



Flashforward

Published by The Washington County Historical Society
118 East Dickson Street * Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701
479-521-2970 * info@washcohistoricalsociety.org

August 2026 Number 131
PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Ice Cream Social set for Aug. 15



The 54th annual presentation of the Washington County Historical Society Ice Cream Social will be from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15, on the lawn of Headquarters House Museum, 118 E. Dickson St. in Fayetteville. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Dead Horse Mountain Band and the Shiloh Pickers. There will also be a special presentation and recitation by University of Arkansas journalism professor Larry Foley.

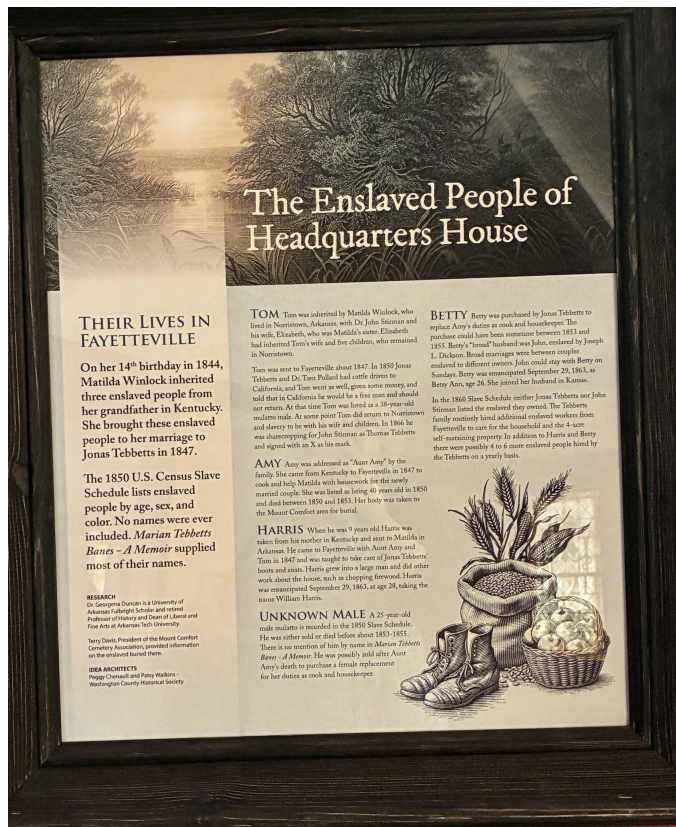
The bookstore will be selling copies of the updated version of the 1983 publication *Yesterdays: A Walk*

Through the Washington-Willow Historic District by Carolyn Lewis Newbern and also *The Afterlife of Leslie Stringfellow* by Stephen Chism, the new *Forgotten Fayetteville and More Hidden Histories From Washington County* by Jerry Hogan and Susan Parks-Spencer, and the new edition of *Marian Tebbetts Banes, A Memoir*.

Tickets are \$2.50 for children ages 6-12, \$5 for adults and \$15 for families. Tickets may be purchased from historical society board members, at the gate or online at <https://tinyurl.com/2nyrajum>. Refreshments will include ice cream provided by Hiland Dairy, assorted cookies, cakes, lemonade and water. Visitors may enjoy a stroll through the historic gardens or take a tour of Headquarters House Museum. A photo booth will be provided for guests to have souvenir pictures made in period costume.

This year's Ice Cream Social sponsors are Hiland Dairy, Adventure Subaru, Arvest Bank of Fayetteville and Old Buildings of Fayetteville. The event also receives assistance and support from Experience Fayetteville, the Downtown/Dickson Street Merchants Association and the Washington County Master Gardeners.

Display highlights the enslaved at Headquarters House



Slavery was a fact of life in Fayetteville before and during the Civil War. The home of Judge Jonas and Matilda Tebbetts – now Headquarters House Museum and the home of the Washington County Historical Society – was no exception. Visitors to the museum can now learn about five enslaved people who lived there through a graphic display on exhibit.

The information in the display comes from sources including the 1850 census and a book by the Tebbetts' daughter, *Marian Tebbetts Banes – A Memoir*. Research was conducted by Dr. Georgena Duncan, University of Arkansas Fulbright Scholar and retired history professor and dean of Liberal and Fine Arts at Arkansas Tech University, and Terry Davis, president of the Mount Comfort Cemetery Association who provided information on enslaved people buried there.

Peggy Chenault and Patsy Watkins, members of the WCHS board of directors, are credited as the idea architects for the display.

"It was one of those light bulb moments," Chenault said. "I had read about them in Marian Tebbetts Banes' memoir. And when being docent for a day it suddenly occurred to me that Headquarters House Museum had nothing to note their lives in Fayetteville. From there it was rather easy as the research had recently been completed by Dr. Georgena Duncan and Patsy Watkins. We pulled our ideas together along with much proofreading and recommendations from WCHS board members. I feel it's a lovely tribute."

WCHS annual meeting and election planned for Oct. 4

The annual meeting of the Washington County Historical Society will be at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, at the Bailey Center at Mount Sequoyah in Fayetteville. Lunch will be served at the event. Tickets can be purchased by calling WCHS at 479-521-2970. For more information, email info@washcohistoricalsociety.org. The 2026-27 slate of officers and board members will be elected. Recipients of the annual Distinguished Citizen award will be recognized. This year's recipients will be announced soon in an email to the membership.

Statehood Day features Asa Hutchinson

Arkansas observed its 190th birthday this year and the historical society celebrated it on June 14 with the annual Statehood Day observance. Former Gov. Asa Hutchinson was the guest speaker during an event at First Christian Church of Fayetteville. He discussed his life growing up in Gravette and Springdale and his experiences as an attorney, political candidate and public official over the decades. He left office as governor in 2023 after serving eight years and is now of counsel at the Asa Hutchinson Law Group of Bentonville.

In photo below, Hutchinson accepts a plaque from WCHS board member Emily Sledge.



Volunteers cited for service

The historical society has recognized its volunteers of the month for their work assisting the organization with its recent projects. They are:

May:

- * Matt Kushner, an IT specialist, for reviewing the Headquarters House Museum office computer system and performing updates.

June:

- * Woody Bassett and Jerry Hogan for leading a discussion on a biography of longtime Fayetteville attorney Rex Perkins.
- * Kat Lewis for volunteering at Headquarters House Museum twice during the month.
- * Zane Chenault for assisting at the Statehood Day event.

Jack Rash, 'Earl of West Fork,' dies at 79



Jack Rash, a member of the Washington County Historical Society and a member of a West Fork pioneer family, died June 26 at age 79. He was a 1965 graduate of Fayetteville High School and a 1971 graduate of the University of Arkansas with a B.A. degree in journalism. After a career in Texas as an editor for the Society of Professional Engineers, he and his wife returned to Fayetteville in 2014.

He wrote an article for the Fall 2024 edition of the historical society's journal *Flashback* titled "The Self-Proclaimed 'Earl of West Fork' Traces His Family's Path to Arkansas." As a result of his research on why he was claiming that title, he was writing a historical novel on his ancestors who settled in West Fork and moved to Texas. Unfortunately, he had not completed it before he died.

A full obituary is at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/john-rash-obituary?id=61864486>

Membership has its benefits; join WCHS now



As a WCHS member, you will receive our *Flashback* quarterly journal and *Flashforward* newsletter, which will update you on Society activities and events. You can also visit our website for background on Washington County history, for scheduling tours of Headquarters House Museum or historic walks in Fayetteville. Membership dues are the main source of income to care for our historic properties, publish our two membership periodicals and carry on all Society activities throughout the year.

Membership dues are renewable each year during the month when you joined. A membership at Explorer level or above (\$100 or more) receives free access to 1,380 museums and cultural Institutions across North America.

Membership levels are General, \$35; Trailblazer, \$60; Explorer, \$100; Wagon Master, \$250; Pioneer, \$500, and Statesperson, \$1,000. Join now at <https://washcohistoricalsociety.org/join>

Kids turn out for History Camp activities

The annual History Camp happened in late July at Headquarters House Museum in two one-week sessions. Nineteen campers registered. Activities included a blacksmith teaching woodworking, a representative from the Tontitown Historical Museum teaching bocce and how to make polenta, a Shiloh Museum of Ozark History volunteer leading an activity on making magic lanterns, a session on making cornhusk dolls, a lesson on the enslaved people who lived at the house before the Civil War and freedom quilt patterns.



Betty Nichols donates to Headquarters House gardens

WCHS gives special recognition to Betty Nichols for her recent \$1,000 gift for Headquarters House Museum's plant labels, more permanent signage about the history of the gardens and replacing flowering trees. Nichols said she wanted to enhance the educational aspect of the gardens after engaging with out-of-town visitors who take the time to read the gardens' history and express interest in plants. She sees this as an opportunity to emphasize the historic significance of plant species used during the house's period of significance (1853-1864), many of which are noted in the newly reprinted *Marian Tebbetts Banes - A Memoir* that's available in the museum bookstore.

Betty and Dr. David Nichols moved to Northwest Arkansas from Fort Smith in 2016. Betty, a Lifetime Master Gardener, joined the Washington County Master Gardeners at the museum in 2017 and expanded her service as a Master Gardener co-leader in 2025. Both have been generous in many ways to the society – her time, sharing plants, and bountiful good ideas as well as his carpentry skills to build new Yell Patio benches.

The Washington County Historical Society

118 E. Dickson Street
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701
479-521-2970
info@washcohistoricalsociety.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fayetteville, Arkansas
Permit 1

Office and Guided Tour Hours

Tuesdays-Thursdays noon-3 p.m.
Second Saturday of the month 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Group tours by appointment

Flashforward

Published by the Washington County Historical
Society

118 East Dickson Street
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

Phone 479-521-2970

info@washcohistoricalsociety.org
www.headquartershouse.org

Patsy Watkins, Flashback editor
Dave Edmark, Flashforward editor

Officers

Regina Sherwood, President
Theresa Ewing, Second Vice President
Debbie Groom, Recording Secretary
Peggy Chenault, Corresponding Secretary
Lisa Lashley Higgins, Treasurer
Patsy Watkins, Flashback Editor-In-Chief
Abigail Freeman, Director of Historic Programs
Debbie Groom, Past President

Board of Directors

Jon Cigainero, Cheri Coley, Dave Edmark, Larry
Foley, Jerri Reed Foster, Russell Gayer, Holly
Brain Johnson, Tommy Lewis, Rebecca Luebker,
David McKee, Rick McKinney, Malcolm McNair,
John Mitchell, Nese Nemec, Brynda Pappas,
Shelly Porter, Curt Rom, Karen Rorex, Alice Ann
Simkins, Emily Sledge, Jim Spillars, Bob
Underdown, Lee Anne Kirby Wiederkehr