ANDREW JOHNSON AND OLIVER O. HOWARD

President Andrew Johnson

17th President of the United States, 1865-1869.

Andrew Johnson became President of the United States on April 15, 1865 upon the death of Abraham Lincoln, who had been shot the night before by the actor John Wilkes Booth. Johnson lacked the political skill of Lincoln and soon found himself overmatched and at odds with the Radical Republicans in Congress. Johnson’s single term in office was one long clash with the Radical Republicans that culminated in his impeachment trial in 1868.

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General Oliver Otis Howard

Commissioner of the Freedman’s Bureau

General Oliver O. Howard was a veteran Civil War general whose battle experience included the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) and Gettysburg. He lost his arm at the Battle of Fair Oaks in 1862. Howard was genuinely concerned about the plight of the ex-slave, so he was an excellent choice to head the Freedmen’s Bureau. After the Bureau went out of existence, Howard went west to subdue resisting Native Americans, and as a result he captured Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce tribe in 1877. Because of his work in helping African-Americans adjust to freedom, Howard University in Washington, D. C. was named after him.

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