

The Battle of Pea Ridge, Civil War, United States

By the spring of 1862, Union forces had pushed Confederates south and west through Missouri into northwestern Arkansas. On the night of March 6, 1862, Confederate Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn and his 16,000-man Army of the West set out to counterattack the Union position near Pea Ridge. Hoping to move quickly, in a fateful decision, Van Dorn ordered the supply trains far to the rear. Learning of Van Dorn's approach, some 10,000 Federals in Brig. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis' Army of the Southwest marched to meet the Rebel advance the next day. The forces met near Elkhorn Tavern just three miles south of the Missouri border and fighting quickly ensued. Two Confederate generals, Brig. Gens. Ben McCulloch and James McQueen McIntosh, were killed in the action, halting the Rebel momentum. By nightfall, the Confederates controlled Elkhorn Tavern and the Telegraph Road. Curtis consolidated his force during the night, and the next day, counterattacked near the tavern and, by successfully employing his artillery, slowly forced the Rebels back. Running short of ammunition due to the absence of supply support, Van Dorn abandoned the battlefield, leaving Arkansas virtually defenseless. With the Confederate defeat, the Union controlled the border state of Missouri for the next two years. The commanders were Samuel R. Curtis for the Union and Earl Van Dorn for the Confederates.

Confederates: 16,000 men Union: 10,500 men. Union Casualties: 1,384. Confederate: 2,500

Source: American Battlefield Trust <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/pea-ridge>

Among the "missing" Union soldiers was **Henry Tetric Jackson**, age 19, who was taken prisoner along with about 200 other Union soldiers. They were sent down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. In a prisoner of war camp, Henry Jackson contracted tuberculosis which plagued him the rest of his life and caused his early death. According to Army records, Jackson was paroled at Red River Landing in Louisville on February 26, 1865. He was mustered out and given an honorable discharge on March 17, 1865 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He then went back to his home and later moved to Cowlitz County, Kansas, South of Winfield and North of Ponca, OK. There he married Amy Sweet. Their children were Landolphus, James L, Philip S., Sadie M. Alvin H. and Elsa (Elsie) P.(Pearl). Only Philip, Sadie and Elsie lived to adulthood. Elsie P. Sweet later married E. Wilbur Walls when she was around age 16. Throughout their life, Elsie and E. Wilbur Walls were very sensitive about their youthfulness at the time of their marriage. They were married over 60 years. Elsie was born March 3, 1893. Her father died of TB in 1897 when she was barely four years old. She had few memories of him.

F. Wesley Walls gave a lecture on the Battle of Pea Ridge as a tribute to Henry Tetric Jackson, his grandfather. Henry Tetric Jackson was a Civil War veteran, a prisoner in a Confederate prisoner of war camp in New Orleans, who contracted TB in prison and later died of it. His wife, Amy Sweet Jackson, received a pension as a wife with six children under the age of 16. Amy Jackson lived until 1938 and died in Newkirk, OK. She is buried there along with her brother Philip. Elsie and E. Wilbur Walls' two children who died in infancy are also buried there.