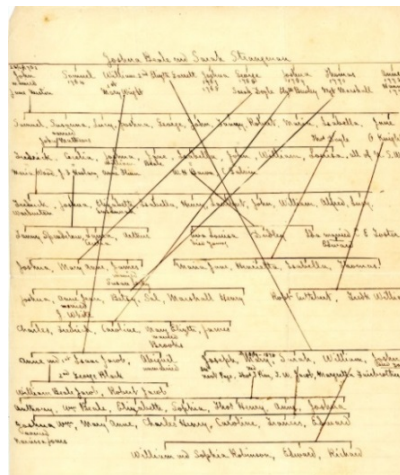


BEALE PAPERS

Octavius Charles Beale, piano manufacturer, was born on 23 February 1850 at Mountmellick, Queen's County (Leix), Ireland, son of Joseph Beale, woolen manufacturer, and his wife Margaret, née Davis. In December 1854 Octavius and his mother joined his father and brothers in Van Diemen's Land. Brought up as a Quaker, Beale was sent back to Ireland in 1859 to be educated for six years at Newton School, Waterford. At 16 he returned to Melbourne and embarked on a commercial career, joining a Melbourne hardware firm, Brooks, Robinson & Co. At 23 Beale set up a branch in New Zealand. He returned to Melbourne and became a partner two years later.

On 9 October 1875 at the Congregational Church, Woollahra, Sydney, Octavius Beale married Elizabeth Baily, and they had thirteen children together. Elizabeth died in 1901 and Beale married her sister Katherine on 4 March 1903.¹



Hand-drawn Descendant Chart

SAG Manuscript and Images Collection 4/600094

Later on Beale became interested in the importation of sewing machines. He then established a factory for the manufacture of the woodwork and iron-frames of the machines, and afterwards became interested in the importation of pianos. After a brief association with Hugo Wertheim in Melbourne as sewing-machine importers, he moved to Sydney about 1884 and established Beale & Co., Ltd, piano and sewing-machine importers. Beale felt that pianos should be manufactured in Australia and in 1893 at Annandale he established a large piano factory. Indeed, Beale and Company rose to be the largest piano manufacturer in the British Empire, producing some 95,000 pianos from 1893 to 1975 making it the largest piano manufacturer in Australia. The French music critic Oscar Comettant, visiting Australia in 1898 commented that "...there is probably no piano factory in the world so completely self-contained as the Beale Factory at Annandale, NSW. Certainly, there is none in the British Empire that produces nearly so many parts used in piano making..."³ Beale & Co. made all their own components and introduced a revolutionary improvement, the all-iron tuning system, which was patented in 1902. The business prospered, and Beale was managing director until 1930.²

Beale and Co., founded in 1893 by Octavius Charles Beale, the building that housed the factory at 47 Trafalgar Street in Annandale still stands today - a testimony to the strength of the thriving Australian piano industry of the day.³ Current production potential is a staggering 100,000 pianos annually, exported to every corner of the globe. State of the art production techniques ensure a purity of touch and tone, coupled with longevity previously unheard of in this price range. The Beale piano you purchase today is assured to be a family heirloom, cherished and handed down from one generation to the next.³

Octavius Beale was a man of many parts and of many activities. He combined the refinement of a classical education with the forcefulness of a successful man of affairs. While his letters suggest a quiet confidence, his family remembered him as a stern paterfamilias in the Victorian manner.²

Beale was a much travelled man, and a linguist of no mean order. He was a freeman of the City of London, a fellow of the Royal Historical Society (England), and a member of the Authors' Club. His hobby was botany in general, and orchid-growing in particular, and he was recognised as an authority on Australian timber. He was a trustee of the Australian Museum, and of the old Barrack-street Savings Bank. He was the first president of the Federated Chamber of Manufacturers, and had been president of the New South Wales Chamber. He took an active part in Masonic affairs, and was a Past Master of Prince Alfred Lodge (Petersham), and Lodge Research (Sydney).²

Mr. Beale's capabilities were recognised by his appointment to the Royal Commission created by the Federal Government, to report on deleterious drugs. That report caused a sensation at the time, particularly in its bearing on the composition of certain patent medicines. He was also a member of the State Royal Commission on Birth Control, and in 1901 sat as a member of the committee which dealt with distress consequent on the drought.²

Octavius Beale was killed instantly in a motor vehicle accident at Stroud, New South Wales, on 16 December 1930 and was buried in St Thomas's Church of England cemetery, Enfield. He was survived by his second wife Katherine and his children from his first marriage, six sons and four daughters. Four of his sons were associated with the business at the time of his death. The sons were Messrs. Lionel, Ronald (who was been general manager and a director of Beale and Co., Ltd., for many years), Rupert, and Harold (directors), Cyril (also in the business), and Dr. Hector Beale, of London. The daughters were Mrs. Campbell, wife of the Rev. A. P. Campbell, of Killara; Mrs. R. T. Lamble, of Strathfield, and Misses Ruth and Mary Beale.²

Value as a research tool

If you interested in the family history of Octavius Charles Beale, the Beale Records is a collection of papers, diaries, letters and photographs worth browsing through. A large collection of source material to assist in your research of the man behind Australia's most famous piano manufacturers.

Guide to using the Beale Papers

A collection of papers, diaries, letters and photographs relating to the family history of the Beale family of Sydney including Octavius Charles Beale, piano manufacturer of Annandale.

Family Research Papers

03/000623 RICHARDSON Elizabeth Joseph - Eleven double-sided handwritten letters from Elizabeth Joseph Richardson to Margaret Beale; original letters dated 1855 & 1859

03/000624 LEADBEATER - Photocopies of 8 handwritten letters mainly from Mary Leadbeater of Ballitore 1787-1854 (17 PP)

03/000625 GRELLET Stephen - Stephen Grellet: letters, 1814, 1835 (Beale Papers); Jonas and A Stott of Dominique St Dublin addressees of holograph letter from Stephen Grellet, Ghent 1814 (4pp)

03/000626 TUKE & WHEELER - Photocopies of two letters from Elizabeth Tuke to Margaret Grubb (1791 & 1792) together with descendant chart of William Tuke (died 1669) (9 pp)

03/000627 STRANGMAN - Three handwritten pedigree charts relating to the Beale and Strangman families together with notes (1620-1921) (5 pp)



- 03/000628** HOWIE - Single handwritten page of notes on Howie family (1900) by William Howie of Glenferrie Vic 1900
- 03/000629** WATSON - Six handwritten letters from Hornor to Samuel Watson 1731-1742; two partial pages addressed to Abigail Boles (Beale Papers) (18 pp)
- 03/000630** GRUBB - Photocopies of correspondence and notes, belonging to the Grubb family covering 1776-1957 (Beale Papers) as well as an 1824 holograph letter from Sarah Avenell Clougheen (61 pp)
- 03/000631** SHACKLETON Margaret - Fourteen letters from members of the Pim Family to various members of the Beale Family (1951-1957), as well as nine letters to Margaret Shackleton of Ballitore IRE (1770-1771), Margaret Beale to Mary Pim (1850), Adelaide Pim to H E Beale (1902) and notes on Pim family (Beale Papers). Also included are 3 letters from Mary Pim to Margaret Beale in Australia (1855) (abt 60 pp)
- 03/000632** SHACKLETON Richard - Seven handwritten letters from 1767-1797 between the Shackleton family members and Grubb & Beale families 1852 (Holograph letter to Sarah R. Grubb, 5 June 1790, London. (abt 20 pp)
- 03/000633** PIKE Mary - Mary Pike daughter of Samuel Pike of Cork - pedigree and notes; including her attempted abduction by Sir H Hayes of Mount Vernon and Vaucluse (3 pp)
- 03/000634** BEALE - Correspondence and notes relating to the Beale family 1208-1914 (Beale Papers)with 2 descendant charts (abt 50 pp)
- 03/000635** DICKS Zachariah - Tale of Zachariah Dicks (an American Quaker); as well as covering notes by Margaret Beale Richmond VIC June 1859 (5 pp)
- 03/000636** FAYLE R D - Mrs R D Fayle (nee Milner) of Bournemouth letter to H G Beale 1933 re Monordreigh and Mountmellick (3 pp)
- 03/000637** BARCROFT - Hand drawn descendant chart of William & Margaret Barcroft, showing seven generations
- 03/000638** BEALE Christopher - Correspondence and notes relating to Christopher Beale and members of his family researched by Florence Beale (15 pp)
- 03/000647** DAVIS Sarah - Fourteen letters from various members of the Davis family to Margaret Beale (1852-1901)
- 03/000648** JACOB - Handwritten notes (1652-1902) and correspondence (1891) relating to the Jacob family as well as a descendant chart of William Beale (1765-1871) (7 pp)
- 03/000649** BEALE - Photocopies of fourteen letters between members of the Beale family from 1844 to 1889 from Ireland, Waterford and Sydney (24 pp)
- 04/000510** EDWARD VII - Coronation of Edward VII, 1902 - Invitations to Procession and Banquet
- 04/000511** ILLUSTRATED TASMANIAN MAIL - 12 January 1933
- 04/000512** LONDON NEWSPAPERS - London Strike, May 1926 as reported in various London papers
- 04/000513** EVENING NEWS - Evening News, Sydney, 23 January 1901 (Micro edition)
- 04/000514** SYDNEY MORNING HERALD - Sydney Morning Herald, 2 January 1901 (Micro edition, 2 copies)
- 04/000515** DAILY TELEGRAPH - Daily Telegraph (Sydney) 2 March 1891 (Micro edition)



- 04/000516** DAILY TELEGRAPH - Daily Telegraph (Sydney) 2 January 1901 (Micro edition, 2 copies)
- 04/000519** BEALE PAPERS - Index of Beale collection of papers and their location in Primary Records
- 04/000558** SHACKLETON, MARY - To Hannah Haughton by Mary Shackleton - Collections of Poems composed by a friend
- 04/000559** LEADBEATER, MARY - Notebook outlining Mary Leadbeater's character with short account of her last moments, by Elizabeth Shackleton, Ballitore 1827. pp71
- 04/000561** BEALE FAMILY - Beale family: miscellaneous correspondence - 13 letters fully described in file
- 04/006091** BEALE FAMILY - A collection of letters & receipt written 1737-1846 by members of the Beale family of Mountmellick, Ireland
- 04/006092** BEALE - Children of Joseph & Margaret Beale: list of birth of Beale family (1833-1850),
- 04/006093** BEALE - Beale family in Australia: Christopher Beale married Susan Sparrow, pedigree from 1619
- 04/006094** BEALE - Beale pedigrees family trees from 1619
- 04/006095** BEALE - Beale pedigree & trees from 1619
- 04/006097** BEALE - Beale family of Sussex England : misc. notes
- 04/006098** BEALE - Index to Beale family & connections
- 04/006099** BEALE - Bruce & Eldon Beale: misc. documents c1940's
- 04/014059** COLLINGS - Descendant chart of Matthew Collings and Hannah Beale of Glastonbury ENG from 1753 to 1971 - Laver papers
- 04/025247** - Typescript copies of letters of the Beale family 1874 - 1945 includes a large number to daughters Ruth & Maydo 1906 -1919 by Octavius Charles Beale (1850-1930): 86pp

Photographs and Pictures

- 05/000497** BEALE, ELIZABETH JOSEPH - 2 cartes de visite photographs of Elizabeth Joseph Richardson, nee Beale, with inscription on reverse.
- 05/000498** WATSON FAMILY - 7 cartes de visite and 5 cabinet portraits for William Henry Watson and family, dated 1881-1893, identified on reverse.
- 05/000499** BEALE FAMILY - 27 photographs of Beale family residences in Sydney and Melbourne, c1907 to c1936, with inscriptions on reverse.
- 05/000500** BEALE FAMILY - 20 photographs of the Beale family's motor cars, with inscriptions on reverse.
- 05/000501** SPARROW'S HOUSE, IPSWICH, ENGLAND - Postcard view of The Ancient House (Sparrows House), Ipswich, Suffolk, England.
- 05/000502** BEALE, MYRTLE - Photograph of Myrtle Beale with Samuel and Winifred Pim, Anngrove, Mountmellick, Eire 10 Jun 1951.
- 05/000503** ANNGROVE, MOUNTMELICK, EIRE - 2 photographs of the residence Anngrove, Mountmellick, Eire, with inscriptions on reverse.



05/000504 BEALE FAMILY - 24 photographs of Francis Joseph Beale born 1885, and family c 1870, with inscriptions on reverse. Also one negative.

05/000505 MATTHEWS, JANE BEALE - Carte de visite of Jane Beale Matthews, with inscription on reverse.

05/000506 HOWIE FAMILY - 22 cartes de visite and snapshots of William Howie and family. Photographer C Hewitt, Melbourne.

05/000507 BEALE, FRANCIS - 6 photographs of the Beale family - Francis Beale died 1921 and Herbert George Beale, identified on reverse.

05/000508 BEALE, STANLEY - Cabinet print of W Leslie Beale, also photographs of Stanley and Mabel Beale and Belmont Cottage, with inscriptions.

05/000509 BEALE, OCTAVIUS CHARLES - 13 photographs of Octavius Charles Beale and his family, with inscriptions on reverse. Photographers C Hewitt Melbourne, W Hoffert Germany, Foster Martin Melbourne, Elliott & Fry London, Stewart Co. Melbourne.

05/000510 SAUNDERS FAMILY - 9 snapshots of the Saunders and Beale family, mostly identified on reverse

05/000511 MUDGE FAMILY - 7 snapshot photographs of John Mudge and family, mostly identified on reverse.

05/000512 SAUNDERS FAMILY - 6 snapshot photographs of the Saunders family in Switzerland and Spain c1931, identified on reverse.

05/000513 LITTLE ANNEGROVE - 17 black and white/colour photographs of Little Annegrove, home of Walter Saunders in England 1939, some with inscriptions on reverse.

05/000514 WHITCHURCH BUCKS - 11 photographs of The Grange, Whitchurch, Bucks, also Myrtle Beale, Ernest Walter Saunders, J Bertha Saunders and John Mudge. Inscriptions on reverse.

05/000515 IRELAND - 10 photographs of various places in Ireland, inscriptions on reverse.

05/000516 CREETH FAMILY - 11 photographs (9 cartes de visite and 2 cabinet prints) of the Creeth family, identified on reverse. Various photographers.

05/000517 WALKER FAMILY - Mounted photograph of Ernest Walker, his wife Margaret (nee Beale) and family, Lindfield 1893, inscription on reverse.

05/000520 WANDANDIAN - Photograph of St Andrews Church of England while being moved in 1965 to Wandandian NSW.

05/000521 DAVIS, FRANICS - 2 cabinet prints of Francis Davis 1807-1890, photograph of Francis Davis 1777-1857, and Mrs Thomas Davis (nee Barrington).

05/000522 SYDNEY - 5 photograph views of Sydney city and Mosman, by H G Beale.

05/000523 ENNISCARTHY, IRELAND - Mounted photograph of Killabeg, Enniscarthy, Ireland, home of the Davis family.

05/000524 BEALE, HERBERT GEORGE - 2 cabinet portraits of Herbert George Beale as a cadet at Sydney Grammar School c1885.

05/000525 BOURKE STREET, MELBOURNE - Black and white photograph of Bourke Street, Melbourne.



05/000526 BEALE, JOSEPH - Photograph of Monardreigh, Mount Mellick IRL, 1852, occupied by Joseph Beale. Information included.

05/000527 MATHER, ANN - Cabinet print and mounted photograph of Ann Mather 1820-1892 Wherrett and McGuffie Photographers Hobart.

05/000528 CREETH FAMILY - Cabinet print of a Creeth family group taken in 1885, identified on reverse.

05/000529 BEALE FAMILY - 6 photographs of the Beale family of Cork, Ireland, identified on reverse.

05/000530 BROPHY - Photograph of Nurse Brophy who came from Mountmellick, Ireland to Melbourne with the Beale family. Taken about 1865, inscription on reverse.

05/000531 McMASTER, RUTH ANNA - 2 cartes de visite of Ruth Anna McMaster (nee Richardson), information included.

05/000532 BEALE, MARGARET - 3 cartes de visite of Margaret Beale nee Davis 1809-1878, with inscriptions.

05/000533 DAVIS, FRANCIS - 2 cartes de visite of Francis Davis 1777-1863. Photographer C Hewitt, Melbourne.

05/000534 BEALE, JOSHUA - 2 cartes de visite of Joshua Beale and family, with inscriptions.

05/000575 BEALE FAMILY - 3 cabinet prints - group photographs of the Beale family including Francis, William and James Bruce Beale. Identified on reverse.

05/000576 EDWARDS FAMILY - Photograph of Irene and Hazel Edwards, of Hobart as children, c 1915.

05/002650 BEALE FAMILY - 5 snapshot photographs of graves and home of the Beale family, New Zealand, identified on reverse. Alfredton and Palmerston North, NZ cemeteries.

05/002651 BEALE, H ELDON - 6 photographs of the grave of Sergeant H Eldon Beale RAAF died 21 January 1943.

05/002652 BEALE, H G - Copy of photograph of the President Felix Faure (sailing ship) by H G Beale, 1908. Also, envelope with stamp commemorating Kingsford Smith 1932.

05/002653 UNIDENTIFIED DAGUERREOTYPE - Missing 2018; Unidentified daguerreotype.

05/002654 BEALE FAMILY - 3 photographs of Francis Beale and family 1898, identified on reverse.

05/002656 HOWIE FAMILY - Two group photographs of Colin, Laura, Winifred and Margaret Howie, 1931/1932, identified on reverse.

05/002657 YOUNG FRIENDS CAMP - Photograph of members of the Young Friends Camp, Healesville, identified on reverse. Page 2 of 3.

05/002658 BEALE FAMILY - Faded snapshot photograph of property Derrycappagh at Mountmellick, Ireland, home of Joseph Beale.

05/002659 BEALE FAMILY - Mounted photograph of an unidentified woman.

05/002660 BEALE, ARABELLA - Unmounted cabinet photograph of Arabella Beale, wife of George Cotter Beale, 1890s.

05/002661 BEALE FAMILY - Photograph of Walter Saunders with Beale sisters Margaret, Hazel and



Mary, 1933.

05/002662 BEALE FAMILY - Cabinet photograph of wedding group for Margaret Beale and Ernest Walker, identified on reverse.

05/002663 BEALE FAMILY - Cabinet photograph of the Creeth and Beale families, identified on reverse.

05/002664 BEALE FAMILY - Cabinet photograph of Margaret Walker nee Beale c1890. Photographer Charlemont & Co, Sydney.

05/002665 WILSON FAMILY - Mounted photograph of Erika and Mary Wilson as infants, identified on reverse, by Melton Greene, 1950s.

05/002666 BEALE, AMY ELIZABETH - 5 cabinet photographs of Amy Elizabeth Beale 1879-1909, identified on reverse.

05/002667 BEALE, JANE BERTHA - Cabinet portraits of Jane Bertha Beale, nee Watson, by Tuttle and Co, c 1883 and Jane Bertha Saunders, nee Beale, by The London Palace of Art, c 1890.

05/002668 BEALE, MARGARET DAVIS - 2 cabinet photographs of Margaret Davis Beale born 1872. Photographer Mitchell & Co, Sydney.

05/002669 BEALE FAMILY - Cabinet photograph of Frances Maud Beale and Amy Elizabeth Beale. Photographer Mora, Sydney.

05/002670 BEALE, FRANCIS JOSEPH - 2 cabinet photographs and 2 later snapshots of Francis Joseph Beale 1906 and 1935. Photographer Gough & Co.

05/002671 BEALE, HERBERT GEORGE - Cabinet portrait of Albert V Rawlings and Herbert George Beale, 1890s. Photographer Vandyck, Sydney.

05/002672 DAVIS, FRANCIS - Carte de visite photograph of Francis Davis of Enniscorthy, 1777-1863. Photographer C Hewitt, Melbourne.

05/002673 BEALE, ELIZABETH JOSEPH - Carte de visite photograph of Elizabeth Joseph Richardson, nee Beale, born 1825, married 1851.

05/002674 BEALE FAMILY - Four copies of carte de visite photograph of Francis Beale and son William Beale c 1873, identified on reverse.

05/002675 BEALE FAMILY - 4 copies a carte de visite photograph of Joseph Joshua Beale 1871-1878 and Margaret Davis Beale 1872-1895 c 1876. Photographer M Bent, Sandhurst.

05/002676 BEALE, FRANCIS - Carte de visite photograph of Francis Beale 1837-1921. Photographer W Rasche, Melbourne.

05/002677 BEALE FAMILY - Carte de visite photograph of Francis and Jane Beale. Photographer T S Glaister, Sydney.

05/002678 BEALE FAMILY - 4 carte de visite photographs of Jane Bertha Beale, nee Watson.

05/002679 BEALE, FRANCIS WILLIAM WATSON - Carte de visite photograph of Francis William Watson Beale as infant c 1870. Photographer Tait Brothers, Greymouth and Hokitika.

05/002680 BEALE, MARGARET DAVIS - Carte de visite photograph of Margaret Davis Beale c 1881. Photographer J Roarty, Sydney.



06/000118 BEALE F B & H E - Two individual mounted photographs of Francis Bruce & Herbert Eldon Beale in RAAF uniform WW2; see Beale papers index 4/0519

1. Beale, Octavius Charles (1850–1930) by Neville Hicks and E. J. Lea-Scarlett. This article was published in the Australian Dictionary of Biography, vol7, (MUP) 1979 <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/beale-octavius-charles-5165>
2. Beale, Octavius Charles (1850–1930) Originally published *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 December 1930, p 13 <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/beale-octavius-charles-5165>
3. Australis Music Co. (2019) BEALE <https://www.australismusic.com.au/beale> sited 11 October 2019

