

America's Historical Newspapers

Guide to Historical Variants

Current Terms	Historical Variants or Highly Related Terms
alcohol	intoxicants, spirits, spirituous liquors, alcoholic beverages
alcoholism or alcohol abuse	dipsomania, drunkenness, inebriation, intoxication
American Revolution	Revolutionary War, War of Independence
anti-slavery	abolitionist
army	militia, armed forces, military forces
automobile	horseless carriage, motorcar, car, auto
baseball	base-ball
Blacks/African Americans	Negro, Negroes, Colored, Coloured, Nigger, Darky, Mulatto, Quadroon, Octoroon, Mixed-race, African race, African descent, Afro-Americans
Bleeding Kansas	Bloody Kansas, Border War
booty	prize, plunder, spoils, spoliation
border	boundary, frontier
census	enumeration
chemical weapons	poison gas, noxious gas
Chinese	Chinamen, Chinaman
citizenship	naturalization
Civil War	American Civil War, U.S. Civil War, War between the States, War of Secession, War of the Rebellion
coolie labor	cooly labor
crimes	offences, offenses, misdemeanors, felonies, depredations
cruelty to animals	vivisection
customs	tariffs, duties, duty, tonnage
defense	defence
emancipation	manumission
embezzlement	defalcation, misappropriation
flags	standards, colors, colours
foreigners	aliens, foreign nationals, noncitizens, non-citizens
free blacks	Free person of color, free person of colour, freedmen, freedman, freed slaves, emancipated slaves, former slaves, ex-slaves, free negroes
immigrants	aliens, migrants, foreign migrants, foreign-born
Indian raids	Indian depredations
kidnapping	Indian captivity, abduction, captivation
Ku Klux Klan	KKK, K.K.K., KuKlux, Klan, Ku Kluxers
labor relations	industrial relations
land claims	preemption, pre-emption, squatters, homestead claims
malaria	fever and ague, intermittent fever, blackwater fever
money	specie, currency, legal tender, bank notes, banknotes, coins, coinage
Muslims	Moslems, Mohammedans, Moors, Mussulmen, Musalman
nuclear weapons	atomic weapons, atom bomb, thermonuclear weapons, hydrogen bomb, A-bomb, H-bomb
orphanages, shelters, homes, psychiatric hospitals, etc.	asylums, almshouses, poor farms, workhouses, work houses
orphans	foundlings
pioneers	emigrants, settlers (Emigrants was commonly used for easterners moving west, as well as for people moving out of their countries of birth).

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pirates	corsairs, buccaneers, freebooters, pyrate, piracy, privateers, privateering
poverty	impoverishment, destitution, indigence, indigent
pre-Civil War	Antebellum
rabies	hydrophobia, lyssa
radio	wireless, wireless telegraphy
railroads	railways, roads, rail ways, rail roads, trains, rail
rape	ravish, ravishment, defilement, outrage
Reconstruction	carpetbagger, carpetbag
rewards, incentives	Bounties (not limited to criminal context, e.g., military bounties were given to encourage enlistment)
runaway	fugitive, escaped
sailors	mariners, seamen
science	natural philosophy
slave or slavery	chattel, servant, peculiar institution, person held to service ("Servant" was often used by Antebellum southerners as a euphemism for slave.)
smallpox	small pox, variola, varioloid, pox
statistics	returns
steamboats	steamboats, steam boats, steamships, steam ships, puffers, steam vessels, vessels propelled by steam
strikebreakers	blacklegs, scabs, strike-breakers
taxes	levy, levies, taxation, internal revenue
trade	intercourse
Trail of Tears	Indian removal, Indian relocation
treaty	agreement, compact, pact, international instrument, protocol, convention, note of understanding
tuberculosis	consumption, phthisis, TB
vaccination	inoculation, vaccines, immunization
Vietnam War	Indochina Conflict, Indochinese Conflict, Indo-China Conflict
vote, voting, right to vote, voting rights	suffrage, franchise, enfranchisement, disfranchisement, disenfranchisement
Washington, D.C.	District of Columbia
women	woman, female, lady, ladies, girl, "fairer sex" ("female" was often used in preference to women to designate the sex as a group.)
World War I	Great War, WWI, War to End All Wars, European War, First World War
World War II	WWII, Second World War