

General William O. Butler Presentation Sword, 1847



The Kentucky legislature gave General William O. Butler this silver presentation sword for heroism at the battle of Monterrey. Butler, major general of volunteers, was in command during a Mexican cannonade of the Louisville Legion at Monterrey, Mexico. The Legion held its ground and withstood the day-long attack. During the battle, the general was seriously wounded. The sword remained in the possession of the family until a relative traded it to pay off a debt. Butler was also recognized nationally when the United States Congress presented him a gold presentation sword for heroism.

Donated by Jane Short Atwood, 1953.7.1

War is not just a compilation of dates that represent a series of battles. "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)," an online exhibition that illustrates the personal stories of bravery, innovation, heartache and perseverance, provides evidence of the people and artifacts history books often neglect. To learn more about this item and others in the military collections of the Kentucky Historical Society, visit "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)."