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Rebels attack Union gunboats on the Red River

CAMDEN EXPEDITION

In March 1864, Union Gen. Frederick Steele marched from Little Rock at the head of an army intent on joining another Federal army in Louisiana and then conquering cotton-rich east Texas. Steele was joined in Arkadelphia by a second Union force out of Fort Smith, then marched south. In early April, they skirmished with Confederate troops at Okolona before crossing the Little Missouri River at Elkins' Ferry. After several days of skirmishing at Prairie D'Ane (present-day Prescott), Steele's hungry troops broke off their advance and occupied Camden. Confederate troops ambushed a foraging party at Poison Spring on April 18 killing many soldiers of the First Kansas Colored Infantry Regiment after the battle was over. A week later at Marks' Mills, another Union column was attacked and defeated with heavy casualties. Steele decided to fall back to Little Rock and, following a fiercely fought battle at Jenkins' Ferry on the Saline River on April 30, made it back to his home base with his battered and starving army.

● **Steele's Expedition** (Union Gen. Frederick Steele led 8,500 men from Little Rock in a campaign that brought him to Camden and back with little to show for the effort.) **Start** at Little Rock on Hwy. 5 through Bryant to Benton then U.S. 70 to Hwy. 229 to U.S. 67 to Old Military Road at the Saline and Hot Spring county line then Hwy. 84 at Rockport to Antioch Road at Social Hill then Hwy. 283 to Hwy. 7 through Caddo Valley to U.S. 67 into Arkadelphia then Hwy. 8 to Mount Olive Road to Hwy. 26 to Hwy. 53 at Hollywood to Hwy. 51 through Okolona to U.S. 67 into Prescott then Main Street to Nevada County Road 23 to Nevada County Road 41 to Nevada County Road 290 to Hwy. 299 into Bluff City then Hwy. 387 to Hwy. 76 through Poison Spring to Hwy. 24 into Camden then U.S. 79B to U.S. 79 to Hwy. 9 through Princeton and Tulip to Hwy. 46 through Leola into Sheridan then U.S. 167 to Hwy. 367 into Little Rock.

● **Churchill's Approach** (Thomas J. Churchill's troops fought at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, on April 9, 1864, before being ordered north to try to bag Steele's Union troops. The Rebels met their foes at Jenkins' Ferry on April 30.) **Start** at Welcome on the Arkansas/Louisiana border on Hwy. 132 to Columbia County Road 21 to Hwy. 160 to Columbia County Road 1 to Hwy. 132 at Sharnan to Magnolia then U.S. 82 to U.S. 79B to McNeil then U.S. 79 through Stevens into Camden then U.S. 79B to U.S. 79 to Hwy. 9 through Princeton and Tulip to Hwy. 46 to Leola.

● **Dockery and Crawford's Approach** (Confederate cavalry under Col. W.A. Crawford and Thomas P. Dockery were involved in the fighting at Prairie D'Ane and Marks' Mills.) **Start** at the Nevada and Hempstead county line on Hwy. 332 then U.S. 62 into Prescott then Main Street to Nevada County Road 23 to Nevada County Road 41 to Nevada County Road 290 to Hwy. 299 into Bluff City then Hwy. 387 to Hwy. 76 through Poison

Springs to Hwy. 24 into Camden then U.S. 79B to U.S. 79 through Bearden and Thornton into Fordyce then to intersection of Hwy. 8 and Hwy. 97 near New Edinburg.

● **Maxey's Approach** (Confederate Gen. Samuel Bell Maxey led his troops from the Indian Territory – modern-day Oklahoma – to fight in the battles at Prairie D'Ane and Poison Spring.) **Start** at the Arkansas/Oklahoma border on Hwy. 108 through Foreman to Hwy. 234 into Wilton then U.S. 71 to Hwy. 27 to Hwy. 234 to Woodside Road to Bright Star Road to Tollette then Hwy. 332 to U.S. 278 to Washington then Hwy. 185 to Hempstead County Road 19 to Hwy. 29 to Hwy. 332 to U.S. 67 into Prescott then Main Street to Nevada County Road 23 to Nevada County Road 41 to Nevada County Road 290 to Hwy. 299 into Bluff City then Hwy. 387 to Hwy. 76 through Poison Spring to Hwy. 24 into Camden.

● **Parsons's Approach** (Mosby M. Parsons's Missouri troops fought at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, on April 9, 1864, before marching north to fight in the final battle of the Camden Expedition at Jenkins' Ferry on April 30.) **Start** at the Arkansas/Louisiana border on Hwy. 19 into Magnolia then Hwy. 179 to U.S. 79B to McNeil then U.S. 79 through Stevens into Camden then U.S. 79B to U.S. 79 to Hwy. 9 through Princeton and Tulip to Hwy. 46 to Leola.

● **Walker's Approach** (Major John G. Walker's Texas division marched north from Louisiana to fight Frederick Steele's retreating army at Jenkins' Ferry. Two of Walker's brigade commanders would die on the field; the third was wounded.) **Start** at Dodge City on the Arkansas/Louisiana border on Hwy. 15 to Three Creeks then Tram Road to Hopewell Road to Cairo then Hwy. 172 into Smackover then Hwy. 7 into Louann then Hwy. 376 to Hwy. 7 into Camden then U.S. 79B to U.S. 79 to Hwy. 9 through Princeton and Tulip to Hwy. 46 to Leola.

● **Shelby's Approach** (Confederate Gen. J.O. Shelby's Iron Brigade fought Steele's army at Okolona, Elkins' Ferry, Prairie D'Ane and Marks' Mills, along with several skirmishes.) **Start** at the intersection of Nevada County Road 204 and Hwy. 19 follow Hwy. 19 into Pike County to Hwy. 29 to Antoine then Hwy. 26 to Okolona Road to Okolona then Hwy. 51 through Arkadelphia to Hwy. 7 to Dalark then Hwy. 8 to Dallas County Road 305 to Willow then Dallas County Road 326 to Hwy. 9 to Hwy. 46 to Leola. Backtracks along the same route to the intersection of Hwy. 46 and Hwy. 9. Take Hwy. 9 through Tulip and Princeton to U.S. 79 then U.S. 79B into Camden.

● **Marmaduke, Cabell and Greene's Approach** (Confederate Gens. John Sappington Marmaduke, William Cabell and Colton Greene fought Steele's Federals at Prairie D'Ane and Poison Spring during the Camden Expedition of 1864.) **Start** at Washington on Hempstead County Road 16 to Hwy. 29 into Blevins then Hwy. 371 to Hwy. 195 to Hwy. 301 to Hwy. 29 into Antoine. Backtracks along the same route to the intersection on Hwy. 301 and Hwy. 29. Take Hwy. 29 to Hwy. 19 into Prescott then Hwy. U.S. 67 to Emmet then Hwy. 299 to Hwy. 53 to U.S. 278 through Rosston into Camden then U.S. 79B to Hwy. 7 through Sparkman and Dalark into Arkadelphia then U.S. 67 through Gurdon into Prescott.

● **Thayer's Approach** (Union Gen. John Thayer's Frontier Division marched across western Arkansas to join Frederick Steele's Union army at Arkadelphia in the ill-fated Camden Expedition.) **Start** at Old Jenny Lind on U.S. 71 to Hwy. 10 through Greenwood and Booneville to Danville then Hwy. 27 to Hwy. 28 to Plainview then Hwy. 60 to Fourche Junction then Hwy. 7 to Hot Springs then U.S. 270 to Rockport then Hwy. 84 to De Roche then Hwy. 128 to Caney then Hwy. 283 to Hwy. 7 through Caddo Valley to U.S. 67 into Arkadelphia.



Union gunboat on the White River

PRICE'S RAID

Sterling Price led a Confederate force north from Camden on August 28, 1864, picking up additional troops at Princeton and Pocahontas before crossing the border into Missouri. Over the next three months, he traversed the state of Missouri before moving through Kansas and Indian Territory to return to Arkansas through Laynesport on December 2. Price reported that his army "marched 1,434 miles, fought 43 battles and skirmishes, captured and paroled over 3,000 Federal officers and men, captured 18 pieces of artillery... and destroyed Missouri property... of \$10,000,000 in value." However, he lost 6,000 men and accomplished little in the last Confederate offensive in the Trans-Mississippi Theater.

● **Starting** at Camden, follow U.S. 79 to Hwy. 9 through Princeton and Tulip to Hwy. 46 to Leola then Hwy. 229 through Poyen, Traskwood, Haskell and Benton to Hwy. 5 to Fountain Lake then Hwy. 7 to Fourche Junction then Hwy. 60 to Plainview then Hwy. 28 to Hwy. 27 through Danville, Dardanelle and Russellville to Hwy. 124 to Wonderview then Hwy. 95 to Cleveland then Hwy. 124 to Center Ridge then Hwy. 92 through Bee Branch, Higden, Greers Ferry to Drasco then Hwy. 25 through Concord, Desha, Dennison Heights, Batesville, Cord, Strawberry, Lynn and Powhatan to Black Rock then Hwy. 361 to Old Davidsonville then Hwy. 166 to Pocahontas then Hwy. 115 to Maynard then Hwy. 166 to the Arkansas state line.



Confederate cemetery in Fayetteville

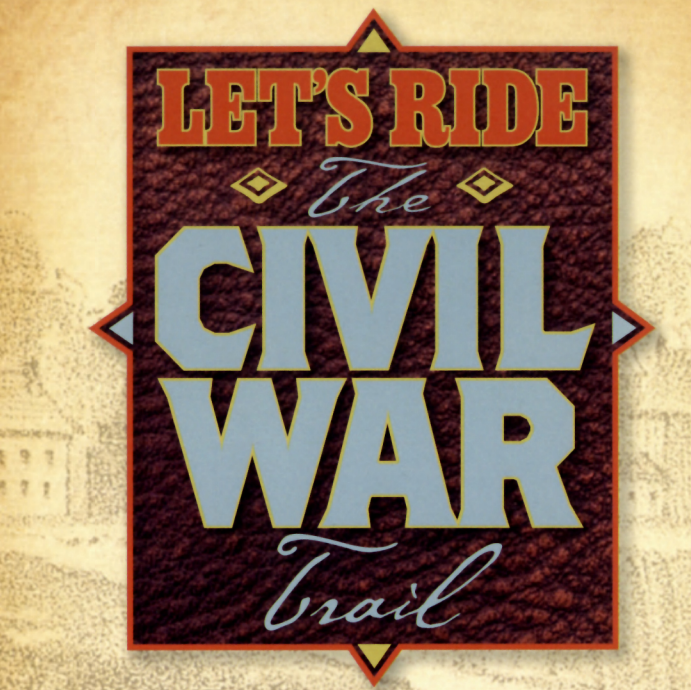
BATTLE OF FAYETTEVILLE

On April 16, 1863, Brig. Gen. William "Old Tiger" Cabell led a Confederate force out of Ozark to challenge Union control of northwest Arkansas by attacking Col. M. LaRue Harrison's Union troopers in Fayetteville. They arrived in Fayetteville on April 18, and a battle ensued in which the First Arkansas Cavalry (C.S.) and the First Arkansas Cavalry (U.S.) slugged it out for four hours. The Federals stood their ground and drove Cabell's Rebels back into the Boston Mountains. Union losses were four killed, 23 wounded, 35 missing and 16 captured; Confederate casualties were 20 killed, 30 wounded and 20 missing.

● **From** Ozark, take AR 23/309 north to U.S. 64 and proceed west to Alma. Turn north on U.S. 71 to West Fork. Continue north on Business 71 to Dickson Street, turn east and end at the Headquarters House (Harrison's HQ during the battle) at 118 E. Dickson St.



The Headquarters House





Pea Ridge battle re-enactment



Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park



Pea Ridge National Military Park



Federal troops entering Little Rock, 1863

Courtesy of the Arkansas History Commission



Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Historical Museum



Fort Curtis at Helena

Courtesy of the Arkansas History Commission

ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR TRAILS

From the Arkansas Delta to the Ozark Mountains and in every region in between, Arkansans were greatly affected by the Civil War. After a divided Arkansas seceded from the Union in 1861, it became a strategic target for both North and South because of its location on the Mississippi River and its role as a gateway to Missouri. Arkansas itself became a battleground. In four years, more than 750 military actions were recorded.

The most pivotal moments in Arkansas's Civil War history are detailed here in this guide. These Civil War Trails are part of the Arkansas Heritage Trails system. Look for the Heritage Trails emblem on highway signs across the state.

To learn more about Arkansas history and heritage, contact the agencies that produced this guide:

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism Arkansas.com info@arkansas.com 501-682-7777	Department of Arkansas Heritage Arkansasheritage.com info@arkansasheritage.com 501-324-9150
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Visit ArkansasHeritageTrails.com/Civil-War to learn more about these Civil War trails in Arkansas and ArkansasCivilWar150.com to learn about Arkansas's plans to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War.

For additional travel information, visit Arkansas.com or call 1-800-NATURAL to request a FREE Arkansas Vacation Planning Kit, which includes an Arkansas Tour Guide, State Parks Guide, Adventure Guide, State Highway Map and Calendar of Events.



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PRAIRIE GROVE CAMPAIGN

On December 3, 1862, Confederate Gen. Thomas Hindman entered the Boston Mountains from the Arkansas River Valley intent on destroying a Union force under Gen. James G. Blunt at Cane Hill, then invading Missouri. Blunt, learning of Hindman's advance, sent for reinforcements from Springfield, Missouri. Gen. Francis Herron's troops made the 110-mile trek to Fayetteville in three days, then headed west where they encountered Hindman's army on high ground at Prairie Grove on December 7. Herron and Hindman engaged in a see-saw battle, and the Union troops were about to be overwhelmed when Blunt hit the Rebel left, having moved from Cane Hill to Rhea's Mills, then to Prairie Grove. Hindman, low on ammunition and having suffered heavy casualties, muffled the wheels on his cannon and wagons and retreated south that night.

● **Hindman's Approach** (Thomas Hindman's First Corps of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi – 11,000 men and 22 cannon – headed north into the Boston Mountains on December 3, 1862, to combat Federal troops at Prairie Grove.) **Start** at the intersection of Hwy. 59 and Liberty Hill Road north of Natural Dam. Follow Liberty Hill Road to Bakers Gap Road to Cove Creek Road to Hogeys Road into Prairie Grove.

● **Herron's Approach** (Francis Herron's Union troops marched from Springfield, Missouri, on December 4, 1862, and marched the 110 miles to Fayetteville in three days. When his troops went into battle at Prairie Grove on December 7, only about half of the 7,000 men who had left Springfield had completed the grueling march.) **Start** at the Arkansas/Missouri border on Hwy. 37 to Gateway then U.S. 62 to Rogers then U.S. 71B to Springdale then Hwy. 265 to Hwy. 45 to U.S. 71B to Hwy. 180 to U.S. 62 to Farmington then Hwy. 170 to U.S. 62 into Prairie Grove.

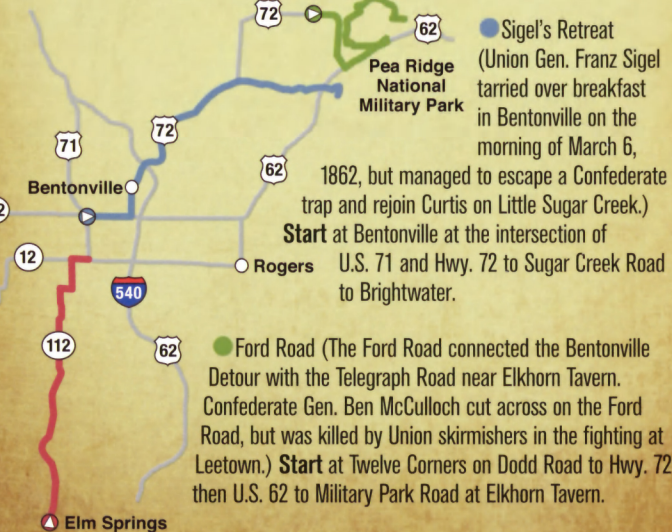
● **Blunt's Approach** (James Blunt's Federals marched from Cane Hill after hearing the sound of gunfire at Prairie Grove. They moved to Rhea's Mills Confederate left flank just as the Rebels threatened to envelop Herron's foot-sore soldiers.) **Start** at Cane Hill on Hwy. 45 to U.S. 62 then Wedington Blacktop Road to Bethel Blacktop Road. The cavalry and infantry split at the intersection of Bethel Blacktop and Battlefield Park Roads. Cavalry – Bethel Blacktop Road to Viney Grove Road into Prairie Grove. Infantry – Bethel Blacktop Road to Battlefield Park Road to Ditmars Road to Bush Street into Prairie Grove.



PEA RIDGE CAMPAIGN

On March 4, 1862, Confederate Gen. Earl Van Dorn led his Army of the West north from the Boston Mountains intent on crushing Union Gen. Samuel R. Curtis's Army of the Southwest at Pea Ridge, then invading Missouri. His cavalry nearly captured a Union contingent under Gen. Franz Sigel at Bentonville, though Sigel fought free and joined Curtis. Van Dorn's army, badly strung out along the advance route, ended up splitting, with half hitting Curtis at Leetown, while the rest circled Big Mountain to attack via the Springfield to Fayetteville Road at Elkhorn Tavern on March 7. The Leetown fight ended after two Rebel commanders were killed and one captured, and the Rebel attack at Elkhorn was blunted. Curtis wheeled his army around and drove Van Dorn from the field on March 8, ending any hopes of invading Missouri. Curtis fell back to Missouri, then learned that Van Dorn had moved his troops east of the Mississippi River. He re-entered Arkansas at Salem and advanced to Searcy, frightening the Confederate Arkansas government into loading the state archives into wagons and fleeing to Hot Springs from Little Rock. He was joined by a column under Gen. Frederick Steele from southeast Missouri, which fought with Curtis through the remainder of the campaign. Supply problems led Curtis to abandon hopes of taking the capital, and he instead cut his supply line and headed east toward Helena, living off the land (two years before Sherman's famous March to the Sea) and emancipating slaves (months before the Emancipation Proclamation). His revolutionary tactics resulted in Union occupation of Helena, a major base for the remainder of the war.

● **Confederate Advance** (Earl Van Dorn led his Confederate Army of the West north from Elm Springs on March 4, 1862, to attack Samuel Curtis's Army of the Southwest at Pea Ridge. The Rebels, soft from months in winter quarters, fell out on the road by the dozens.) **Start** at Elm Springs on Hwy. 112 to Hwy. 12 then U.S. 71 into Bentonville.

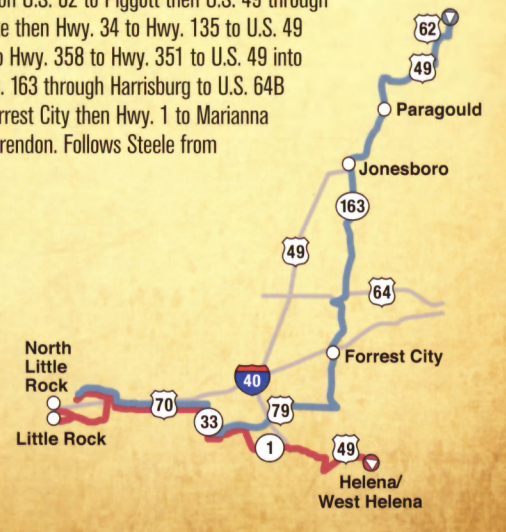


LITTLE ROCK CAMPAIGN

Following the Battle of Helena, rumors spread that Confederate Gen. Sterling Price was going to invade Missouri via Crowley's Ridge. Union Gen. John Wynn Davidson crossed the St. Francis River at Chalk Bluff and headed down the ridge to stop Price. Realizing it was just a rumor, Davidson continued south, eventually linking with a Union column from Helena to capture Little Rock. Gen. Frederick Steele led the expedition with infantry from Helena and Davidson's horsemen crossing east Arkansas facing opposition from Confederate cavalry. Steele flanked Rebel fortifications in North Little Rock by crossing the Arkansas River near what is now the Little Rock airport and captured Little Rock on September 10, 1863.

● **Steele's Approach** (Union Gen. Frederick Steele led a Union army consisting of troops from the Helena garrison and others idled after the fall of Vicksburg overland in a campaign that resulted in the capture of Little Rock.) **Start** at Helena on U.S. 49 to Phillips County Road 300 to Phillips County Road 350 to Trenton then Hwy. 316 to U.S. 49 to Hwy. 86 then U.S. 79 in Clarendon to Hwy. 33 to DeValls Bluff then U.S. 70 to Lonoke then Hwy. 89 to Furlow then Hwy. 294 through Jacksonville to Valentine. Retreats the same route back to Furlow. From Furlow on Hwy. 15 to Bevis Corner then Bear Skin Lake Road to Walkers Corner Road to U.S. 165 then to the junction of U.S. 165 and I-440 two routes. U.S. 165 into North Little Rock, I-440 to Fourche Dam Pike Road then Roosevelt Road to Confederate Boulevard to Barber Street to College Street in Little Rock.

● **Davidson's Approach** (Union Gen. John Wynn Davidson led a cavalry division from southeast Missouri that marched down Crowley's Ridge before heading west and conducting most of the combat that occurred in the 1863 Little Rock Campaign.) **Start** at St. Francis on U.S. 62 to Piggott then U.S. 49 through Rector to Marmaduke then Hwy. 34 to Hwy. 135 to U.S. 49 through Paragould to Hwy. 358 to Hwy. 351 to U.S. 49 into Jonesboro then Hwy. 163 through Harrisburg to U.S. 64B then Hwy. 284 to Forrest City then Hwy. 1 to Marianna then U.S. 79 into Clarendon. Follows Steele from here to Little Rock.



ATTACK ON PINE BLUFF

Following the Union occupation of Little Rock, Gen. Frederick Steele sent Col. Powell Clayton's Fifth Kansas and First Indiana Cavalry Regiments to garrison Pine Bluff. On October 24, Confederate Gen. John Sappington Marmaduke set out from southern Arkansas with a small Confederate army, intent on crushing Clayton's small force. A patrol of Kansans encountered the Rebels as they approached Pine Bluff upsetting Marmaduke's plans for a sneak attack. Clayton fortified the courthouse square with heavy hay bales aided by escaped slaves who also fought along the Arkansas River bank. After a day-long battle, the Confederates fell back with Marmaduke reporting: "The Federals fought like Devils."

● **Monroe and Thompson's Approach** (Confederate Cols. J.C. Monroe and G.W. Thompson followed this route to strike the Federal defenders of Pine Bluff from the northwest.) **Start** at Princeton on Hwy. 9 to Hwy. 48 through Carthage to Farindale then U.S. 167 to Grant County Road 14 to Hwy. 35 to Grapevine then Hwy. 54 to Providence Road to Summers Road to Princeton Pike into Pine Bluff.

● **Newton's Approach** (Robert C. Newton's Arkansas, Missouri and Texas horsemen followed this route to strike Pine Bluff from the southeast.) **Start** on Hwy. 35 three miles south of Staves to Hwy. 212 then U.S. 79 to Hwy. 54 to Pinebergen then Hwy. 15 into Pine Bluff.

● **Greene's Approach** (Colton Greene's Confederate cavalry rode up the Sulphur Springs Road to attack Pine Bluff from the west.) **Start** at Princeton on Hwy. 9 to Hwy. 48 through Carthage to Farindale then U.S. 167 to Grant County Road 14 to Hwy. 35 to Grapevine then Hwy. 54 through Sulphur Springs to U.S. 79 into Pine Bluff.



Pine Bluff Station

Courtesy of the Arkansas History Commission



CONFEDERATE APPROACHES TO HELENA

In late June 1863, some 7,646 Confederate soldiers left their bases in Little Rock and Jacksonport to attack the Federal stronghold of Helena on the Mississippi River and to try to relieve pressure on besieged Vicksburg, Mississippi. For days, they struggled through bad roads and swamps before reaching the outskirts of Helena on July 3. The Confederates attacked in the early morning hours of July 4; the strongly entrenched Yankees defeated them soundly inflicting 1,636 casualties.

● **Fagan's Approach** (James Fagan's Arkansas troops had a relatively easy journey by train and by foot to the staging area for their attack on Battery D at Helena.) **Start** at Little Rock on U.S. 70 through North Little Rock to Hwy. 161 then Hwy. 294 from Jacksonville to Furlow then Hwy. 89 to Lonoke then U.S. 70 to DeValls Bluff then Hwy. 33 to U.S. 79 through Clarendon then Hwy. 86 to U.S. 49 through Marvell to Maple Corner then Hwy. 316 to Trenton then Phillips County Road 300 to U.S. 49 into Helena.

● **Marmaduke's Approach** (John S. Marmaduke's Confederate Missouri cavalry followed this route to attack Battery A at Helena.) **Start** at Jacksonport on Hwy. 17 to Tupelo then Hwy. 33 to Augusta then U.S. 64 to Morton then Hwy. 269 to U.S. 49 then Hwy. 78 at Hunter through Wheatley and Moro to U.S. 79 to Hwy. 121 through Rondo to Hwy. 1 then Hwy. 242 at Lexa into Helena.

● **Price, McRae and Parson's Approach** (Sterling Price's Confederate division – Dandridge McRae's Arkansans and Mosby M. Parsons's Missourians – left Jacksonport with Marmaduke on June 23, but their march soon turned miserable as they floundered through east Arkansas to make their assault on Battery C.) **Start** at the junction of U.S. 49 and Phillips County Road 307 near Pillar then to Phillips County Road 300 to Newman Drive to Perry Drive into Helena.

● **Walker's Approach** (L. Marsh Walker's cavalry looped around Helena to strike the city from the north via Sterling Road, but their tepid attack did little to affect the Union soldiers defending the city.) **Start** at the junction of U.S. 49 and Hwy. 242 then to Park Street in West Helena then 4th Street to Phillips County Road 217 to Phillips County Road 215 to Phillips County Road 239 into Helena.

