Military History in the United States

1812–Civil War
The War of 1812 (see Military History of America, Vol. 1) did not bring peace to the United States. The U.S. was involved in a military encounter nearly every year. This album will highlight those encounters within the United States following the War of 1812 through American Civil War.

Seminole Wars

Seminole Wars, 1817–1858

Following the American Revolutionary War, the Florida territory remained under Spanish control. Spain offered property (land grants) to those moving into the area. Native Americans from Georgia and Alabama were among those moving into Florida. They became known as the Seminole. Also taking advantage of the land grants were slaves who were able to gain their freedom by escaping to the Florida territory.

Meanwhile, the United States was not happy that the Seminoles were settling on the fertile lands of Florida. The U.S. was further upset that the Seminoles were providing a safe refuge for the runaway slaves; and the Seminoles were upset that United States had destroyed Negro Fort.

In 1818, Major General Andrew Jackson invaded Florida. He attacked the Seminoles, pushing them farther south.

After Spain ceded Florida to the United States in 1821, the U.S. immediately began trying to persuade the Indians to relocate to “Indian Territory” in present-day Oklahoma. Two more wars ensued (1835-1842), (1855-1858), which resulted in the U.S. taking the Seminoles’ land for white settlement.

Two organized bands and several families stayed behind in Big Cypress and other secluded parts of Florida. The tiny remnant that hung on had never surrendered.

Army Issues

Andrew Jackson, Winfield Scott, and The Hermitage

Scott 786 • 1937

Andrew Jackson (1767–1845), a hero following the War of 1812, continued in the military during the First Seminole War. In 1817 he led his Tennessee volunteers into western Florida, pushing the Seminole into the south-central part of the state. After becoming President of the United States, Jackson approved the Indian Removal Act — legislation to move all the Indians to lands west of the Mississippi River.

The background of this stamp shows Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage home, located near Nashville, Tennessee. It was issued on January 15, 1937, as one of the Army and Navy Commemorative Series.

Indian Centennial

Scott 972 • 1948

The “Five Civilized Tribes”, as described by European settlers in America, were the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee, and Seminole — so described because they adopted many of the colonists’ customs. These tribes lived in the American southeast until tensions rose between the Indians and the white settlers. Beginning in 1831, the tribes were removed from their homeland to Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma. Thousands of Indians died enroute, making this known as the “Trail of Tears”. Scott 972 was issued on October 15, 1948, in Muskogee, Oklahoma. It commemorated the arrival of the “Five Civilized Tribes” in Oklahoma.

Gen Winfield Scott

Scott 153 • Issues of 1870–71

Gen Winfield Scott (1786–1866), known as “Old Fuss and Feathers”, was a commander of the Second Seminole War. He was a leader in the “Trail of Tears”, led nine companies into Illinois (Black Hawk War), and led his troops in several successful battles during the Mexican-American War, including the assault on the fort of Chapultepec, after which Mexico City surrendered. Winfield Scott served in the Army for 53 years, having attained the position of Major General, the highest rank in the Army at that time.
Seminole Wars

Andrew Jackson, Winfield Scott, and The Hermitage
Scott 786 • 1937

Indian Centennial
Scott 972 • 1948

Gen Winfield Scott
Scott 153 • Issues of 1870–71
Indian Wars of 1820–1832

Texas-Indian Wars, 1820-1875
White settlers moved into Texas as early as the late 1600s. The Comanche began moving into the same area in the early 1700s. Following years of Comanche raids, in 1823 Texas militia Rangers were hired to fight the Comanche and protect the settlers; however, they were not very effective. The Comanche continued to raid — killing some while taking others hostage.

Arikara War, 1823
The Arikara Indian settlements were located in North Dakota. On June 2, 1823, Arikara warriors attacked trappers working along the Missouri River. In August, the U.S. responded by attacking the Arikara village, but was mostly ineffective. Before a peace treaty could be signed, the Arikara moved further west.

Winnebago War, 1827
The discovery of lead brought thousands of miners into Wisconsin in the 1820s and 1830s. The Winnebago (or Ho-Chunk) tribes attempted to preserve their lands from the trespassing miners. As a result of this uprising, the Ho-Chunk tribe ceded the lead mine region to the U.S.

Black Hawk War, 1832
In 1804, the Indians signed a treaty that relinquished all of their land east of the Mississippi River to the United States. Black Hawk, a leader of the Sauk, did not agree with the treaty. As more white settlers moved into the area, Black Hawk and his tribe were forced to leave their homes, moving west of the Mississippi River. War erupted when a group of warriors, led by Black Hawk, crossed back into the state of Illinois. This 15-week war increased the enforcement of the U.S. policy of “Indian removal”, that is that Native American tribes should be permanently moved west of the Mississippi River.

Comanche Headdress
Scott 2503 • 1990
The Comanche Headdress, also known as a feather warbonnet, was a display of a man's honor and courage. Often made by the warrior himself, a headdress may have been made from beads, animal skins, and even tassels of human hair. Eagle and turkey feathers were added, with each feather telling a story. Comanche men did not wear a headdress like the one featured on this stamp until in the late 1800s.

Wisconsin Tercentenary
Scott 739 • 1934
When the first European explorers arrived in Wisconsin during the early 1600s, the main Indian tribes were the Winnebago, Dakota, and Menominee. The Indians and settlers lived in relative peace until The Black Hawk War during which several fierce battles were fought. When the war finally ended, only about 150 Sauk Indians were left alive.

Lewis & Clark Expedition
Scott 3854 • 2004
Lewis and Clark reached the friendly Arikara settlements in 1804. Two years later, the Arikara leader died while on a trip to the U.S. capital. The Indians blamed the white settlers for his death and often there were conflicts between the two groups. The Arikara War ensued in 1823.

Zachary Taylor
Scott 185 (Issues of 1875–79)
In 1808, Zachary Taylor (1784 –1850) joined the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant of the Seventh Infantry Regiment. As captain, he successfully defended Fort Harrison in the Indiana Territory (War of 1812). In 1832, as a colonel, he defended the United States against Chief Black Hawk (Black Hawk War.) Five years later, in 1837, he defeated the Seminole Indians in the Battle of Lake Okeechobee (Second Seminole War.) After several uneventful years, Taylor's army advanced to the Rio Grande to defeat the Mexican forces (Mexican-American War.) Zachary Taylor later became the 12th President of the United States.

American Indian
Scott 565 • 1923
Although the inscription beneath the portrait simply reads "American Indian," this stamp actually pictures Hollow Horn Bear, a Brule Sioux Indian chief. In 1889, as a spokesman for his people, he negotiated several agreements with General George Crook who was attempting to break up the large reservations. He is well-known among American Indians for trying to protect the Indian's basic rights. In 1905 he rode in Teddy Roosevelt's inaugural parade, proudly representing all Indians of the West.
Indian Wars of 1820–1832

Comanche Headdress
Scott 2503 • 1990

Lewis & Clark Expedition
Scott 3854 • 2004

Wisconsin Tercentenary
Scott 739 • 1934

Zachary Taylor
Scott 185 (Issues of 1875–79)

American Indian
Scott 565 • 1923
Texas Revolution

Texas Revolution, 1835–36

After Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821, Texas became a part of Mexico. Many of the settlers moving into Texas from the United States were slave owners who were prejudice against other races and religions (especially Mexicans who practiced Catholicism.) In 1835, Texans rebelled against the Mexican government. The Texas Revolution ended at the Battle of the Alamo in 1836.

Battle of San Jacinto, 1836

The Battle of San Jacinto was one of the last major battles to be fought prior to Texas declaring their independence from Mexico. After marching for nearly 24 hours without rest or food, Mexican troops arrived to reinforce their army that was camped by the San Jacinto River. When afternoon came, the troops took time to eat and rest. The Texans attacked and within 18 minutes the Mexican soldiers abandoned their camp.

Battle at the Alamo

Scott 1043 • 1956

The Alamo, located in San Antonio, Texas, was built as a Spanish mission in the early 1700s. In early March of 1836, about 150 Texans took refuge in the mission, preparing for battle against nearly 5,000 Mexican troops (Texas Revolution). When the Texans ran out of ammunition, the Mexicans scaled the walls into the mission, killing every adult male that was inside. “Remember the Alamo” became the battle cry of the Texas independence struggle.

Scott 1043, issued June 14, 1956, honors the Alamo, both for its architectural design and its significance as a symbol of courageous freedom.

Battle of San Jacinto

Scott 2204 • 1986

The Battle of San Jacinto was a decisive battle in the Texas Revolution. On April 21, 1836, Sam Houston led a small Texan army against Mexican forces in a surprise attack along the Buffalo Bayou in present day Harris County, Texas. Houston captured their leader and crushed the army in a fight that lasted just 18 minutes.

Scott 2204 was issued March 2, 1986, to commemorate the formation of the Republic of Texas.

Gen. Sam Houston

Scott 1242 • 1964

Sam Houston (1793–1863) moved to Texas when it was still a part of Mexico. In 1836, he organized an army (becoming its commander in chief) which defeated the Mexican army at the Battle of San Jacinto. After Mexico recognized it as an independent territory, Houston became the first president of the Republic of Texas.

Houston is depicted on Scott 1242 which was issued on January 10, 1964.

Texas Centennial

Scott 776 • 1936

Houston is also pictured, along with Stephen Austin, on Scott 776 which was issued on March 2, 1936 to celebrate the Texas Centennial.

James K Polk

Scott 816 • 1938

James Polk (1795–1849) was the 11th President of the United States; Commander in Chief during the Mexican War. Although he did not wish to enter into a war against Mexico, he strongly desired the acquisition of Texas and California. The result was a war that lasted from 1846-48.

[Editor’s Note: James Polk was President when the United States issued its first postage stamp.]

Scott 816 was issued on September 8, 1938 as a part of the Presidential series — affectionately known as the “Prexies”.

American Philatelic Society, www.stamps.org
Texas Revolution

Battle of San Jacinto
Scott 2204 • 1986

Gen. Sam Houston
Scott 1242 • 1964

Texas Centennial
Scott 776 • 1936

James K Polk
Scott 816 • 1938
The Mexican-American War

In 1836, Texas declared their independence from Mexico, becoming the Republic of Texas. Just nine years later, in 1845, the Republic of Texas became the 28th state to be part of the United States of America. However, the border between Mexico and Texas was still undefined and contested. United States claimed the border at the Rio Grande River, while Mexico claimed it to be about 150 miles further north and east at the Nueces River.

The Mexican-American War began on April 25, 1846, with a confrontation between Mexican and U.S. troops on what became known as the Nueces Strip — land claimed by both countries. The war continued until The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed on February 2, 1848.

This treaty established the border between the U.S. and Mexico, and ceded to the United States the present-day states of California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Wyoming. In return, Mexico received US$18,250,000 from the United States.

Kearny Expedition
Scott 944 • 1946

In June 1846, General Stephen W. Kearny (1794–1848) led 2,500 men out of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas — his purpose was to gain control of Mexico’s Northern provinces. Two months later, after marching 850 miles, Kearny’s “Army of the West” arrived in Santa Fe. Although the Mexican governor wanted the residents to fight, Kearny took control of the city without a shot being fired (Mexican-American War).

U.S. #944 commemorates the 100th anniversary of Stephen Watts Kearny march into Santa Fe. The stamp pictures the raising of the American flag above the governor's palace in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1846.

John Fremont
Scott 2869i • 1994

John Fremont (1813–1890) is remembered for his expeditions to explore and chart the territory west of the Mississippi River. In 1845, he led a surveying expedition up the Arkansas River. After finding the source of the river, he moved into Upper California. There he helped protect the white settlers during the Mexican-American War.

On October 18, 1994, the U.S.P.S. issued a set of 20 stamps entitled “Classic Collections: Legends of the West”. Each stamp honored an individual or topic popular in America’s Western folklore. John Fremont, Scott 2869i, was among those stamps.

Fort Kearny
Scott 970 • 1948

Established in 1848, Fort Kearny was an important stop for wagon trains moving westward on the Oregon Trail. Because of the influx of settlers in the late 1850s and early ‘60s, the area came under attack by Cheyenne and Sioux tribes wanting to protect their land. By 1865, the white settlers and Native Indians had established peace in the area surrounding Fort Kearny.

The fort was originally called Fort Childs, but was renamed For Kearny in honor of General Stephen Watts Kearny. The nearby town of Kearney took its name from the fort. The “e” was added to Kearny by postmen who consistently misspelled the town name.[1]

Scott 970 was issued September 22, 1948 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Fort Kearny, Nebraska.

Fort Bliss
Scott 976 • 1948

Following the Mexican-American War, small forts were built to protect American interests in Texas — areas that had also been claimed by Mexico. The fort, originally built in 1848, was named Fort Bliss in 1854, in honor of Lt. Col. William Wallace Smith Bliss, a veteran of the Mexican-American War. Fort Bliss continues to be a training ground for U.S. military.

Scott 976 was issued on November 4, 1948, the 100th anniversary of the founding of Fort Bliss.

The stamp design features a Spanish-style mission to commemorate the Fort’s role in defending the area in the 1800s. A rocket launch is also shown on the stamp, signifying the fort’s history in the development of the United States rocket program.
Mexican-American War

Kearny Expedition
Scott 944 • 1946

Fort Kearny
Scott 970 • 1948

John Fremont
Scott 2869i • 1994

Fort Bliss
Scott 976 • 1948
Indian Wars of the Northwest

Patriot War, 1838
By 1837, Upper and Lower Canada (now Ontario and Quebec) were controlled by the Church of England. When a Canadian rebellion against the British, led by William Lyon Mackenzie failed, he escaped into the United States where he sought supporters to his cause. Men from both the U.S. and Canada joined forces to create a secret, anti-British organization called the “Hunters’ Lodges”. The “Lodges” invaded Canada at least 13 times from December 1837 to December 1838. These skirmishes became known as the Patriot War.

Cayuse War, 1847-1855
Puget Sound War, 1855-1856
Rogue River Wars, 1855-1856
Yakima War, 1855-1858
The Cayuse War began when some Cayuse warriors raided the Whitman Mission in Oregon, killing 14 and taking 53 others captive. The U.S. responded by sending troops who captured those responsible for the killings. The Cayuse were finally defeated in 1855, ending this bloody war. However, this was just the beginning of the Indian skirmishes that would last another 40 years, including the Puget Sound War, the Rogue River Wars, and the Yakima War.

The Treaty of Medicine Creek, signed in 1854, gave the U.S. 2.24 million acres of land (including prime farmland) in exchange for the creation of three reservations and cash payments, but allowed for Indians to have fishing and hunting rights. Over the next four years, a number of skirmishes broke out as groups of Native Americans protested the treaty. The battles ended when the Indians surrendered and were sent into reservations.

Chief Joseph
Scott 1364 • 1968
Chief Joseph, a leader of the Nez Perce, was born in eastern Oregon around 1840. He led his band during a tumultuous period of history when they were forcibly removed from their ancestral lands. He died at the Colesville Reservation in Washington State in 1904.

Fort Nisqually, Washington
Scott 1604 • 1978
Fort Nisqually was an important fur trading and farming post of the Hudson's Bay Company in the Puget Sound area. Forts would be built at central fur gathering locations, accessible to a large number of tribes. The fort’s main export was beaver pelts that were used for making hats.
Indian Wars of the Northwest

Chief Joseph
Scott 1364 • 1968

Fort Nisqually, Washington
Scott 1604 • 1978
Indian Wars 1850–1900

Apache Wars, 1851-1900
The Apache Wars were a series of more than 40 conflicts fought over a period of 50 years. The Apache tribes wanted to maintain their lifestyles and keep their homelands, while the settlers wanted to move into the Indian territories — although some of the Indian raids were mainly just to take food, livestock, and horses. The War ended when the Indians surrendered, agreeing to be moved onto reservations.

Utah War, 1857–58
Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (also known as Mormons) began leaving the United States, moving into what is now Utah, in 1847. They created the State of Deseret; however, following the Compromise of 1850, their settlement became part of the Utah Territory, belonging to the United States. Brigham Young was appointed as their governor.

In 1857, President James Buchanan appointed Alfred Cumming to replace Young as governor of the Utah Territory. Fearing resistance by the Mormons, Buchanan had the U.S. Army accompany Cumming to the territory. Not knowing what was happening, Young's militia prepared for a skirmish. In the end, the State of Deseret was peacefully turned over to the new governor.

The Utah War (1857–58) had no actual battles between military forces.

Navajo Wars, 1858-1864
As settlers moved westward, tensions between them and the Navajos escalated. The Navajo protested the settlers allowing their livestock to graze on prime Navajo land; the U.S. military attacked the Navajo settlements. From 1858 through 1864, the Navajo would continue to raid settlements; in return, the settlers would raid the Navajo territory. Between September 1863 and January 1854, Kit Carson invaded the Navajo territory, burning homes and crops, and stealing their livestock. Without food and shelter, the Indians were forced to move onto the reservation at Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

Indian Peace Flag (1803)
The Stars and Stripes
Scott 3403i • 2000

The Stars and Stripes is a set of 20 stamps chronicles the development of the American flag from Colonial times to the present. Each flag has an interesting story behind it. The American government often presented a version of the Stars and Stripes to friendly Indian nations. These "Indian Peace" flags feature the U.S. Coat of Arms in the canton.
Indian Wars 1850–1900

Indian Peace Flag (1803)
Scott 3403i • 2000
This album may not include every issue. Use the blank pages to add stamps to your album.

Stamps in this album are shown courtesy of the American Philatelic Society Reference Collection, created and sustained through the generosity of APS members.

Membership in the American Philatelic Society provides many benefits, including:

**Website** — Find dealers and stamp clubs, get new issue information, view online exhibits and much more.

**The American Philatelist** — The world’s premier stamp magazine written by our members for our members.

**Monthly E-Newsletter** — With hobby news and tips.

**APEX Expertizing Service** — Offers guaranteed opinions on the genuineness of all stamps by our committee of experts.

**Research Library** — Access to the largest public philatelic library — books, journals, archives, exhibits, government documents, and digital versions with mail and e-mail delivery service.

**APS Stamp Insurance Plan** — The best and most comprehensive coverage available — low cost for members and quality service, too.

**Education Programs** — Summer Seminar, On-the-Road Courses, and Internet-based courses — learning never ends, sign up today! Many publications are also available for purchase.

**Quick I.D.** — Helps identify that troubling stamp at a substantially lower cost than the formal certification process.

**Circuit Sales** — $6,000,000 inventory awaits your requests — mini-stamp stores delivered to your front door!

**Internet Sales** — Buy/Sell online — more than 300,000 items. New items added every business day!

**Youth Programs** — Young Stamp Collectors of America, All-Star Stamp Club program — support for the individual young collector and leaders of local youth clubs.

**Take advantage of fellow members expertise** — Use the Translation Service and the Committee for the Care and Preservation of Philatelic Material.

**Chapters & Affiliates** — Join local clubs or national organizations based on your collecting interests.

**Discounts** — APS members receive discounts on publications, Expertizing and Quick ID, exhibiting at APS shows, Affinity programs, and more.

Stay connected with the APS through our web and social media sites

www.stamps.org