



The "Cat-in-the Bag" logo is the registered property of Bemis Company, Inc. and is used with permission. The Bemis Historical Society is not directly affiliated with the Bemis Company, Inc.

# The Bemis Story

*Where Industry and Friendliness Blend Into Progress*

*A publication of the Bemis Historical Society – [www.bemishistory.org](http://www.bemishistory.org)*

*Spring 2009*

## **Bemis Days!! May 15-16, 2009**

Our annual Bemis Days event is quickly approaching and will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 15-16 at the Bemis Mill Village Museum building. We expect over 800 current and former Bemis residents and workers to attend this year's event.

Festivities will kick off at 4PM on Friday. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy visiting and reminiscing with old friends and classmates from 4-6PM. Gaylon & Betty Cooper have generously agreed to provide a delicious bar-b-que dinner starting at 5PM. The cost is \$6, with all proceeds going toward our museum project.

At 6PM, the John Norvell family will take the stage singing inspirational music. Larry Meigs and The Showtime Band start playing Rock-A-Billy music at 7PM, with special guests Rayburn Anthony singing and Tony Austin on the drums. Festivities on Friday will end at 9PM.

Saturday events are from 9AM-2PM and include:

- Displays. To set up a display, or for more information about Bemis Days, contact Joel Jackson at 424-0739.
- 9AM – Music by the Possum Band with Raybon Moore.
- 10AM bus tour of Bemis narrated by June Holloway.
- 11AM - Bar-b-que lunch prepared and

sold by Gaylon & Betty Cooper.

- 1PM – Storytelling, including guests from the Jackson Storytelling League. Pull up a chair and hear some great "Bemis Yarns."

Bemis Days will conclude at 2PM on Saturday. Most of us will leave carrying memories of old friends, neighbors and classmates, some we have not seen in almost a lifetime. We hope that YOU will be one of those people we see.

Again this year, many thanks to Joel Jackson, who has single-handedly organized this event. Thanks also to these supporters who helped make our event possible: Tennessee Concert Sound, Kroger South, Jackson Recreation & Parks, and Gaylon & Betty Cooper. Our hats are off to you!

## **Thanks to Modern Woodmen of America**

Many thanks to Wade Brown and Modern Woodmen of America! They are once again MATCHING us up to \$1,500 for all profits raised at Bemis Days. We will be matched for monies raised at our bar-b-que dinners, donations, dues, Cotton Boll purchases and memorabilia sales. So open your wallets and spend freely, knowing that your money will be matched dollar for dollar by Modern Woodmen of America!!

## **Bemis Auditorium Keepsake Ornament Soon Available**

The Bemis Historical Society has created the first of several keepsake ornaments that will commemorate beloved Bemis landmarks. This first ornament will be made of white porcelain and will feature the Bemis Auditorium, our designated American Treasure. The front of the ornament will showcase a beautiful watercolor of the auditorium in its original “pink” color. The back of the ornament will provide a few historical facts about the Auditorium, and an enclosure card will provide additional history. The ornament will come complete with a gift box.

This treasured ornament will first be available for sale at Bemis Days. The cost is only \$15, so plan to take a little “Bemis” home with you in the form of this truly lovely ornament. Watch your next newsletter for details on how to order the ornament by mail!

We are very grateful to Mary Spellings who has allowed us to use her watercolor of the Auditorium as the artwork for this ornament. Thanks also to Kaye Patrick who first recommended developing keepsake ornaments, and for spear-heading this first effort. We think you will be *very* pleased!!

### **Cotton Boll Remembrances**

Cotton Boll Remembrances are memorials and honorariums given at the \$500 level of giving. The following Cotton Boll Remembrances have recently been made:

**In Memory of Lucille Duncan Herron**  
by Dr. Bruce Herron.

**In Honor of Kelly Buford and Marie Dill Wade**  
by Larry Marsh  
**Plaque Honors Major Donors**

On May 15 a permanent plaque will be installed in the museum honoring our “major donors.” Major donors are those supporters who provide one-time gifts in the amount of \$1,000 or more. The generosity of these donors will help to make the Bemis Mill Village Museum a reality. Current major donors include:

- Mell and Sheryl Bratcher
- United States Government – HUD
- City of Jackson
- Richard Jackson
- Proctor & Gamble
- Joe Nip and Buddy McKnight
- First South Bank/Jim Simmons
- Ray Hall Engineering
- Coca Cola Consolidated
- Garney & Carolyn Scott
- Ione Barton Darden
- Murray Guard, Inc.
- Modern Woodmen of America
- Garney B. Scott, Jr. Family Foundation
- Joe & Sue Roark
- Hubert Williams
- Don Bemis & Helen Thomas

### **MAJOR IN-KIND DONORS**

- Rental Services Corporation
- Reese Roofing & Sheet Metal Co., Inc.
- Fisher Construction Co., Inc.
- TLM Associates, Inc.

### **Recent Honorariums/Memorials**

The following memorial has been recently made:

**In Memory of Mrs. Myrtle Frye**  
by Special Education Department  
**Chairs & Microphone Stand  
Donated**

We are grateful for the following material donations that have been generously given by Society members:

- Nine new folding chairs by Doris E. Reese
- Ten new folding chairs by Charlotte Hammond
- Four new folding chairs by Mrs. Charles Tippet
- New microphone stand by Larry Marsh
- Ten new folding chairs by J.D. & Jewell Carden

### **Artifact Donations**

1948 Martin Drugs Photo Envelope

**Dennis & Edith Hays**

3 Cotton Pick Sacks

**Charles Landers**

Memories of Bemis Photo Album

**Betsy Taylor Babb & Sidney Goldsby**

Bemis Cotton Pick Sack

**Margaret Carnell Wilson**

Y Barber Shop Matchbook

**Roy Morris**

RC Cola Bottle 1952

**Rhonda Lynn**

1931 High School Handbook of Composition

**Buddy Weir**

1918 Coke Bottle (Old Logo)

**Tom Ryan**

Double Cola Bottle 1950

**Joel Jackson**

Textile Crayon Box

JB Young 50Year Cup

Clabber Girl Can

1927 Home Ec Book

J.B. Young T-Shirt

**Bobby & Sara Scoggins**

Golden Anniversary Dollar

**Don & Sherry Chism**

Photo O. Henderson Drawing

Photo O. Henderson Carding

**Ken & Pat Thomason**

Bemis Gin Thermometer

1965 Contract

1972 Contract

Cotton Mill Handbook 1922

Cotton Mill Math 1927

1967 Cat Book

“Memories of Life in Bemis”

1962 Time book

2 Shuttles

4 Bobbins

34 Bemistory editions

22 Bemis Employee News

Cotton sample Knife

Cotton Dept Letterhead (Cat Logo)

Cotton Dept Letterhead (New Logo)

Islin Shop History

“Mill Town” SUN 1978

1973 Mill Organizational Chart

1971 Shop Seniority List

1981 Shop Seniority List

1974 Card Dept Seniority List

1979 Card Dept Seniority List

7/7/1968 SUN-Bemis Houses Transfer

**Ronnie McNatt**

1927 & 1932 Insurance Policies

**Delton & Wonell Meals**

### **Museum Has A New Podium!**

Members were surprised and delighted to find a newly constructed podium at the April Society meeting. This stately podium, painted a green that matches our museum walls and decorated with the Cat in the Bag, was lovingly built by our own master craftsman, Bobby Weaver. Bobby is an extraordinarily talented carpenter who has worked tirelessly on many museum projects. You can tell that a lot of love was put into the designing and building of his latest project. Thank you, Bobby, for this wonderful podium that we will use and enjoy long into the future. We are so grateful for your support and so proud to have you as a member and friend!!

### **Attend a Society Meeting!**

The Bemis Historical Society meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7PM at the Bemis

Mill Village Museum building. A short business meeting is followed by a program. Our speakers for upcoming months include:

**May 19** – Nancy Parrish, University of Memphis Graduate Student, *Women Workers in Bemis*

**June 16**– Wayne Wooley, *Hot Rod and Dirt Track Circuits*

**July 21** - Maurice Stansell, *The Bemis Connection*

Join us any month to find out more about Bemis, our museum project, and just to visit with current and former Bemis residents. You will be welcomed!

***Dues are Due for 2009*** in the amount of \$25 per family. Included with membership are quarterly Historical Society newsletters. Please forward dues to the Bemis Historical Society, P.O. Box 9266, Jackson, TN 38314-9266.

***The Bemis Historical Society***  
***P. O. Box 9266***  
***Jackson, TN 38314-9266***

**Help preserve the history and heritage of Bemis, Tennessee, by supporting our Bemis Mill Village Museum project.** For information about credit card donations, gifts of assets (stocks/bonds/real estate) or planned gifts (bequests/trusts/life insurance), contact our development consultant, Frank McMeen at 731-984-2140, or by e-mail at [Frank.McMeen@wth.org](mailto:Frank.McMeen@wth.org). For information about direct contributions (cash/checks), Cotton Boll Remembrances (honorariums and memorials at the \$500 level of giving) and Named Gift Opportunities (museum/exhibits), contact Anita Roark at 731-427-2609. Cotton Boll Remembrances can be purchased with one \$500 donation or through ten (10) consecutive \$50 payments. **The Bemis Historical Society is a 501(c)3 entity. Part or all of your contribution may be tax deductible.**

***Preserve Our Past by Supporting  
our Museum Project!***