t

7, 15, 140, 47, 29, 107, 79, 84, 56, 239, 10, 26,

Events dissolve is nature's the happiness evident *created* opinions usurpations necessary to

e d i n t h e c o u n t

811, 5, 196, 308, 85, 52, 160, 136, 59, 211, 36, 9, 46,

Fundamentally of for Britain equal decent foundation of requires disposed and becomes of

y o f B e d f o r d a b o

316, 554, 122, 106, 95, 53, 58, 2, 42, 7, 35, 122, 53

Usurpations the from of *inalienable* respect mankind in laws events separate from respect

u t f o u r m i l e s f r

31, 82, 77, 250, 196, 56, 96, 118, 71, 140, 287, 28, 353, 37, 1005,

Of men be under for opinions rights deriving separation is now among necessary equal XXX

o m B u f o r d s i n a n e x

65, 147, 807, 24, 3, 8, 12, 47, 43, 59, 807, 45, 316, 101, 41,

Causes alter valuable another the it one nature's of requires valuable and usurpations life the

c a v a t i o n o r v a u l t

78, 154, 1005, 122, 138, 191, 16, 77, 49, 102, 57, 72, 34, 73, 85, 35, 371,

Self institute xxx from ends established the be entitle liberty of we the hold equal separate unless

s i x f e e t b e l o w t h e s u

59, 196, 81, 92, 191, 106, 273, 60, 394, 620, 270, 220, 106, 388, 287, 63,

requires for all Creator established of future that he eat guards right of utterly now declare

r f a c e o f t h e g r o u n d

3, 6, 191, 122, 43, 234, 400, 106, 290, 314, 47, 48, 81, 96, 26, 115,

the human established from of long laws of which injuries nature's God all rights to instituted

t h e f o l l o w i n g a r t i

92, 158, 191, 110, 77, 85, 197, 46, 10, 113, 140, 353, 48, 120, 106,

creator laying established secure be equal light of necessary government's is necessary God just of

c l e s b e l o n g i n g j o

2, 607, 61, 420, 811, 29, 125, 14, 20, 37, 105, 28, 248, 16, 159, 7, 35,

in new they legislature *fundamentally* the of to have equal pursuit among reduce the its events separate

i n t l y t o t h e p a r t i e s

19, 301, 125, 110, 486, 287, 98, 117, 511, 62, 51, 220, 37, 113, 140,

which history of secure *elected* now among men exposed should a right equal government's is

w h o s e n a m e s a r e g i

807, 138, 540, 8, 44, 287, 388, 117, 18, 79, 344, *34, 20, 59, 511 548*

valuable ends naturalization it nature now utterly men bands evident refused *the have requires exposed encourage*

v e n i n n u m b e r "3"

107, 603, 220, 7, 66, 154, 41, 20, 50, 6, 575, 122, 154, 248, 110,

happiness erected right events which institute the have them human establishing from institute reduce secure

h e r e w i t h t h e f i r s

61, 52, 33, 30, 5, 38, 8, 14, *84*, 57, 540, 217, 115, 71, 29, *84*

They decent earth powers of station it to *created* of naturalization sufferable instituted separation the *created*

t d e p o s i t c o n s i s t c (e)

63, 43, 131, *29, 138, 47, 73, 239, 540, 52, 53, 79, 118*, 51, 44,

declare of form *the ends nature's hold usurpations naturalization decent respect evident deriving a nature*

d o f *t e n h u n d r e d a n*

ONE THOUSAND

63, 196, 12, 239, 112, 3, 49, 79, 353, 105, 56, 371, 557, 211, 505, 125,

declare for one usurpations rights the entitle evident necessary pursuit opinions unless new disposed State of

d f o u r t e e n p o u n d s o

360, 133, 143, 101, 15, 284, 540, 252, *14, 205, 140, 344, 26*,

forbidden government of life dissolve and naturalization despotism *to hath is refused to*

f g o l d a n d *t h i r t*

811, 138, 115, 48, 73, 34, 205, 316, 607, 63, 220, 7, 52, 150,

fundamentally ends instituted God hold the hath usurpations new declare right events decent abolish

y e i g h t h u n d r e d a

THREE THOUSAND

44, 52, 16, 40, 37, 158, 807, 37, 121, 12, 95, 10, 15, 35,

nature decent the which equal laying valuable equal powers one *inalienable* necessary dissolve separate

n d t w e l v e p o u n d s

12, 131, 62, 115, 102, 807, 49, 53, 135, 138, 30, 31, 62, 67,

One form should instituted liberty valuable entitle respect destructive ends powers of should impel

o f s i l v e r d e p o s i

41, 85, 63, 10, 106, 807, 138, 8, 113, 20, 32, 33, 37, 353, 287, 140

the equal declare *necessary of valuable ends it governments have the earth equal necessary now is*

t e d n o v e i g h t e e n n i

NOVEMBER

1819

47, 85, 50, 37, 49, 47, 64, 6, 7, 71, 33, 4, 43, 47, 63,

nature's equal them equal entitle nature's the human events separation earth course of nature's declare

n e t e e n t h e s e c o n d

1, 27, 600, 208, 230, 15, 191, 246, 85, 94, 511, 2, 270

when assume salaries mankind accustomed dissolve established a/d equal certain exposed in guards

w a s m a d e d e c e i g

DECEMBER

20, 39, 7, 33, 44, 22, 40, 7, 10, 3, 811, 106, 44, 486,

have to events earth nature them which events necessary the fundamentally of nature long/elected

h t e e n t w e n t y o n e

1821

230, 353, 211, 200, 31, 10, 38, 140, 297, 61, 603, 320, 302 666

accustomed necessary disposed causes of necessary station is systems they erected direct of foreign

a n d c o n s i s t e d o f

287, 2, 44, 33, 32, 511, 548, 10, 6, 250, 557, 246, 53, 37, 52,

now in nature earth the exposed encourage necessary human under new *a/design* respect equal decent

n i n e t e e n h u n *d* r e d

83, 47, 320, 38, 33, 807, 7, 44, 30, 31, 250, 10, 15, 35, 106,

are nature's direct station earth valuable events nature powers of under necessary dissolve separate of

a n d s e v e n p o u n d s o

160, 113, 31, 102, 406, 230, 540, 320, 29, 66, 33, 101, 807

foundation governments of liberty districts accustomed naturalization direct the which earth life valuable

f g o l d a n d t w e l v

138, 301, 316, 353, 320, 220, 37, 52, 28, 540, 320, 33, 8, 48,

ends history usurpations necessary direct right equal decent among naturalization direct earth it God

e h u n d r e d a n d e i g

107, 50, *811*, 7, 2, 113, 73, 16, 125, 11, 110, 67, 102, 807, 33,

happiness them *fundamentally* events in governments hold the of for secure impel liberty valuable earth

h t *y* e i g h t o f s i l v e

59, 81, 158, 38, 43, 581, 138, 19, 85, 400, 38, 43, 77, 14, 27, 8, 47, 138,

requires all laying station of judges ends which equal laws station of be to assume it nature's ends

r a l s o j e w e l s o b t a i n e

63, 140, 44, 35, 22, 177, 106, 250, 314, 217, 2, 10, 7, 1005, 4, 20,

declare is nature separate them likely of under injuries sufferable in necessary events xx course have

d i n s t l o u i s i n e x c h

25, 44, 48, 7, 26, 46, 110, 230, 807, 191, 34, 112, 147, 44, 110, 121

and nature God events to of secure accustomed valuable established the rights alter nature secure powers

a n g e t o s a v e t r a n s p

FOR SILVER

125, 96, 41, 51, 50, 140, 56, 47, 152, 540, 63, 807, 28, 42, 250, 138,

of rights the a them is opinion nature's and naturalization declare valuable among laws under ends

o r t a t i o n a n d v a l u e

582, 98, 643, 32, 107, 140, 112, 26, 85, 138, 540, 53, 20, 125, 371,

dependent among to *the happiness is rights to equal ends naturalization respect have of unless*

d a t \$13,000 (t)r

38, 36, 10, 52, 118, 136, 102, 420, 150, 112, 71, 14, 20, 7, 24,

station and necessary decent deriving of liberty legislature abolish rights separation to have events another

DOLLARS t h e a

18, 12, 807, 37, 67, 110, 62, 33, 21, 95, 220, 511, 102, 811,

bands one valuable equal impel secure should earth connected *inalienable* right exposed liberty *fundamentally*

b o v e i s s e c u r e l y

30, 83, 84, 305, 620, 15, 2, 10, 8, 220, 106, 353, 105, 106, 60, 275, 72, 8, 50

powers are *created* king eat dissolve in necessary it right of necessary pursuit of that such we it them

p a c k e d i n i r o n p o t s w i t

205, 185, 112, 125, 540, 65, 106, 807, 138, 96, 110, 16, 73, 33, 807,

hath indeed rights of naturalization causes of valuable ends rights secure the hold earth valuable

h i r o n c o v e r s t h e v

150, 409, 400, 50, 154, 285, 96, 106, 316, 270, 205, 101, 811, 400, 8, 44,

abolish unless laws them institute such rights of usurpations guards hath life *fundamentally* laws it nature

a u l t i s r o u g h l y l i n

37, 52, 40, 241, 34, 205, 38, 16, 46, 47, 85, 24, 44, 15, 64, 73, 138,

equal decent which invariably the hath station the of nature's equal another nature dissolve the hold ends

e d w i t h s t o n e a n d t h e

807, 85, 78, 110, 33, 420, 505, 53, 37, 38, 22, 31, 10, 110, 106, 101, 140,

valuable equal self secure earth legislature State respect equal station them of necessary secure of life is

v e s s e l s r e s t o n s o l i
15, 38, 3, 5, 44, 7, 98, 287, 135, 150, 96, 33, 84, 125, 807, 191,
dissolve station the of nature events among now destructive abolish rights earth *created* of valuable established
d s t o n e a n d a r e *c* o v e
96, 511, 118, 40, 370, 643, 466, 106, 41, 107, 603, 220, 275, 30, 150,
rights exposed deriving which importance to houses of the happiness erected right such powers abolish
r e d w i t h o t h e r s p a
105, 49, 53, 287, 250, 208, 134, 7, 53, 12, 47, 85, 63, 138, 110,
pursuit entitle respect now under mankind becomes events respect *one nature's equal* declare ends secure
p e r n u m b e r "1" d e s
21, 112, 140, 485, 486, 505, 14, 73, 84, 575, 1005, 150, 200, 16, 42, 5,
connected rights is *be elected* State to hold *created* establishing xxxxx abolish causes the laws of
c r i *b e* s t h *c(e)* e x a c t l o
4, 25, 42, 8, 16, 811, 125, 160, 32, 205, 603, 807, 81, 96, 405, 41, 600,
course and laws it the fundamentally of foundation the hath erected valuable all *rights* large the salaries
c a l i t y o f t h e v a *r(u)* l t s
136, 14, 20, 28, 26, 353, 302, 246, 8, 131, 160, 140, 84, 440, 42, 16,
of to have among to necessary of *a* it form foundation is *created* uncomfortable laws the
o t h a t n o *a(d)* i f f i *c* u l t
811, 40, 67, 101, 102, 194, 138, 205, 51, 63, 241, 540, 122, 8, 10,
fundamentally which impel life liberty be ends hath a declare invariably naturalization from it necessary
y w i l l b e h a d i n f i n
63, 140, 47, 48, 140, 288.
declare is nature's God is the
d i n g i t

By comparing the foregoing numbers with the corresponding numbers of the initial letters of the consecutive words in the Declaration of Independence, the translation will be found to be as follows:

I have deposited, in the county of Bedford, about four miles from Buford's, in an excavation or vault, six feet below the surface of the ground, the following articles, belonging jointly to the parties whose names are given in number "3," herewith:.

The first deposit consisted of one thousand and fourteen pounds of gold, and three thousand eight hundred and twelve pounds of silver, deposited November, 1819. The second was made December, 1821, and consisted of nineteen hundred and seven pounds of gold, and twelve hundred and eighty-eight pounds of silver; also jewels, obtained in St. Louis in exchange for silver to save transportation, and valued at \$13,000.

The above is securely packed in iron pots, with iron covers. The vault is roughly lined with stone, and the vessels rest on solid stone, and are covered with others. Paper number "1" describes the exact locality of the vault, so that no difficulty will be had in finding it.

Broome County Cypher with Translation and "Workpaper" Decryption

2.9.14.7.8.1.13.20.15.14 2 18.15.15 13 5. 3 15.
21.14.20 25. 1.16 189.12 1st 1840. 6.18. 15.13.
25 15 21.18.6.18 25.14.4. 8 5 14.18.25

The translation is.--Binghampton, Broome county, N. Y.-- your friend, Henry.

Workpaper Decryption

2. 9. 14. 7. 8. 1. 13. 20. 15. 14 2 18. 15. 15 13 5.

B i n g h a m t o n B r o o m e

3 15. 21. 14. 20 25. 1. 16 18 9. 12

c o u n t y A p r i l

1st 1840. 6. 18. 15. 13.

1st 1840 f r o m

25 15 21. 18. 6. 18 2 5. 14. 4. 8 5 14. 18.25

y o u r f r i e n d H e n r y

