424 No. George Mason Dr.
Arlington, Va.
11 August 1950

Mrs. Mina R. Bryan
Assistant Editor
The Papers of Thomas Jefferson
Princeton University Library
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mrs. Bryan:

Referring to my letter of 15 July 1950, and to the

Jefferson Mss fragment in the Massachusetts Historical Society,

I am pleased to enclose herewith a copy of a letter from the

National Bureau of Standards, which clears up the mystery.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN

Incl.

C O P Y

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Bureau of Standards
Washington 25

11.2/2.0

July 25, 1950

Mr. William F. Friedman
424 N. George Mason Drive
Arlington, Va.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

In reply to your letter of July 19 to Dr. Condon I am

returning the enclosed photostat. It appears to be a draft

of a table for converting temperatures from the Reaumur to

the Farenheit scale. It was probably intended to be attached

to a thermometer. The exact conversion formula is $F = 2.25 R + 32$.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Franz L. Alt
Franz L. Alt
Assistant Chief,
Computation Laboratory

Enclosure

424 N. George Mason Drive
Arlington, Va.
July 15, 1950

Mrs. Mina R. Bryan
Assistant Editor
The Papers of Thomas Jefferson
Princeton University Library
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mrs. Bryan:

Thank you so much for your very kind letter of 26 June and for its inclosure.

I have taken the liberty of having copies made and therefore I am returning your original of the fragment in the Massachusetts Historical Society. I had some of my friends take a look at the photostat to see what they can make of it; at the moment we are quite sure that it has nothing to do with cryptography. The design seems to be one for a sort of medallion to be worn on a watch chain. The tabular material runs from + 28 to - 24 in steps of 4 units in the R column; and all the tables fit the formula $F = 2.25 R + 31$. These are also interpolation tables which run from .00 to 4.00 in intervals of .25. I don't know what R or F represent, nor do I know why anybody would want tables of so simple a function. Mental arithmetic will do very nicely. Perhaps I'll have one of my astronomer friends look at the photostat, and if he comes up with an answer, I'll be glad to write you.

I wish to thank you for your information from Mrs. Kimball even though it was negative. I have not given up hope entirely, however, and someday may turn up a bit more information. Early last May I visited "Poplar Forest" and established cordial friendship with the young people who live there now. There is a possibility that something may be found there.

I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Boyd in Washington at the time of the ceremony at the Library of Congress. I wish I had known you were there too and I would have made my presence known to you so that we could have had a chat.

Thank you for your courtesy, I am

Sincerely yours,

1 Incl.

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN