War Service Reference Guide



Track your family's military service with our birth year chart and timeline of US conflicts.

1622-1644 ★ Powhatan Wars

Jamestown settlers and Powhatan Indians clash several times.

1637 ★ Pequot War

Pequot Indians and Puritan settlers battle in the Connecticut River Valley.

1675-1676 ★ King Philip's War

Indian leader Metacomet (known as King Philip) organizes several New England tribes in a revolt against Colonial expansion.

1676 ★ Bacon's Rebellion

Nathaniel Bacon leads two unauthorized expeditions against American Indians.

1677-1679 ★ Culpeper's Rebellion

Albemarle, Carolina-area colonists imprison the deputy governor, convene their own legislature and run the government.

1689-1697 ★ King William's War

The French and their Indian allies attack British settlements in New York, New Hampshire and Maine.

1689-1691 ★ Leisler's Rebellion

Militia captain Jacob Leisler proclaims himself governor of New York and tries to organize an expedition against French Canada.

1702-1713 ★ Queen Anne's War

French and Indians attack British settlements. The British capture Acadia (now Nova Scotia).

1711-1713 ★ The Tuscarora War

Tuscarora Indians attack settlers living along North Carolina's Neuse and Pamlico rivers. Colonists end the uprising aided by troops and Yamasee Indians from South Carolina.

1715-1716 ★ Yamasee War

Fed up with dishonest deerskin traders, the Creek, Yamasee, Apalachee, Savannah and Sarraw attack South Carolina settlements.

1739-1742 ★ War of Jenkins' Ear

England declares war on Spain as both nations try to expand their interests in America. Fighting ends in a stalemate.

1744-1748 ★ King George's War

French, Indians and Spanish fight the British from French Canada to the Caribbean Sea.

1754-1763 ★ French and Indian War

British regulars and American colonials square off against the French and their Indian allies. Capture of Quebec ends French rule in Canada.

1760-1762 ★ Cherokee uprising

A breakdown in relations between

the British and Cherokee leads to fighting in Tennessee, Virginia and the Carolinas.

1763-1766 ★ Pontiac's War

Led by Pontiac, the Ottawa, Wyandot, Potawatomi and Ojibwa attempt to drive British settlers out of former French territories.

1763-1764 ★ Paxton Boys Uprising

Pennsylvania frontiersmen march on Philadelphia and raid the Conestoga Indians

1765-1766 ★ Stamp Act Revolt

The Sons of Liberty resist the Stamp Act, which the British repeal in March 1766.

1768-1771 ★ Regulator War

Colonists in western North Carolina fight government officials and militia.

1770 ★ Boston Massacre

British soldiers kill five Bostonians.

1773 ★ Boston Tea Party

Colonists dressed as Indians board ships in Boston Harbor and dump tea into the water.

1774 ★ Lord Dunmore's War

Shawnee Indians fight Virginia settlers over colonists' expansion into the Appalachians.

1775-1783 ★ American Revolution

The 13 Colonies fight for independence from Great Britain.

1786-1787 ★ Shays' Rebellion

Suffering from a harsh economy, Massachusetts farmers march on Springfield; the state militia defeats the uprising.

1790-1812 ★ Ohio Valley campaigns

US forces fight sporadic battles with Miami, Shawnee and other tribes in present-day Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

1794 ★ Whiskey Rebellion

Western Pennsylvanians protest the government's new tax on whiskey.

1798-1800 ★ Quasi-war with France

French privateers prey on US merchant vessels, prompting an undeclared naval war between the United States and France.

1801-1805 ★ First Barbary War

US attacks the Barbary state of Tripoli after refusing to pay tribute to pirates.

1812-1814 * War of 1812

The United States takes on British forces, which burn Washington, DC.

1815 ★ Second Barbary War

Algiers declares war on the US.

If the birth year is	Look for records of the
1726-1767	Revolutionary War (1775-1783)
1762-1799	War of 1812 (1812-1815)
1796-1831	Mexican War (1846-1848)
1811-1848	Civil War (1861-1865)
1848-1881	Spanish-American War (1898)
1849-1885	Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902)
1872-1900	World War I (1917-1918)
1877-1925	World War II (1941-1945)
1900-1936	Korean War (1950-1953)
1914-1955	Vietnam War (1964-1972)

1817-1818 ★ First Seminole War

Conflict begins after US authorities try to reclaim runaway black slaves living among the Seminoles.

1832 ★ Black Hawk War

Illinois and Wisconsin militia, supported by the US Army, take on the Sauk, Fox, Winnebago, Sioux and Chippewa tribes.

1835-1842 ★ Second Seminole War

War erupts after Seminoles refuse to relocate west of the Mississippi River.

1836 ★ War of Texas Independence

American settlers in Texas fight Mexico for independence.

1838-1839 ★ Trail of Tears

US soldiers relocate Cherokee Indians from eastern states to territory in what's now Oklahoma. More than 4,000 Cherokee die during the journey.

1838-1839 ★ Aroostook War

Maine farmers and Canadian lumbermen clash over territory along the border.

1839-1846 ★ Anti-rent War

New York farmers rebel against a feudal landowner system.

1842 ★ Dorr Rebellion

An attempt to reform Rhode Island's 1663 charter, which gives only land-owners the right to vote, becomes an armed uprising.

1846-1848 ★ Mexican War

Mexico cedes present-day California, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Nevada to the United States.

1864-1868 ★ Navajo wars

After a series of treaties fails, Col. Kit Carson begins a scorched-earth policy that forces the Indians to surrender.

1855-1858 ★ Third Seminole War

The Seminole Indians are defeated and moved from Florida.

1857-1858 ★ Utah War

President Buchanan sends troops to enforce his appointment of a non-Mormon governor.

1860-1900 ★ Plains and Western Indian wars

Western states witness conflicts between US settlers and American Indian inhabitants.

1861-1865 ★ American Civil War

Southern states secede over states' rights and slavery issues. The North fights to keep the Union intact.

1866-1871 ★ The Fenian War

An Irish-American movement launches five unsuccessful raids in Canada.

1898 ★ Spanish-American War

America declares war on Spain and launches offensives in Cuba and the Philippines.

1899-1902 ★ Philippine Insurrection

US ground troops clash with Filipino freedom fighters.

1900 ★ Boxer Rebellion

The US is part of an international force that ends a siege of Beijing.

1898-1934 ★ The Banana Wars

Marines deploy to quell revolts in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Panama and Cuba.

1916-1917 ★ Pancho Villa Expedition

Thousands of US troops enter Mexico in pursuit of the bandit and revolutionary Pancho Villa.

1917-1918 ★ World War I

More than 4 million Americans serve in the "The Great War."

1919-1920 ★ Russian Revolution

US deploys to Vladivostok and Siberia to support anti-Bolshevik forces.

1941-1945 ★ World War II

More than 16 million Americans fight in Europe, North Africa and the Pacific.