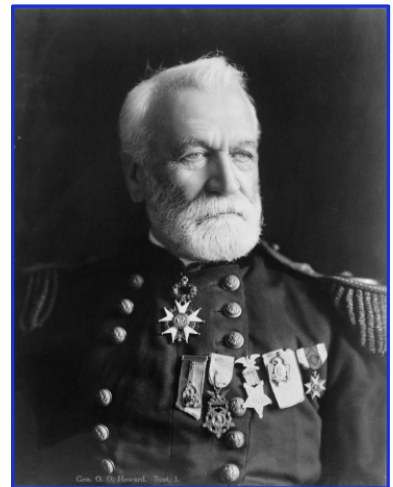


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Presentation: O. O. Howard – Who?

In Oliver Otis Howard's seventy-eight years he obtained two college degrees, served in the Union army in several major Civil War engagements, headed the Freedmen's Bureau, was president and namesake of Howard University, negotiated with and fought against American Indians in the West, served as superintendent of West Point, rose to the rank of major general, published four books (including his own two-volume autobiography) and several articles.



How many Americans can say they lent money to Sojourner Truth, received a mandate from Abraham Lincoln, conducted the funeral of William T. Sherman, hugged Cochise and Geronimo, received consolation from Robert E. Lee, chastisement and praise from Mark Twain, solicited money from Queen Victoria, gave a commencement address with Chief Joseph, had a chapter written about him by his friend Harriet Beecher Stowe, lauded by her brother Henry Ward Beecher, took a tour of Alaska with John Muir, supported Sarah Winnemucca through marital problems, formed the subject of a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier, corresponded regularly with Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington, and had William Lloyd Garrison seek his advice? The answer is one, General O. O. Howard, the "Christian General."

In his last years, Howard founded Lincoln Memorial University near the Cumberland Gap in Tennessee as a tribute to Lincoln and postwar reconciliation. Lincoln had urged Howard to establish a university to formally educate the poor in a rural area of which the 16th president was deprived. Set near the border of Tennessee and Kentucky, the reconciliation came in the form that half of the board of directors must come from the South and the other half from the North. Two buildings opened the campus, one named Robert E. Lee Hall and the other Ulysses S. Grant Hall. Howard died in 1909 in Vermont where he was a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Insignia #3808.



Author Biography: Dr. Scott L. Stabler is from Houston, Texas and received a BA from Baylor University. He received his master's from the University of Houston, writing a thesis on U.S. Grant's Indian policy. Dr. Stabler then received a PhD from Arizona State University where he wrote a dissertation titled, "Race, Reaction, Policy, and Perception: A tri-cultural study of postbellum America through the life of General O.O. Howard." He currently teaches at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan and in 2010 received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach in Ghana at the University of Cape Coast. Dr. Stabler may be reached at *stblers@gvsu.edu*.

