



Flashforward

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May 2026 Number 130
PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

A new look for a venerable site: HQH's shutters return



About 100 years after the structure most recently was adorned by shutters, a new set was installed and opened for public view at Headquarters House Museum on April 11. Eight shutters were placed by windows on the house's southern front side and displayed for an audience of supporters at a ceremony marked by Mayor Molly Rawn cutting the ribbon.

Farmington High School Band student Noah Pianalto rolled the drum just prior to the ribbon cutting and on cue several historical society members flung open the shutters.

The WCHS raised \$48,985 for the shutters project that included repairing the house's front door and latch, painting the front and west exterior doors, repairing and painting both screen doors, repairing hinges and doorbells, staining the wood porches and building, painting and installing the shutters with period-appropriate shutter hardware.

Mayor Rawn unveiled the donor plaque and presented a special plaque to project catalyst Carolyn Newbern, a WCHS past president. Major donors and Shutters Committee members Brynda Pappas and Maylon Rice were recognized as were craftsman Jake Hollimon of AIFAB Integration and GB Painting, which fabricated and stained the shutters.

75 years and counting for WCHS

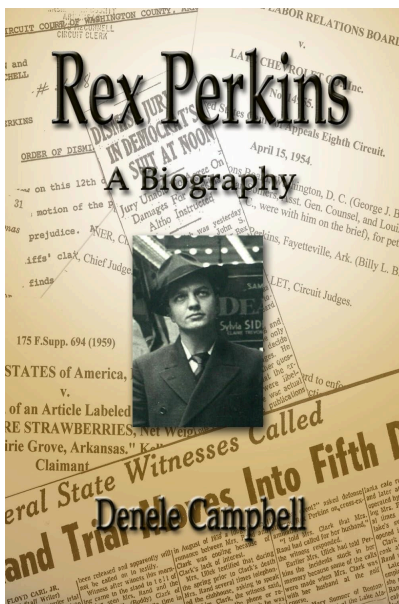


The Washington County Historical Society made it to 75 years on Feb. 18 and that made it a good day for a party. Headquarters House Museum was the venue for an anniversary cake and dozens of well wishers. Fayetteville Mayor Molly Rawn issued a proclamation declaring that the society “has worked to collect, safeguard and share the stories, records, artifacts and traditions that help our community understand our roots and shape our future.”

Several WCHS presidents gathered in the parlor for a group photo. They are (front row from left) Diana Strange, Regina Sherwood, Carolyn Newbern, Lee Anne

Wiederkehr; (back row from left) Jim Spillars, Jerry Hogan, Debbie Groom, Maylon Rice and Kim Smith.

Rex Perkins book discussion set for June 10



The life of Rex Perkins, a colorful mid-20th century Fayetteville lawyer, will be reviewed at a discussion at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 10, at Headquarters House Museum at 118 E. Dickson St. Woody Bassett, a Fayetteville attorney, and Jerry Hogan, past president of the historical society, will discuss Perkins' life based on the book *Rex Perkins: A Biography* by Denele Campbell.

The back cover states that Perkins “left his mark in the courtrooms of Arkansas and on the lives of all who knew him. Bold, articulate, and full of himself, he arrived at the University of Arkansas in 1928 with his fiddle, five dollars, and a blue serge suit.” The famous cases he won are detailed and readers are also given a look into the life of “a passionate man who loved nature, music, and his family.”

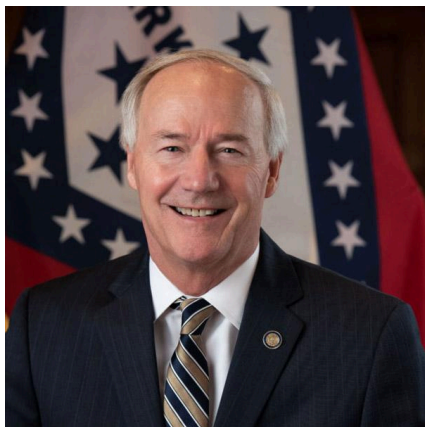
Book copies are available for \$18 at the Headquarters House Museum bookstore from noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. A copy is available for checkout at Fayetteville Public Library. To attend the discussion register by June 9 by calling 479-521-2970 or emailing WCHS at info@washcohistoricalsociety.org. The discussion is limited to 15 people.

163 years later, Battle of Fayetteville is remembered

The historical society annually observes the anniversary of the 1863 Battle of Fayetteville on the third Saturday in April. This year the day coincided with the actual date of the battle on April 18. A crew of living historians portraying Union and Confederate soldiers established a camp with cannon firings, musketry demonstrations and brief lectures explaining the context of the event. The day ended with a reading of the battle's casualties and the playing of "Taps."



Former Gov. Hutchinson to highlight Statehood Day



The historical society's annual Statehood Day celebration will feature an address by former Gov. Asa Hutchinson at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 14, at First Christian Church, 220 N. College Ave. in Fayetteville. This year marks the 190th anniversary of Arkansas' admission to the Union on June 15, 1836.

Hutchinson was governor from 2015 to 2023 and served a year as chair of the National Governors Association following service as U.S. Attorney for Western District of Arkansas, a member of the House of Representatives from the Third District of Arkansas and administrator of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and undersecretary of the federal Department of Homeland Security. He sought the

Republican presidential nomination in 2024. In March the state Highway Commission named a segment of Interstate 49 near Bella Vista as the Gov. Asa Hutchinson Freeway. He is currently of counsel at the Asa Hutchinson Law Group of Bentonville.

Rice *Flashback* article cited by Arkansas Historical Association



The Arkansas Historical Association has awarded the 2026 Walter L. Brown Award for Best Biography, Autobiography or Memoir to Maylon Rice for his article “The Sketches of Helen Finger Leflar, Capturing Fond Memories of Family and Fayetteville.” The article was published in the Winter 2025 edition of *Flashback*, the Washington County Historical Society’s quarterly journal. Rice is a past president of the historical society. Rice (at left in photo) accepted the award from Joshua Youngblood, AHA board of trustees member.

Volunteers honored for recent WCHS service

Several individuals were recently named as Volunteers of the Month for their work on behalf of the historical society. They are:

February

- * Becky Riggs for design and creation of the Washingtons Unite Arkansas quilt block.
- * Maylon Rice for writing a newspaper article on the Cheers to 75 years event and discussing it on KNWA-TV.

March

- * Theresa Thibado and Carol Wolfe for polishing silver before shutters event.

April

- * Several people who assisted in the WCHS shutter opening event in April: Fayetteville Mayor Molly Rawn, Kristin Rogers, mayor’s assistant; Noah Pianalto, Farmington High School band drummer; Britin Bostick, Fayetteville long-range planning director; Kylee Cole, city preservation planner; Gary Thompson, former WCHS board member and property management Ridge House restoration project; Talya Boerner, Perennial Garden Club past president; John Boerner, former WCHS board member; Maylon Rice, WCHS past president; Mike Wiederkehr, Fayetteville City Council member; Jake Hollimon, AIFAB Integration, LLC; Gustavo and Veronica Becerra, GB Painting. Special thanks to WCHS board members Dave Edmark, Theresa Ewing, Curt Rom, John Mitchell, Russell Gayer and Nese Nemec. Special recognition given to Carolyn Newbern as Promoting Sponsor at the event and Daniel Eldridge, Topo Exteriors, for reroofing the Ridge House and the Smokehouse roof decking replacement, cedar shake reroofing and repairing the rafter-tails.

City announces Historic Preservation Awards

The Washington County Historical Society was among several recipients of the City of Fayetteville Historic Preservation Awards that were presented in May. The city Historic District Commission announced these awards:

- * The historical society with a Letter of Acclamation upon the 75th anniversary of its founding in 1951.
- * The historical society's quarterly journal *Flashback* as the recipient of a Letter of Acclamation for Historic Research and Publication.
- * The historical society as the recipient of the Historic Restoration Award for its installation of period-appropriate shutters at Headquarters House Museum.
- * Carolyn Lewis Newbern, Lee Anne Wiederkehr, Brynda Pappas, Maylon Rice, Debi Lewis Mohler, Tommy Lewis, Tim Lewis, Mary Beth Hughes, Dr. David and Betty Nichols, Linda Pinkerton, Carol and John Mitchell, Jake Hollimon, Erin Adkins-Oury, White River Hardwoods, Gustavo Becerra and the Perennial Garden Club of Fayetteville as recipients of Letters of Acclamation for their outstanding contributions to preserving local history through the restoration of shutters at Headquarters House Museum.
- * Patsy Watkins with a Letter of Acclamation in recognition of her service as editor of *Flashback*.
- * Patsy Watkins, Kim Jones and Charlie Alison with Letters of Acclamation for their work to preserve the city's early history through publication of the 50th anniversary reprint of *Marian Tebbetts Banes – A Memoir*.
- * Maylon Rice as recipient of the Award for Lifetime Achievement in Historic Preservation.
- * Larry Foley as recipient of the Award for Visual Storytelling in recognition of an extensive body of work documenting Fayetteville's history on film.
- * Nancy and William Koch for their contributions to the preservation of historic construction methods with their gift to the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks for the restoration of the timber-framed horticulture center.
- * Marilyn Heifner and Angela McKnight with Letters of Acclamation for their work researching the burials and lives of those interred in Evergreen Cemetery.
- * Martin Schapiro and John Blakinger with Letters of Acclamation for their work in collaboration with their neighbors establishing the Oak Grove Historic District as the city's first residential local historic district.
- * Cora Hardy Boland, Nancy Brandon and Sabine Schmidt with Letters of Acclamation for their service supporting the community's research efforts and improving knowledge of local history at the Fayetteville Public Library's genealogy reference section.
- * Steve Irwin with a Letter of Acclamation for his significant scholarship regarding the city's history.
- * Mayor Molly Rawn, former Mayor Lioneld Jordan, Peggy Chenault, Marilyn Heifner and John McClarty with Letters of Acclamation for their service as volunteers for National Clean a Historic Marker Day.
- * Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects and Sargent Contracting as recipients of the Adaptive Reuse Award in recognition of the Alexander Gallery of Porter Art Warehouse.
- * City of Fayetteville Facilities, Ellingson Construction and Aaron Ruby as recipients of the Historic Restoration Award in recognition of the Porter Produce Warehouse.
- * Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects as recipient of the Historic Rehabilitation Award in recognition of Rathskeller 300.
- * Tommie Flowers Davis as recipient of the Neighbor of the Year award in recognition of her work with her neighbors to successfully petition for the creation of the Historic Black Neighborhood of Southeast Fayetteville Local Historic District.

Susan Chadick, former WCHS board member, dies at 83



Susan Elizabeth Lesh Chadick, who served on the Washington County Historical Society board of directors from 1999 to 2002 and was the WCHS Distinguished Citizen in 2012, died April 16. She was 83. Her mother, Dr. Ruth Ellis Lesh, was a 1986 Distinguished Citizen and her son, Vincent Chadick, was also a previous WCHS board member. She served on several local organizations' boards and was social services director for 27 years at Washington Regional Medical Center. A full obituary is at <https://www.bernafuneralhomes.com/obituaries/susan-chadick>.

Nominations sought for Distinguished Citizens

Each year, the Washington County Historical Society proudly honors two individuals who have made meaningful and lasting contributions to the life and legacy of our community. These individuals are recognized at the annual meeting in October. The society is now accepting nominations for the 2026 Distinguished Citizens.

Nominations may be made by returning a form that was emailed to WCHS members or by submitting a letter with the following information: date, person being nominated, nominee's address, a description of the nominee's significant contributions to Washington County as described in criteria below; and the name, address, phone number and email of the person submitting the nomination. Nominations may be mailed to WCHS Distinguished Citizen Award; 118 E. Dickson St., Fayetteville, AR 72701 or emailed to info@washcohistoricalsociety.org. The deadline is June 1.

The WCHS Distinguished Citizen Award is given each year to one or more individuals who

- * Have made exceptional contributions to the life of Washington County and its communities;
- * Have made enduring contributions to preserving and celebrating the history of the county; OR,
- * Have provided outstanding and sustained service or support to the Washington County Historical Society.

Persons selected may meet one or more criteria, as determined by vote of the WCHS Board of Directors. Nominations may be made by any member or any individual or group in Washington County. Nominations must be in writing and must list the accomplishments of the nominee. Nominations may be submitted at any time during the year for future consideration.

DAR recognizes work of WCHS, Master Gardeners



The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution presented its Historic Preservation Award to the Washington County Historical Society for its activities and to the Washington County Master Gardeners for their work preserving Headquarters House Museum gardens.

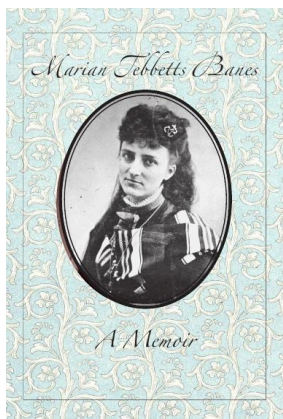
The award to WCHS noted its “commitment to historic preservation through the decades is demonstrated through the living history activities, maintenance of historic properties, and the Society publications.”



The DAR cited the Master Gardeners’ “dedication to researching the era for appropriate plants, planting them and tending to their care over the decades,” which it said “represents not only historical preservation efforts, but lends to the historical context of the 1853 Greek Revival structure in an outstanding way.”

In top photo from left are Kristina Merriman, Marion Chapter NSDAR chapter regent, Dr. Laurie Anderson, Marion Chapter NSDAR chapter historian, and WCHS President Regina Strong Sherwood. In bottom photo from left are Kristina Merriman, Jan Lefler, senior Master Gardener leader; Dr. Laurie Anderson, DAR, and Master Gardener leaders at Headquarters House Museum Betty Nichols, Kristi Campbell, Kathy Launder and Janice Walker.

Tebbetts family memoir reprint now available



The Washington County Historical Society is making available a 50th anniversary reprint depicting the life of Headquarters House’s original family. *Marian Tebbetts Banes – A Memoir* is available for preordering.

Marian "Minnie" Tebbetts Banes was born in Fayetteville approximately 1849 to Jonas M. Tebbetts and Matilda Winlock Tebbetts. As a child, Marian lived with her family in the house that her family built that is now known as Headquarters House Museum in Fayetteville. The house was established as "headquarters" to both the Union and Confederate armies at different times during the American Civil War. The house is now the home office of the historical society.

Copies of the memoir may be ordered for \$20 including shipping. To arrange for ordering contact the historical society office at info@washcohistorical.society.org.

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