

Fayetteville National Cemetery  
700 Government Avenue  
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

## Description

The Fayetteville National Cemetery, established in 1867, is located in Washington County, about one mile southwest of the old courthouse. Historical records state that the original layout plan consisted of an outer circle and a six-pointed star with a diamond in between the points of the star and the flagpole in the center forming the hub of a complete wheel. The flagpole, erected in 1924, is situated on the summit of a small hill from which the original cemetery flowed downward in all directions.



The cemetery has been expanded over the years. The main entrance is located at the north side and is protected by a double iron gate supported by granite pillars, with a pedestrian gate on each side, all built in 1940. The older portion of the cemetery is enclosed by ornamental metal picket fencing with brick columns. The only portion of the original brick wall that remains is at the main entrance between the main gate and the pedestrian gates on either side. The newer portion of the cemetery is enclosed by black vinyl-clad chain link fencing. To the left and right of the entrance to the newer burial sections is ornamental metal picket fencing supported by brick pillars with pre-cast concrete caps. The administration building is located to the east of the main entrance, and the service building complex is located in the southwestern corner of the cemetery. A committal service shelter is situated approximately in the center of the cemetery. Graves are marked with upright marble headstones, except for Section 23, which is marked with flat granite markers.

The brick administration building with a hipped metal roof was constructed in 1997.

The brick service building complex, consisting of two buildings, each with a hipped metal roof, was constructed in 1997, and is located in the newer burial area.

A brick committal service shelter with a metal roof, constructed in 1997, is also located in the newer burial area.

## Noted Burials

James C. Putnam, the founder and first Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is buried in Section 15, Grave 1554.



## Civil War Activity in Area

Fayetteville was described by a Federal officer as "a beautiful little hamlet nestling among the foothills of the Ozark range, . . . . . the chief educational center of the state, the home of culture, refinement, and that inborn hospitality so characteristic of the south."



During 1862, two Civil War battles took place near Fayetteville, the Battles of Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove. In March 1862, north of Fayetteville at Pea Ridge, four blue-clad divisions under the command of Brigadier General Samuel R. Curtis were dug in along Sugar Creek, awaiting an assault by the Confederate forces of Earl Van Dorn. Van Dorn's columns attacked Curtis's Federal force from the rear. The Federals reacted quickly and fought strongly all day on March 7. Brigadier General Benjamin McCulloch was killed, as was Confederate Brigadier General James McIntosh. The next day, Curtis extended his line around both Confederate flanks, attacked the Confederates with artillery fire, and forced them to retreat.

On December 7, 1862, about 12 miles from Fayetteville, two evenly-matched armies got into a fight in freezing weather in what was known as the Battle of Prairie Grove. General Thomas C. Hindman's 10,000 Confederates attacked the combined Union force of Generals James Blunt and Francis J. Herron, also with 10,000. Herron, coming to Blunt's support, arrived in time to thwart Hindman's attack. Hindman had hoped to fight the Federals piecemeal. During the night, the Rebels withdrew and sought shelter. The casualties were about even: 1,251 Federals and 1,317 Confederates.

In April 1863, Brigadier General William Cabell ("Old Tige") led an attack against the Union outpost at Fayetteville. Casualties occurred even before the battle began. Lieutenant Gustavus F. Hottenhaur and eight of his men from Company B of the First Arkansas Cavalry (Union) were enjoying a dance at a private home in West Fork, some eight miles south of the town. A detachment of Cabell's cavalry under Lieutenant Jim Ferguson surprised the merrymakers and demanded their surrender. Their commanding officer attempted unsuccessfully to climb up the chimney. All nine were taken prisoner. Cabell arrived in Fayetteville on April 18. The Confederates approached the city from the east and advanced on the headquarters of the Federal commander, Colonel M. LaRue Harrison, located at the Tebbetts house just northeast of the town square. Harrison's brother, Captain E. B. Harrison, who was asleep in a house across the street, awakened, escaped out the front door, and ran to warn his brother. Cabell placed his two pieces of artillery on a hillside east of town and opened fire on the Federal camp with canisters and shells. For almost four hours, the battle raged around the Union headquarters. The Rebels managed to gain control of the Baxter house and a grove of trees south of the Tebbetts house but could go no farther. Colonel J. C. Monroe then led a desperate cavalry charge against the Union right only to run into a crossfire in front of the Federal ordnance office. Harrison had sought protection behind a tree and witnessed the Rebel charge. Gradually, the Union forces began to drive back both flanks of the Rebel line. The



Confederates in the Baxter house at the center of the position of the Rebels continued to resist for almost an hour after both wings had begun to give way, but eventually they too were driven out. By late morning, Cabell's command was retreating toward the Ozarks. Colonel Harrison had too few horses to mount a pursuit. Federal losses were 4 killed, 23 wounded, 35 missing, and 16 captured. Cabell reported his losses as approximately 20 killed, 30 wounded, and 20 missing. On April 20, Harrison received orders to abandon Fayetteville. Cabell's troops returned to peacefully occupy the town. In late September, Harrison's Federals would return once again to Fayetteville to secure it for the Union.