

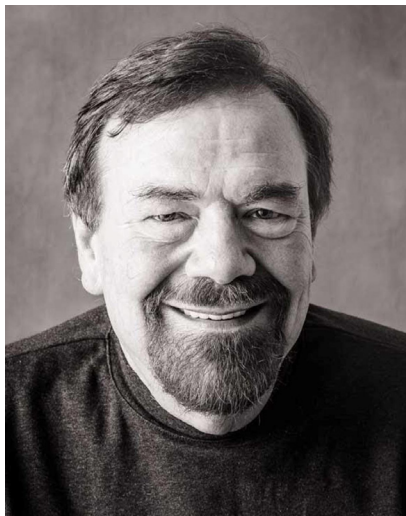
2026 Washington County Historical Society Distinguished Citizens



JAN LEFLER has been one of the leading lights of the Headquarters House Master Gardeners since 2009. Within three years of joining the project, she was recognized by the organization as the 2011 Master Gardener of the Year. She achieved Lifetime Master Gardener status in 2023. For 18 years, she has voluntarily recorded the “what, when, and where” of the plant species used in the Headquarters House Garden, with notes on their success. In addition, she has prepared the project’s annual report for WCHS as well as the Master Gardener Program, which determines whether the project is worthy of retaining its sanctioned status. In 2024 she was named Mimi Cox Mentor of the Year.



LINDSLEY SMITH has spent most of her career as a professor, attorney, author, state legislator, and communication director for the City of Fayetteville. She represented Fayetteville in the Arkansas House of Representatives in 2005-2010 and consequently directed the “Women in the Arkansas General Assembly” biographical project. She also co-authored the book *Stateswomen: A Centennial History of Arkansas Women Legislators*. Smith sponsored and passed the Arkansas Heritage Trails System Act, which resulted in a state historic trails system that includes the Butterfield Overland Mail Route and Trail of Tears. She serves on the board of the Evergreen Cemetery Association and on the executive board of the Clinton House Museum. She is responsible for the detailed history on Fayetteville’s website, for updating the city’s seal, and for developing a Hall of Fayetteville History in the City Hall.



STEPHEN A. SMITH, at age 21, became the youngest legislator to have served in the Arkansas General Assembly; he was chief of staff to state Attorney General Bill Clinton, administrative assistant to Gov. Bill Clinton, and vice president of the 1979-'80 Constitutional Convention. He taught for 30 years at the University of Arkansas. Smith was a founding board member of the Historic Preservation Alliance (now Preserve Arkansas) and a member of the Fayetteville Forward Historic and Heritage Resources Group. He was fundamental in creating the non-profit Clinton House Museum Foundation and the preservation of the Woolsey Farmstead and the Porter Produce building. He has written extensively in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* and the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History*, and is a co-author of *Stateswomen: A Centennial History of Arkansas Women Legislators*.