

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

MARCH, 2019

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A message from the president

American Civil War historians – welcome to the March issue of the Charger!

At our meeting on February 13th, continuing with my theme of “Confederate Invasions and Raids of the North”, we heard Matt Borders presentation: “A Last Roll of the Dice: the Third Confederate Invasion – 1864”. Matt is currently a Park Ranger at Monocacy National Battlefield, and has intimate knowledge of the campaign and especially the site of its main battle. His talk left us all with a much better appreciation of this important stand along the Monocacy River by relatively few Union troops. It bought the North just enough time for the Washington D.C. defenses to be reinforced from a contingent sent by General Grant near Petersburg, by ship up the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River to disembark at D.C.’s naval yard. From there, they rushed to the front lines at and near to Fort Stevens, where the main Confederate threat to the Capitol materialized.

One amongst the many takeaways from Matt’s talk for me, was the emphasis that Jubal Early placed on ransoming the Northern towns and villages that his corps passed through. The amounts demanded seem trivial by today’s standards, but when adjusted for the time value of money from 1864 to 2019, they were significant indeed and a hardship for the local communities to pay. It was noted that the main reason Early was spending valuable time and energy demanding Union greenbacks, was the Confederate government’s need of U.S. dollars, as opposed to worthless Confederate currency, to pay for the overseas contraband and goods brought in by blockade runners.

At our upcoming meeting on March 13th, we will begin a two month study of what most historians assert was the most important battle of the American Civil War - and therefore it follows one of the most important battles in the history of the world: **Gettysburg**. The meeting will focus on the lead up to the battle with Daniel Welch’s presentation “How Did They Get Here? –The Gettysburg Campaign”. Our April meeting will be an in depth look at an example of Gettysburg generalship when Wayne Motts presents: “Trust in God and Fear Nothing: Confederate General Lewis A. Armistead”.

During a series of conferences shortly after the spectacular Confederate victory at Chancellorsville, widely thought of as Lee’s best triumph, General Lee convinced Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Secretary of War James Seddon that the summer

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of 1863 would be *the* optimal time for the South to launch an invasion into Pennsylvania.

Lee envisioned a minor Confederate force pinning Hooker's Army of the Potomac along the Rappahannock River; and covering a thrust by his main body into the Shenandoah River Valley with a dense General Stuart led cavalry screen shielding the move from the Union. With his right flank protected by the Blue Ridge and South Mountain ranges, Lee would cross the Potomac River near Harper's Ferry and penetrate into the Cumberland River Valley of Pennsylvania. Lee's plan was then to isolate and destroy piecemeal elements of the Army of the Potomac as they approached to confront him.

However, Stuart's cavalry clashed with their Union counterpart at Brandy Station and for the first time in the war were bested. Thus with "wounded pride", Stuart thought to restore his reputation with a hopefully spectacular raid behind union lines. Taking a liberal interpretation of Lee's orders, perhaps even insubordinate, Stuart set out with the core of his command on June 24th the same day that the vanguard of the Army of the Potomac began crossing its namesake. For the next crucial week Stuart for all intents and purposes went into the abyss effectively depriving General Lee of his "eyes". Finally arriving back on July 2nd at the Gettysburg field of battle, historians debate what was said directly between Lee and Stuart. But in Shelby Foote's famous three volume account "The Civil War", it was Stuart proudly stating "General, I bring you 200 Yankee wagons full of supplies" to which Lee beratingly replied "General, they're an impediment to me now. I asked you to help me whip these people." Daniel Welch will detail to us how the two armies approached Gettysburg on March 13th.

Looking even further ahead, on April 10th Wayne Motts returns to our Round Table to present: "Trust in God and Fear Nothing: Confederate General Lewis A. Armistead". Throughout the first half of the war, historians mostly give the advantage of better generalship to the Confederacy with Generals Lee, Jackson, Longstreet, Stuart and Forrest most often noted.

However, brigade level leadership was also a strength for the Confederacy. After an inauspicious beginning at West Point, Lewis Armistead was "booted" from the Academy after a couple of years when he broke a plate over the head of classmate Jubal Early. Still desiring a military career, he directly joined the Army in 1839 and fought in the Mexican American war where he was wounded and twice brevetted for bravery. When the Civil War began, he was named a Brigadier General on April 1, 1862. His bravery again was highlighted during the Peninsula campaign where his Commander D.H. Hill noted him holding out with a small number of troops against an entire Union brigade; and then during the Seven Days Battles while leading his brigade into the thick of Union artillery fire at Malvern Hill. Armistead's leadership made a difference in most major actions of the Army of Northern Virginia and as part of McLaws division at Antietam he was again wounded in the vicious West Woods fighting. He recovered in time for Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville where his brigade was assigned to the newly formed division under General Pickett.

Armistead's career culminated at Gettysburg's famous "Pickett's Charge" on the battle's third day, after the many mostly successful grim assaults of the first two days by the southern invaders against the well chosen Union defensive position, had not secured a victory. During Pickett's Charge tragic failure – i.e. from the Confederate point of view – Armistead's troops pierced the Union middle near the famous "copse of trees" – where Armistead fell at the front of his soldiers from several wounds. *The spot is one of the most solemn of the many solemn sites on the Gettysburg Battlefield.* This so called "high water mark of the Confederacy" marks, among many other things, the devotion and determination of Armistead who died the next day from his wounds; and that of the troops that he led over the open field in a mile long march into the teeth of the well prepared union infantry and artillery. Come and hear the full and fascinating story of General Armistead as told by Wayne Motts on April 10th.

But more immediately, I look forward to being with you to hear Daniel Welch's presentation "How Did They Get Here? –The Gettysburg Campaign". See you then!

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel J. Ursu, President

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Confederates to the Susquehanna by Dennis Keating

In Summer, 1863, Robert E. Lee planned a second invasion of the North with the aim of destroying the Union Army of the Potomac and threatening major Northern cities like Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington city. Leading the march of the Army of Northern Virginia was its Second Corps led by Richard Ewell (following Stonewall Jackson's death after Chancellorsville).

As Ewell's corps entered Pennsylvania, Lee ordered Ewell on June 22: "If Harrisburg comes within your means, capture it". Capture of the Pennsylvania state capital on the Susquehanna River would possibly signal a threat to Philadelphia. Union general Darius Couch assigned to defend Harrisburg as word of the Confederate invasion spread had arrived there on June 12. On that day Pennsylvania Governor Curtin issued a proclamation calling for volunteers to join the small number of the Invalid Corps members to defend the state capital. These volunteers would be reinforced by troops from New Jersey and New York. General William F. "Baldy" Smith would assist Couch in commanding militia volunteers and strengthening the Harrisburg defenses.

Troops under Ewell's command would reach the Northernmost points of Lee's invasion. The division of Robert Rodes entered Pennsylvania on June 22 and would reach Carlisle in anticipation of attacking Harrisburg. The division of Jubal Early would separately go to York with the aim of capturing (or destroying) the major bridge over the Susquehanna at Wrightsville.

Ewell planned to have Rodes' division attack on June 29. That morning General Albert Jenkins led a reconnaissance of his cavalry overlooking Harrisburg's defenses preceding Rodes' planned attack. However, that afternoon Lee urgently ordered Ewell to rejoin the rest of the army near Cashtown, ending the immediate threat to Harrisburg.

Meanwhile on the afternoon of June 28, John B. Gordon's brigade of Early's division headed east from York toward the Wrightsville bridge. As he approached Wrightsville, Union defenders burned the bridge after demolition charges failed to topple it. This left the capture of Wrightsville by Gordon a failure in its primary goals as defending militia mostly escaped across the bridge before its destruction. Jubal Early arrived that evening but quickly departed. The next day Gordon's force departed Wrightsville, having both helped its residents fight fires during its brief stay and also requisitioned supplies. On June 30, Early and Gordon's brigade left York to rejoin the rest of Ewell's corps.

Thus ended the abortive attempt by a greatly disappointed Ewell to capture Harrisburg as his corps instead participated in the three-day battle of Gettysburg beginning on July 1 when it successfully attacked Union troops on Seminary Ridge.

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A Visit to Hollywood Cemetery By Paul Siedel

Any Civil War buff visiting Richmond, Va. will naturally come upon the many sites which were prominent during the conflict. The Confederate White House, The Confederate Capitol Building, the prison site at Belle Isle, the battlefields around the City and many more. However many folks miss one of the more prominent sites which although was an integral part in Civil War history it was not the site of any conflict or major legislation which effected society. It is located on South Cherry St and overlooks the James River in close proximity to The Tredegar Iron Works.

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The site to which I'm referring is Hollywood Cemetery. It comprises about 110 acres on the City's western edge and is the resting place for nearly 18,000 Civil War casualties. Begun in 1849 with just a few burials architect, William Pratt was hired in the 1850s to create a proper cemetery. Hollywood was enlarged and laid out at this time, and by 1860 it had been named and incorporated. During the Civil War so many casualties were taken there that the grave diggers could not keep up with the influx of bodies. As a result the city fathers became concerned about the health situation, and so the bodies began to be buried in long trenches which can still be seen today along with the hundreds of markers delineating the men buried there. Some of the most prominent figures, however, were still allowed to be interred in private graves. Hollywood Cemetery is also the resting place for two presidents and many who figured prominently in Virginia history down through the years. Burials are still taking place in 2019.



As you enter the Cemetery stop and get a map which will direct you to the prominent burials within the Cemetery and will give one a short history of the land and cemetery itself. Many of the monuments are individual works of art such as are the many monuments at Lakeview and Woodland Cemeteries here in Cleveland. As you make your way through the area stop and get out of the car, you will see the headstones of Jefferson Davis, J.E.B. Stuart, George Pickett. Pickett's headstone is a huge pyramid dedicated to the Army of Northern Virginia which also contains the remains of thousands of men who were exhumed from the Gettysburg Battlefield in the 1870s. As we looked at the many markers marking the trenches, we were informed that the markers for U.S. soldiers are rounded at the top, but markers for Confederate soldiers are usually pointed, a fact of which I wasn't aware. I was also unaware of the fact that in 2019 one may still get a marker for their Confederate ancestor from the Veterans Administration. As one reaches the back of the property and gets closer to the bluff, the graves of Harry Heth, Fitzhugh Lee, James Ben James Monroe, and John Tyler (the ex-president who became a member of the Confederate Congress and died in 1862) are situated overlooking the James River.



As you leave make sure you take in the old neighborhood of Oregon Hill which has been rejuvenated in recent years and now contains many beautiful antebellum homes built in the row house style. All in all, our tour took about three hours and we were reluctant to leave. It is worth blocking out a whole day for anyone's Richmond Civil War tour and I'm sure folks will agree as we did that the day was well spent.

Gate at Hollywood Cemetery



Butler Triggers the Road to Emancipation by Dennis Keating

On May 24, 1861, at Fort Monroe, Virginia, Ben Butler made a decision that would eventually lead to the Emancipation of slaves in the United States. That day a Confederate officer representing a Virginia slave owner came to this Union fortress to demand the return of three escaped slaves seeking asylum. He demanded their return under the Fugitive Slave Act passed in 1850 as part of the Missouri Compromise.

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A lawyer and new to military command, Butler refused, saying that Virginia had seceded and could no longer rely on the laws of the United States and slaves were considered property (under the Dred Scott decision of the U.S. Supreme Court). He stated: "I shall hold these Negroes as contraband of war". Butler's action was confirmed on March 13, 1862 when a U.S. article of war was issued forbidding the U.S. military from returning fugitive slaves to their masters. Thus began the exodus to Union military protection of many thousands of slaves eventually resulting in Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in 1862 freeing slaves in rebel-held territory and then passage of the post-Civil War 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ending slavery. Not all Union commanders were supportive of this policy of protecting fugitive slaves, most notably William Tecumseh Sherman on his 1864 March to the Sea. However, Lincoln's policy of arming African-Americans in the U.S. Colored Troops was generally welcomed by the Union Army.

Ben Butler's novel decision was one of the most important in his colorful career. He became controversial and hated in the South for his control of Federally captured New Orleans when Confederates called him "Beast Butler". As a military commander, Butler was mostly a failure, including as head of the Army of the James and his failure to capture Fort Fisher defending the port of Wilmington, North Carolina, which led to his dismissal by U.S. Grant. After the war, Butler was elected to Congress, opposed the Reconstruction policies of President Andrew Johnson, and was the House of Representative's leading manager in the failed attempt to impeach him. Butler authored the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 and co-authored the Civil Rights Act of 1875. He was elected Governor of Massachusetts in 1882 and ran for President in 1884 on the ticket of the Greenback Party.

The attempts of fugitive slaves to escape to the North and beyond to Canada was dramatically described in Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Abolitionists in the North, including former slave Sojourner Truth, established an Underground Railroad to help fugitive slaves escape capture and return to slavery. This was true in Ohio. The most notable example was the 1858 Oberlin-Wellington Rescue when residents rallied to prevent the return of a captured slave to the South and were prosecuted in Cleveland for violating the Fugitive Slave Act but were acquitted.

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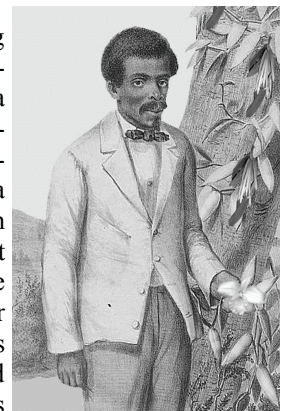


**Save the Date for our September 2019 Field Trip
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A Life Flavored with Sweet Vanilla and Bitter Injustice by David A. Carrino

This history brief was presented at the February 2019 meeting of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. The following longer version of the history brief contains additional information that was not included in the version that was presented at the meeting.

According to a recent survey by the International Dairy Foods Association, the best-selling flavor of ice cream in the U.S. is vanilla. If you are one of the people whose favorite ice cream is vanilla, then you should give credit to a slave for vanilla ice cream, because it is due to a slave that vanilla ice cream tastes like vanilla. Nowadays the majority of vanilla flavoring in foods results from chemically synthesized vanillin. Vanillin is the substance present in natural vanilla that is primarily responsible for natural vanilla's flavor and aroma. Synthetic vanillin, most of which is manufactured from a petrochemical, is widely used as an artificial vanilla flavoring, because it is much less expensive than natural vanilla. In contrast, most vanilla ice cream sold in the U.S. has natural vanilla flavoring that comes from an extract of the fruit of the vanilla plant, that is, from vanilla beans. This is because the FDA requires that ice cream flavored with synthetic vanillin must be labeled as "artificial vanilla" or "artificially flavored vanilla." Since companies are reluctant to market ice cream that is labeled in this way, vanilla ice cream in the U.S. is by and large flavored with natural vanilla, and a black slave named Edmond Albius was responsible for making that natural vanilla flavoring possible. Edmond Albius was not a slave in the U.S., but a slave in a French colony. The ingenious technique that he developed for cultivation of the vanilla plant is another example of how people in bondage were capable of much more than manual labor. This history brief focuses on Edmond Albius and his seminal contribution to vanilla production.



Edmond Albius

For centuries in Mexico, vanilla plants were grown and vanilla beans harvested and used to make vanilla flavoring. In 1519 Spanish explorer Hernán Cortés led an expedition to Mexico, during which the Spaniards conquered the Aztecs. At that time the Aztecs routinely used vanilla flavoring. In his dealings with the Aztecs, Cortés learned about vanilla and brought this flavoring back with him to Spain, from which it was introduced into other European countries, such as England and France. Cortés also learned about chocolate from the Aztecs, and he likewise brought this New World delicacy to Europe. For many years, vanilla's use was primarily as an additive to chocolate to reduce chocolate's bitterness. In 1570 there was another Spanish expedition to Mexico led by Francisco Hernández, who was a physician for the Spanish king, Philip. This expedition was intended to be a scientific mission, and Hernández provided the first written descriptions of various New World plants, including the vanilla plant. Hernández claimed that extracts of vanilla beans combined with chocolate had medicinal properties and could "warm and strengthen the stomach; diminish flatulence; cook the humors and attenuate them; give strength and vigor to the mind; heal female troubles; and are said to be combined with chocolate had medicinal properties and could "warm and strengthen the stomach; diminish flatulence; cook the humors and attenuate them; give strength and vigor to the mind; heal female troubles; and are said to be good against cold poisons and the bites of venomous animals." Another health benefit of vanilla according to Hernández, although his experimental evidence for this is not known, was that it "causes the urine to flow admirably."

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If Hernández was correct, then vanilla is a tasty substitute for Flomax. While the medicinal properties that Hernández claimed for vanilla should be a sufficient reason to consume it, an Englishman named Hugh Morgan, who was the apothecary for Queen Elizabeth I, was more taken by vanilla's taste and suggested in 1602 that vanilla, by itself, be used as a flavoring. This began the steady and inexorable rise in the use and popularity of vanilla.

For a long time, the vanilla that was used in Europe was simply imported from Mexico. But eventually vanilla plants were brought to Europe with the objective of cultivating them for vanilla production. However, the outcome of this endeavor was a complete failure. The plants grew well and were capable of surviving for decades, but the plants produced no fruit, that is, no vanilla beans. Because of this, no vanilla extract could be made from the plants in Europe. The reason for this remained a mystery until 1836 when a Belgian botanist named Charles Morren discovered that the vanilla plants in Europe were not being pollinated. This is because Europe lacks the appropriate pollinator for vanilla flowers. The natural pollinator for vanilla is now thought to be a species of stingless bee known as the *Melipona* bee that is native to Mexico. The vast majority of flowers that exist on Earth, including those of vanilla plants, are hermaphroditic, which means that the flower contains both male and female reproductive organs. Vanilla plants belong to the orchid family, and like orchids in general, but in contrast to most hermaphroditic flowers, vanilla flowers have inside them a flap of tissue that separates the male and female organs. The natural pollinators of vanilla plants have evolved the necessary instinctive qualities to reach the pollen and effect pollination.

When vanilla plants from Mexico were distributed throughout Europe and its colonies, it was fortuitous that some plants were brought to a small island in the Indian Ocean. This island, which is named Réunion, is about 500 miles east of Madagascar and was a French colony at that time. The rationale for bringing vanilla plants to Réunion and places like it was that the tropical climate made such places suitable for cultivation of the vanilla plants. But the vanilla plants in those places, like the plants in Europe, never produced fruit, because they were not pollinated. One person living on Réunion, a man named Ferréol Bellier-Beaumont, had some vanilla plants, and he had always wondered why the plants never produced fruit. Bellier-Beaumont had also come to own a young black slave named Edmond, who, as was typical for slaves on Réunion, had no surname. Edmond's mother, Méliise, died while giving birth to him in 1829, and Edmond never knew his father. Bellier-Beaumont, who had an interest in plants, took a liking to Edmond and taught him to care for the many plants that Bellier-Beaumont had on his plantation.

Among the things that Bellier-Beaumont showed to Edmond was a procedure to manually pollinate watermelon flowers. A short time later, Bellier-Beaumont, to his astonishment, saw fruit growing on one of his vanilla plants, a plant that had been in Bellier-Beaumont's possession for over 20 years without ever producing fruit. When Bellier-Beaumont asked Edmond about this, Edmond, who was 12 years old at the time, told Bellier-Beaumont that he had manually pollinated the plant. Bellier-Beaumont had previously tried to manually pollinate vanilla flowers, but without success. Edmond explained that he closely examined the vanilla flowers and noticed the flap of tissue that separates the male and female reproductive organs. Edmond said that he used a small stick to push aside the flap of tissue and then pressed the male and female organs against each other to transfer the sticky pollen onto the female organ. Edmond demonstrated his procedure to Bellier-Beaumont, and Bellier-Beaumont spread the word about this to others on Réunion. The year in which Edmond developed his manual pollination procedure was 1841. For context, in 1841 William Henry Harrison was sworn in as president of the United States. A little over a month later, John Tyler was sworn in as president of the United States. Also in 1841, the Supreme Court ruled in the case of the *Amistad*. In 1841 the island of Réunion exported no vanilla. By 1848 Réunion exported about 100 pounds of dried vanilla. Ten years later it was two tons, and in 1867, 20 tons. In 1898, 57 years after Edmond developed his pollination procedure, Réunion exported 200 tons of vanilla and surpassed Mexico to become the world's leading producer of vanilla beans. Réunion exported not only vanilla, but also Edmond's pollination procedure, and this procedure, which today is, by far, the predominant method by which vanilla flowers are pollinated, led to the development of the worldwide vanilla industry.

Ferréol Bellier-Beaumont freed Edmond in June 1848, seven years after Edmond first pollinated vanilla flowers, although Edmond would have received his freedom in December of that year when slavery on Réunion was abolished. It may have been that Bellier-Beaumont freed Edmond in anticipation of the abolition of slavery. Sometime after Edmond received his freedom, he was given the surname *Albius*. It is not known why this particular surname was chosen, but it is curious that the surname given to Edmond, who was a black slave of African descent, contains the root of the Latin word for white. After Edmond received his freedom, he moved to the city, worked as a laborer for a time, and then worked as a kitchen servant.

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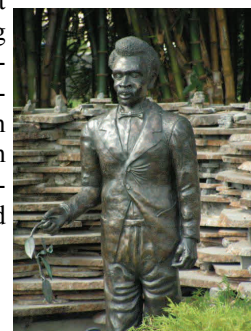
One night a robbery occurred at the house in which Edmond worked, and for reasons that are not known, Edmond was accused. He was subsequently tried, found guilty, and in 1852 sentenced to five years in prison with hard labor. But three years into Edmond's sentence, his former owner, Ferréol Bellier-Beaumont, interceded on Edmond's behalf and was able to obtain Edmond's release from prison. In the letter that Bellier-Beaumont sent to the governor to plead for Edmond's release, Bellier-Beaumont wrote, "If anyone has a right to clemency and to recognition for his achievements, then it is Edmond." The most interesting statement in the letter is one in which Bellier-Beaumont gave full credit to Edmond for the invention that led to the island of Réunion becoming, in the late 19th Century, the world leader in the production of vanilla. Bellier-Beaumont wrote about Edmond, "It is entirely due to him that this country owes [sic] a new branch of industry – for it is he who first discovered how manually to fertilize the vanilla plant."

After Edmond's release from prison in 1855, he married, left the city, and moved near Bellier-Beaumont's plantation. Sometime after Edmond's release from prison, there was a false claim that Edmond was not the person who developed the vanilla pollination procedure. A French botanist named Jean Michel Claude Richard insisted that he had developed the procedure years before Edmond showed the procedure to Bellier-Beaumont. Richard claimed that he developed the procedure in Paris and then went to Réunion in 1838 and showed the procedure to several people. Richard supposed that young Edmond had been present when Richard demonstrated the procedure, and then Edmond later showed it to Bellier-Beaumont. But Bellier-Beaumont wrote a letter to government officials on Réunion and refuted Richard's account. In that letter, in which Bellier-Beaumont wrote that he had been Richard's friend for many years, Bellier-Beaumont maintained, "Through old age, faulty memory, or some other cause, M. Richard now imagines that he himself discovered the secret of how to pollinate vanilla, and imagines that he taught the technique to the person who discovered it!" In that statement from Bellier-Beaumont's letter, he offered a couple of specific suggestions for Richard's claim to being the person who invented the vanilla pollination procedure, namely, "old age" and "faulty memory." It can only be surmised what Bellier-Beaumont meant by the unspecified "some other cause" that he proposed as a possible explanation for Richard claiming to be the inventor of the pollination procedure. Perhaps Bellier-Beaumont was referring to something that is associated in a children's

taunt with pants on fire and is also the reason that Pinocchio's nose grows. On the other hand, Bellier-Beaumont left no doubt about his recommendation for how to deal with the man who was trying to usurp credit for the pollination procedure. Bellier-Beaumont's suggestion with regard to Richard was simply, "Let us leave him to his fantasies."

Fortunately, Edmond continued to receive credit for developing the pollination procedure. But sadly, while many people were reaping large profits because of Edmond's pollination procedure, Edmond did not receive any financial prosperity from his discovery. Edmond Albius died in 1880 at the age of 51. In the local newspaper there was a notice dated August 26 that read, "The very man who at great profit to this colony, discovered how to pollinate vanilla flowers, has died in the public hospital." The notice also contained the somber statement, "It was a destitute and miserable end." Today a statue of Edmond stands in one of the towns on the small island which at one time, thanks to Edmond, was the leading producer of vanilla.

In the poem "Elegy Written in a Country Church Yard," which was written by English poet Thomas Gray and published in 1751, there is a line that reads, "Full many a flower is born to blush unseen, and waste its sweetness on the desert air." In a way, this quote applies to those whose lives and talents were squandered in the desert of slavery. Countless people who possessed the ability to make important contributions and to live rewarding lives were denied the chance to do so, because they were forced to blush unseen and waste the sweetness of their talents in bondage. Edmond Albius almost was such a person, but, ironically, it was a flower that gave Edmond the opportunity to escape the terrible fate of blooming unseen in unfulfilling anonymity. In spite of living over a third of his life in slavery, Edmond made a contribution which is so important that it spread from the small island on which he lived to reach the entire world. At present the leading producer of natural vanilla is Madagascar, the much larger island that lies about 500 miles west of Réunion. While natural vanilla is produced in a number of different countries, Madagascar currently produces about 80% of the world's natural vanilla, and all of the vanilla produced on Madagascar results from the pollination procedure that was invented by a 12-year-old black slave on a small island in the Indian Ocean. In fact, the vast majority of the vanilla flowers on planet Earth are now pollinated with the procedure that was developed by Edmond Albius. Whenever people enjoy the taste of vanilla, they should think of Edmond Albius, and maybe also give a silent thank you to him.



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MAKE A RESERVATION FOR OUR NEXT MEETING

Program: How Did They Get Here? The Gettysburg Campaign Presented by Daniel Welch March 13, 2019

The fighting at Gettysburg on July 1-3, 1863, the "high watermark of the Confederacy," is considered by many to be the turning point of the Civil War. The battle ended the last meaningful Confederate offensive of the war. If Robert E. Lee had prevailed at Gettysburg, there are serious questions about whether the United States as it had been prior to 1861 or as we know it today, could have survived. Instead, over the roughly 18 months following their victory at Gettysburg up to Lee's surrender at Appomattox, the United States Army and Navy pursued a relentless campaign reclaiming southern territory and destroying the Confederate States of America.

Our speaker: Dan Welch is a primary and secondary school educator. Previously, he served as the Education Programs Coordinator for the Gettysburg Foundation, the non-profit partner of Gettysburg National Military Park, where he continues to serve as a seasonal Park Ranger. During his time at Gettysburg, Mr. Welch has led numerous programs on the campaign.

In 2016 he co-authored the book, *The Last Road North: A Guide to the Gettysburg Campaign*. Mr. Welch received his BA in Instrumental Music Education from Youngstown State University and his MA in Military History with a Civil War concentration at American Military University. He currently resides with his wife, Sarah, in Boardman, Ohio.

Reservations: You must make a dinner reservation for any meeting you plan to attend no later than the day prior to that meeting (so we can give a headcount to the caterer). Make your reservation by sending an email to <a>ccwrt1956@yahoo.com.

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