# SIR RICHARD FRANCIS BURTON: THE MOST FASCINATING MAN OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Marshall C. Eakin

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute 7 February 2024

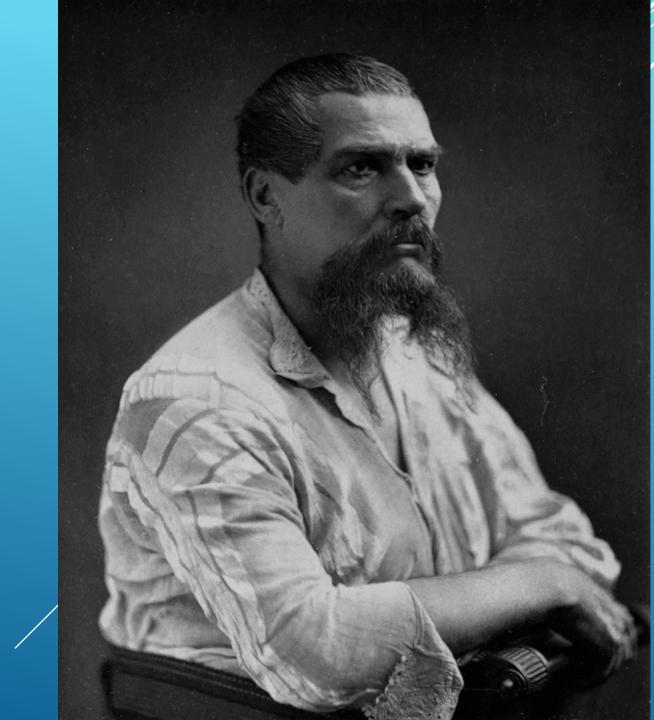


### THE METHOD TO MY MADNESS

Week 1: January 10	Who Is this Richard Burton Fellow?
Week 2: January 17	no class – Marshall will be in Cuba!
Week 3: January 24	The Infidel in Mecca
Week 4: January 31	The Search for the Source of the Nile
Week 5: February 7	Exploring Brazil
Week 6: February 14	Translating Pornography?



□ Richard to India in 1841  $\Box$  to Mecca in 1853  $\Box$  in search of the Nile 1854-55 □ to U.S. in 1860 □ marries Isabel in 1861 □ Consul at Fernando Po 1861-64 □ Death of Speke in 1864

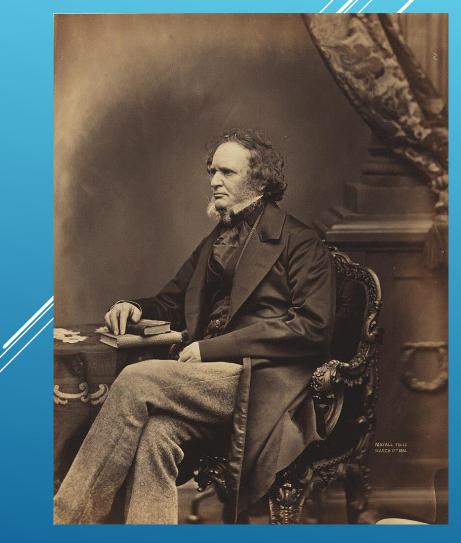


### TO BRAZIL

□ four years of marriage, less than twelve months together

- □ hobnobbing with the rich and powerful
- □ Lord Stanley (1852, 1858-59, 1866-68)
- □ appointment to Santos, September 1864





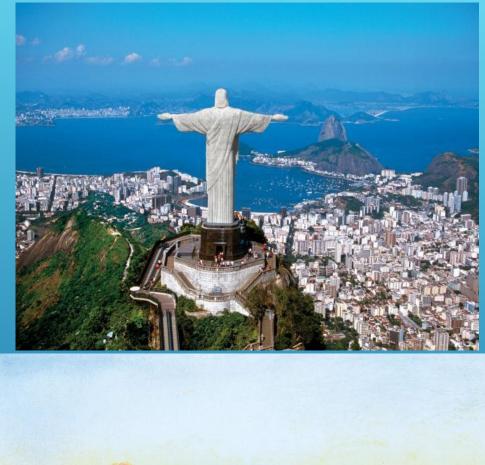
## WHAT IS THIS BRAZIL?

- Portuguese colony
- □ Empire (1822-89)
- □ Pedro II (1840-89)
- □ sugar, gold, coffee, slavery
- Salvador da Bahia
- □ Rio de Janeiro
- □ São Paulo
- □ 8-9 million inhabitants in 1867

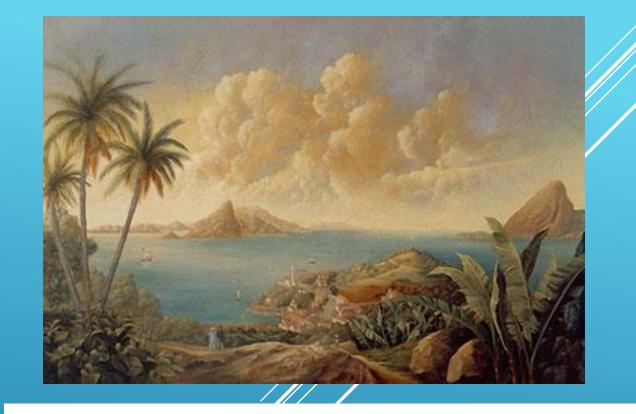


### SETTLING INTO SANTOS, SORT OF

- □ delaying, as always
- □ May/June 1865, Lisbon (intensive Portuguese)
- □ Richard to Brazil, Isabel to England
- □ "pay, pack, and follow"
- □ Richard and Isabel dally in Rio with high societ
- "It is about the most glorious sight that a human being can behold, at sunrise and at sunset, the mountains being of most fantastic shapes, and the colours that of an opal. Richard said that it beats all the scenery he had ever seen in his life—even the Bosphorus."







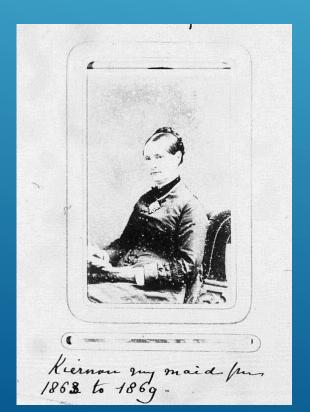


## SÃO PAULO & SANTOS

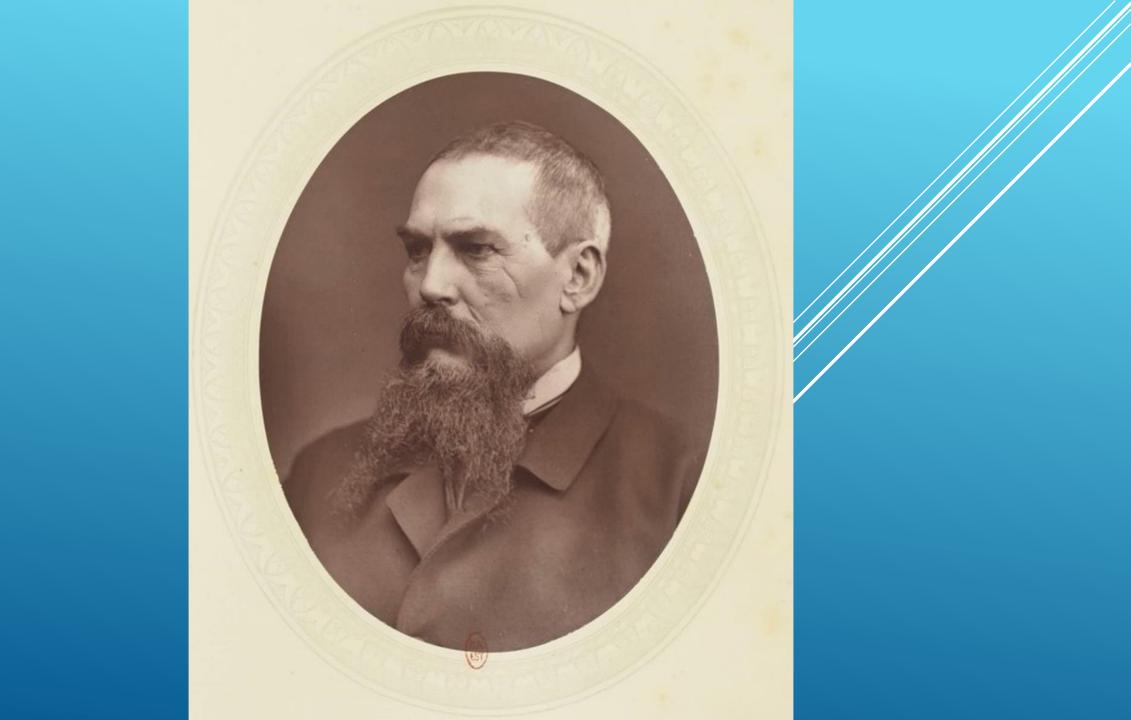
□ São Paulo on the verge of coffee boom

□ Santos on verge of becoming the largest port in Latin America

### □ Kieran and Chico









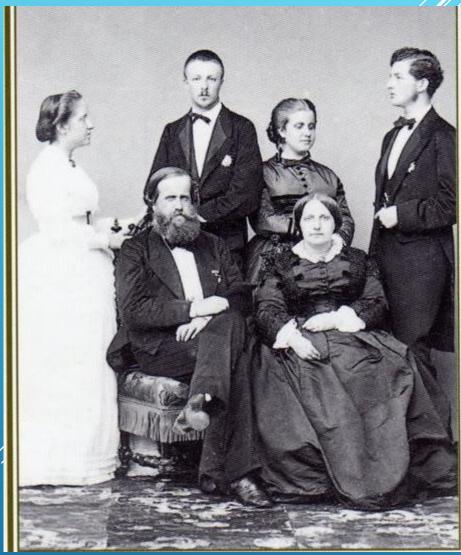






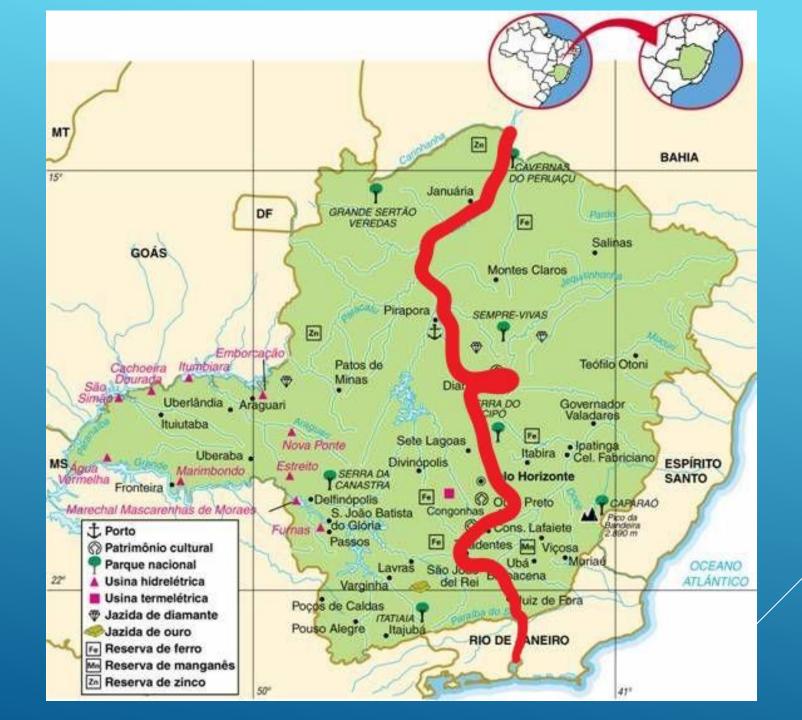
# THE ROYAL FAMILY Pedro II (1825-91) Teresa Cristina (1822-89) Princess Isabel, Comte de Eu

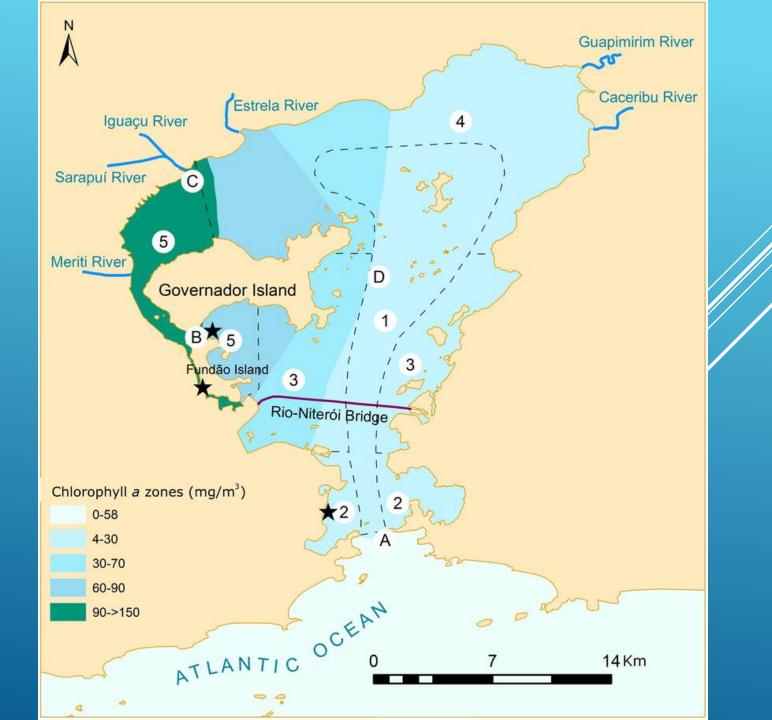












## INTO THE INTERIOR

docks of Rio to north of Guanabara Bay
 train to foothills, coaches up to Petrópolis



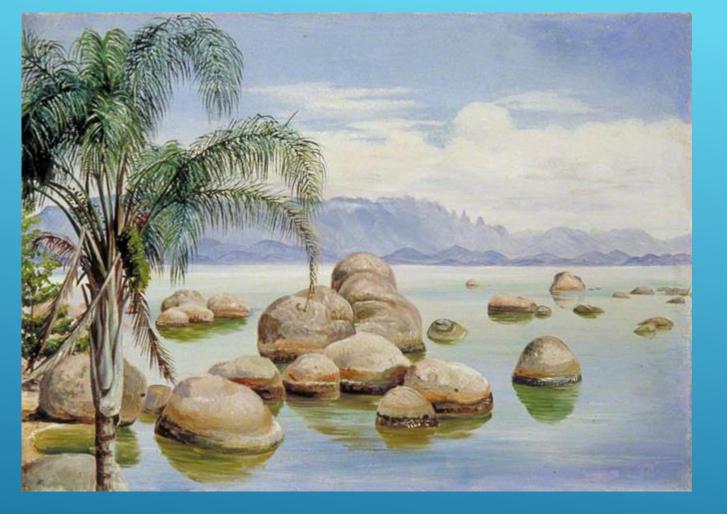












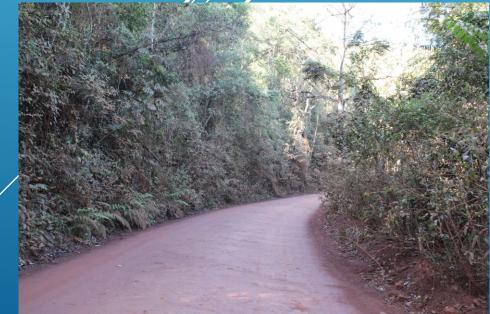
### Marianne North (1830-90)











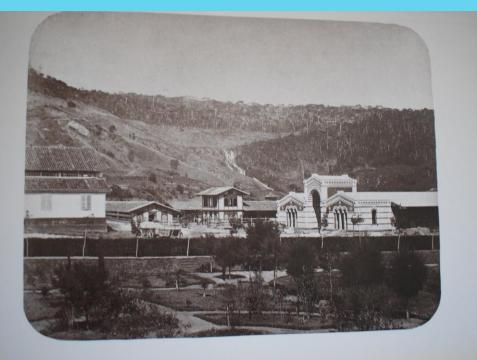
## THE MINING ZONE

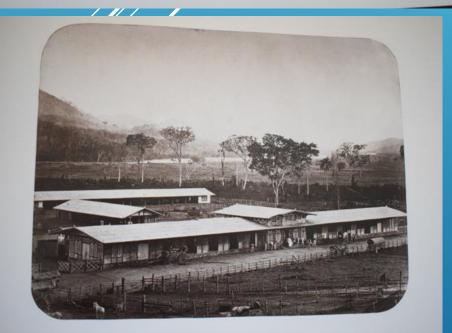
Petrópolis to Juiz de Fora on Brazil's most modern highway

□ mules to São João d'El Rei & Tiradentes

CongonhasMorro Velho







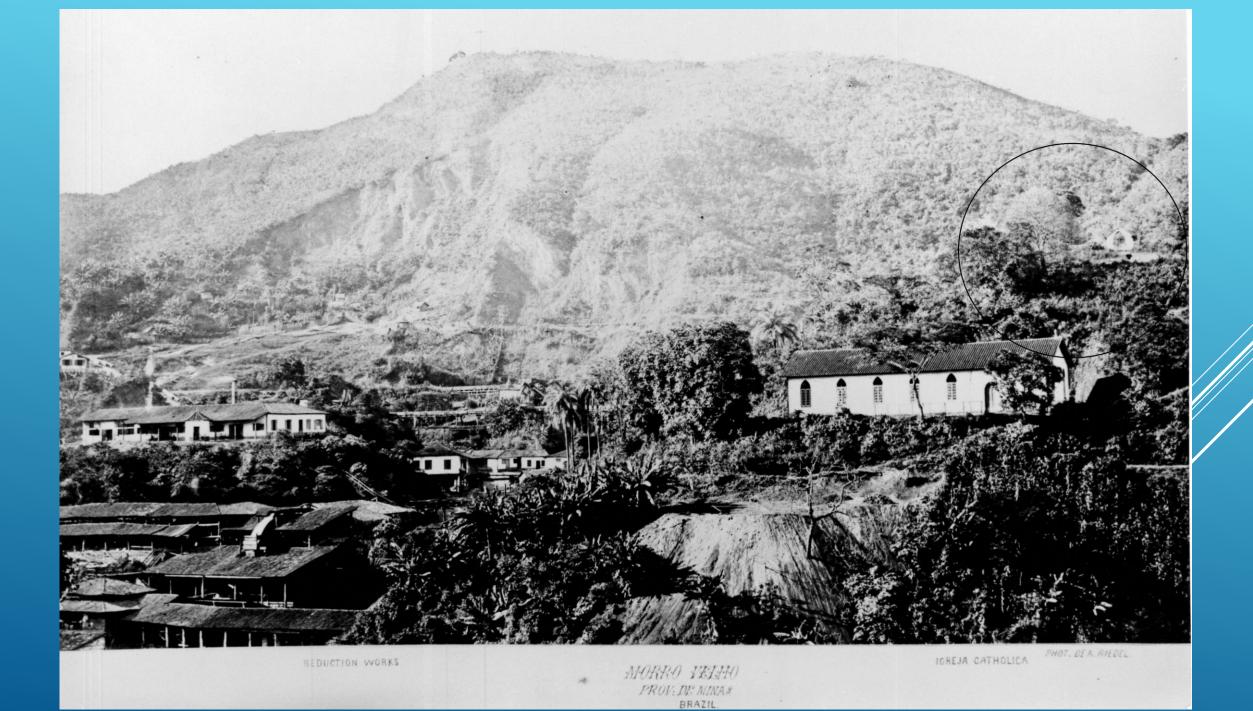






### MORRO VELHO

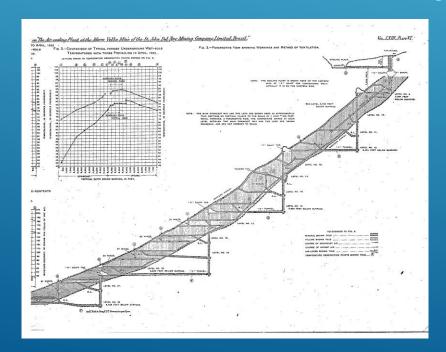
- $\Box$  "old hill" mine early 1700s
- □ British buy in 1834, St. John del Rey Mining Company
- until 1960, today Anglo Ashanti Gold (South Africa)
- □ deepest mine in the world until 1940s
- Iongest and most profitable foreign venture in Brazil

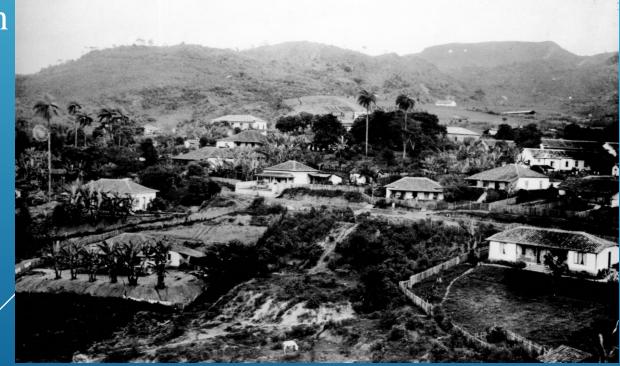




### MORRO VELHO

- $\Box$  1500 enslaved workers
- □ 350 British in community school, church, club
- □ James Newell Gordon, superintendent (1857-76)
- □ Brits with mines all over the region







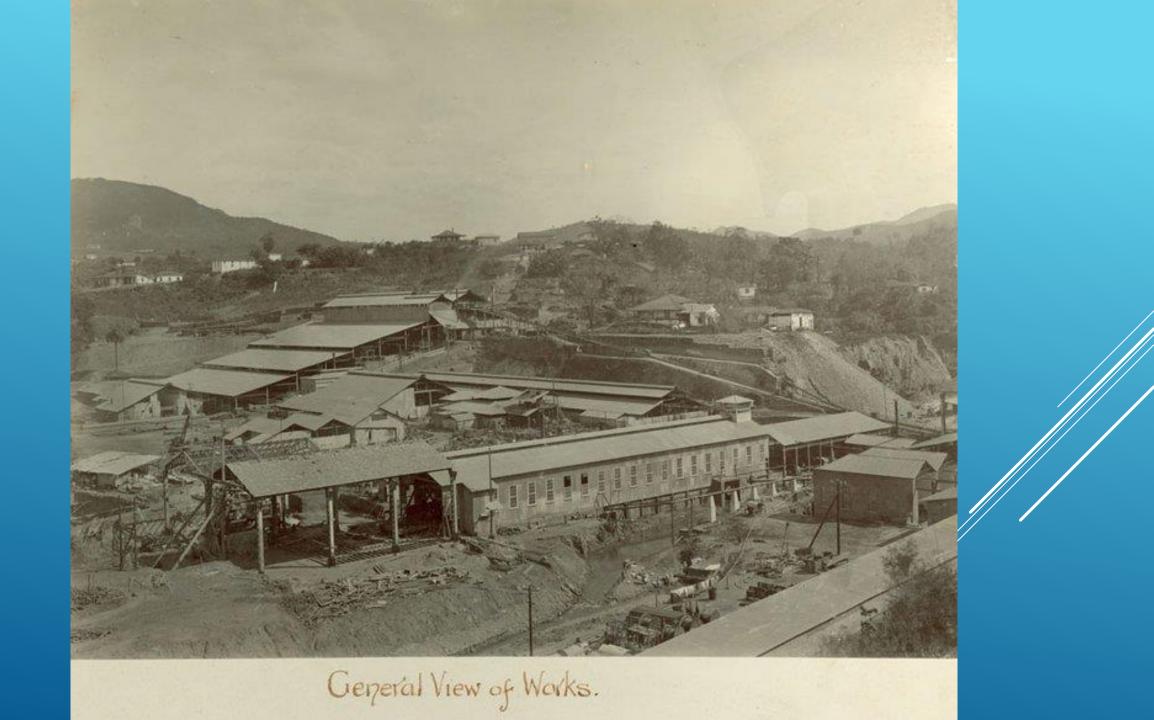












### SURVEYING THE MINES

Two weeks on mules
Gongo Soco, Passagem de Mariana
Ouro Preto





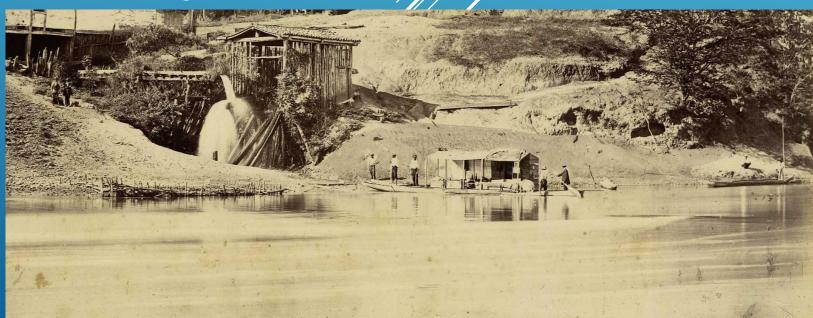




#### LEAVING ISABEL

□ sprained ankle

- Isabel and Chico head back to Rio by mule
- □ Richard builds a boat
- □ launches in early August 1867
- □ Mr. Davidson, three crew, enslaved Agostinho







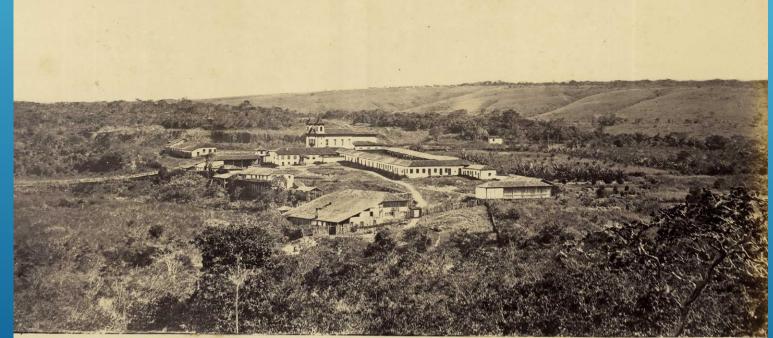
# SISTERS & SCIENTISTS

Macaubas ConventJaguara Estate





PHOT. DEA. RIEDE



FALENDA JAGUARA PROV. DE MINAS BRAZIL

## SIDE TRIP TO THE DIAMOND ZONE

two days from river into the mountains
views diamond mining
lots of curious British settlers



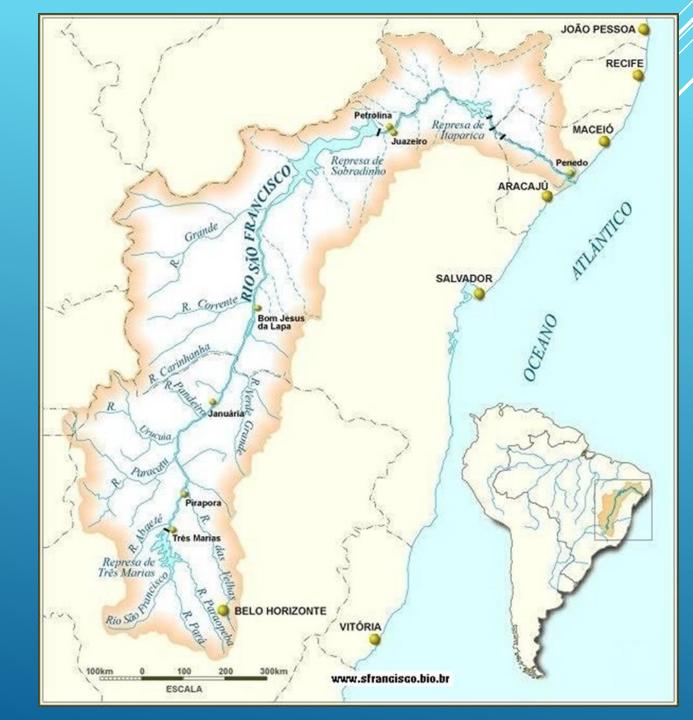


2.AVRA DE DIAMANTES DO 8<sup>4</sup> COM<sup>04</sup>II348BERTO D'ANIRALE BRAN 8. JONO DA CHAPADA PROVIDE MINAS 8. JONO DA CHAPADA PROVIDE MINAS



## TWO MONTHS ON THE RIVER

Pirapora
Januária
Bom Jesus de Lapa
Xique-Xique
Petrolina, Juazeiro
Paulo Afonso Falls















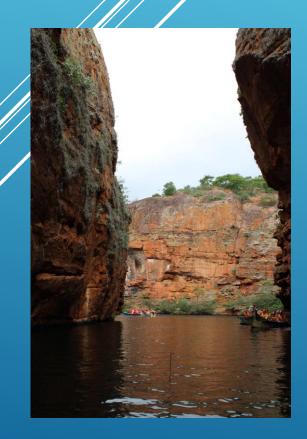








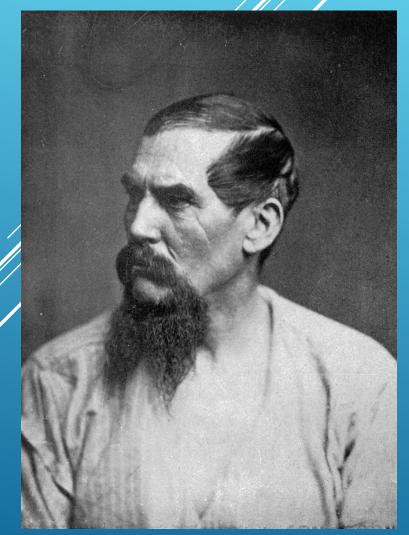






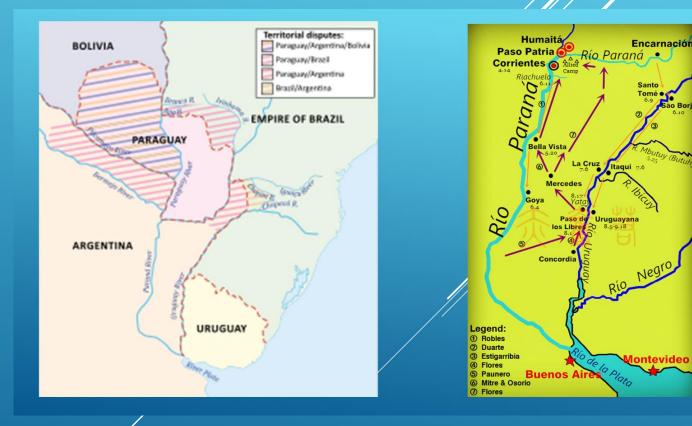
#### NEAR DEATH & RESIGNATION

- □ returns to Rio in November 1867
- □ deathly ill in São Paulo
- □ resignation and medical leave
- □ Isabel packs and heads back to England
- $\Box$  Richard heads off to the battlefields of Paragray



### **A MISSING CHAPTER**

- Paraguay
- Buenos Aires
- □ across the pampas to Chile □ up to Lima, Peru



Santo

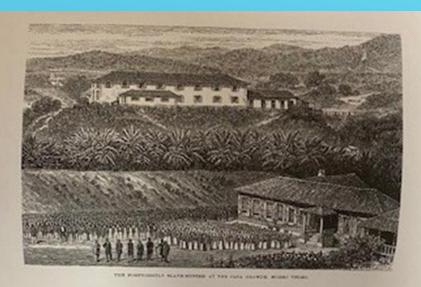
Tomé

Blunt later described Burton's face as "the most hideous have ever seen, dark, cruel, treacherous, with eyes like a wild beast's. He reminded me of a black leopard, caged but unforgiving".

Nevertheless, Blunt went on, "Even the ferocity of his countenance gave place at times to more agreeable expressions, and I can just understand the infatuated fancy of his wife that in spite of his tigliness he was the most beautiful man alive."

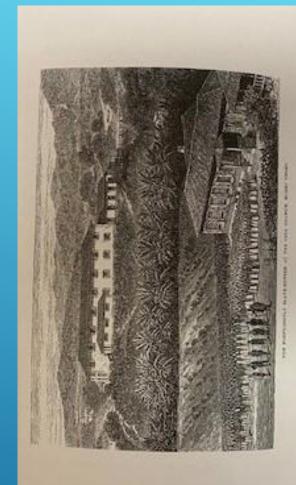
### AH, ISABEL

- $\Box$  edits *Explorations of the Highlands of the Brazil* (1869) 2 volg
- □ works on Lord Stanley for position in Damascus
- "I protest vehemently against his religious and moral sentiments, which belie a good and chivalrous life. I point the finger of indignation particularly at what misrepresents our Holy Roman Catholic Church, and at what upholds that unnatural and repulsive law, Polygamy, which the Author is careful not to practise himself, but from a high moral pedestal he preaches to the ignorant as a means of population in young countries."



HIGHLANDS TINSLEY BT CAPTAIN AUT BROTHERS, Maria OF 1 RICHARD F. LONDON; 16, CATHERINE 1869. VOL THE -BURTON, BRAZIL. STREET, STRAND.

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HIGHLANDS OF THE BRAZIL. By CAPTAIN BICHARD V. BURTON, \*\*\*\*\*

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LONDON: TINSLEY BROTHERS, 16, CATHERINE STREET, STRAND. 1868.

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## THE DREAM APPOINTMENT

- early 1869 in a Lima café when he hears the news
- □ Consul in Damascus
- heads back to Buenos Aires and Rio via Straits of Magellan
- □ off to London, and then Damascus



"[T]he historian who visits a place writes a different history than the historian who stays home, satisfied to read about a place someone else once visited."

Barry Lopez, Horizon (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019), 60.