

*Did you know.....*

***....that a one-time resident of Chagrin Falls captured Jefferson Davis at the end of the Civil War?***

Benjamin Dudley Pritchard (January 29, 1835 – November 26, 1907) was a general in the Union Army during the Civil War. He led the cavalry regiment that captured Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America at the close of the Civil War. For a time, Pritchard's family lived on South Franklin Street in a house that stood near where the Soldier's Monument now stands in Evergreen Hill Cemetery.



## Early life and career

Benjamin Pritchard was born in nearby Nelson, Ohio. His parents were Lambert and Zulpha (Adams) Pritchard. Benjamin worked as a carpenter and attended Hiram College. One of his instructors there was James A. Garfield, future president of the United States. He met Mary Bentley Kent while in college. Mary was the granddaughter of Adamson Bentley and daughter of Julius Kent.

Following his work at Hiram College, in 1856, Pritchard moved to Michigan and became a lawyer.

## Civil War

Pritchard enlisted in the Union Army in 1862 and was in the Michigan 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. He fought at Chickamauga among other battles. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He took time off during the war to marry Mary Kent in Chagrin Falls in 1864. Near the close of the war his unit heard of Jefferson Davis' whereabouts as he was fleeing capture. The 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry marched 30 miles to Irwinville, Georgia to find Davis. One of Pritchard's officers, Corp. George Munger is credited with actually finding Davis. Davis was found wearing a woman's cloak and shawl that are now in the National Archives.



Pritchard was brevetted to Brigadier General as a result and received a \$300 bounty that was offered for Davis' capture. Pritchard returned to Michigan and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Allegan, Michigan.