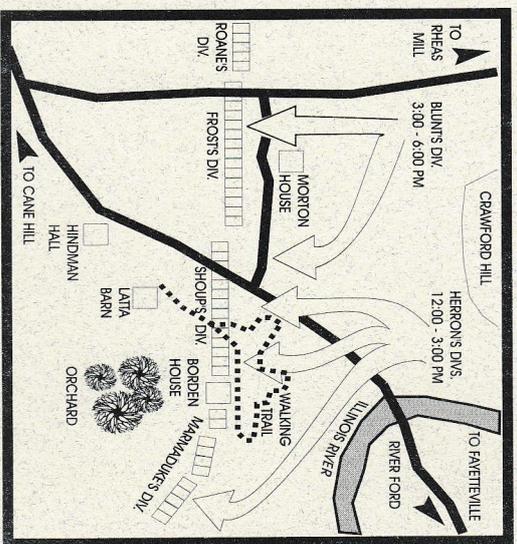


# Prairie Grove Battlefield Trail



A  
Self-Guided  
Walk



## Trail Markers

- 1** As part of General James F. Fagan's Arkansas Infantry Brigade, the 34th Arkansas Confederate took position from the ravine west to the Fayetteville - Cane Hill Road. The men from companies B and K were from the Cane Hill and Prairie Grove areas.
- 2** The 29th Arkansas Infantry was next in line, occupying the ravine at the start of the battle. This regiment suffered 49% casualties including its commander, Colonel Joseph Pleasants, who received a mortal wound and died soon afterwards.
- 3** The four bronze cannons in Blocher's Arkansas Battery attracted the attention of General Herron who ordered that they be taken. The 20th Wisconsin charged up the hill and captured them, before being driven back by a superior Confederate force.

**4** The 19th Iowa Infantry advanced into the apple orchard behind the Borden House in support of the 20th Wisconsin. Both units quickly found themselves surrounded on three sides by a superior Confederate force which poured volley after volley into the blue ranks. Among the dead was Lieutenant Colonel Samuel McFarland who took nine musket balls and died instantly.

**5** Colonel Joseph Orville Shelby's dismounted Missouri cavalry protected the right flank of the Confederate Army. Armed mostly with shotguns, they waited until the Federals were within 40 yards before firing.

**6** The 19th Iowa advanced through these woods during the first Union charge. When they returned from the ridge, they had lost 49% of their men.

**7** The 20th Wisconsin advanced and then retreated across this ground. The thrill of capturing Blocher's cannons was replaced by the misery of loss. The entire color guard was killed in the charge up the hill.

The Borden cornfield extended from here north to the road. Confederates chased the retreating Federals through the field before being cut down by deadly canister fire from massed Union batteries to the north.

**8** After stopping the Confederate counter-attack, General Herron ordered a second charge by the 37th Illinois and 26th Indiana Infantry regiments. They advanced up the slope under heavy small arms fire.

**9** Forced to fall back, the Union soldiers took a position behind the remnants of a fence at the foot of the ridge, where they rallied and faced another Confederate counterattack. Effective fire blunted the Southern assault which fell back up the ridge. This ended the heavy fighting on the eastern end of the battlefield.

**10** The Aday Post Office and several family homes were in the line of fire throughout the battle and sustained damage. The four families that lived on the ridge hid in the cellar on William Morton's farm.



**11** The 20th Iowa Infantry was awaiting another Southern attack when two cannonballs landed amidst the regiment about 3 PM. Fearing the Confederates were behind them, two companies quickly turned to face the new threat, only to discover the shells were signals announcing the arrival of General Blunt's Union command.