



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

Spring 2017

BEMIS HERITAGE DAYS

May 19-20

Bemis Heritage Days are quickly approaching. Our annual celebration will be held May 19-20 at the Bemis Mill Village Museum on 2 North Missouri Street.

Doors open at 4PM on Friday, and at **5PM you can enjoy delicious bar-b-que plates sold for \$8.** Gaylon and Betty Cooper will be providing the bar-b-que again this year, so you know it will be good!

After you eat and catch up with all your old friends, put on your dancing shoes and join us inside the museum for a night of music. The W.S. Holland Rock n' Roll Band will play from 7-9PM, entertaining up with those songs we love the best. A \$5 minimum donation toward the museum's projects is suggested for enjoying the night of music.

Saturday events run from 9AM-3:30PM. From 9-11AM, you can take a self-guided tour of Bemis via a CD recorded by Historical Society member June Holloway. A "Bemis Cat Look-Alike Contest" will take place at 10AM, with the winner being the cat that looks the most like Biddie in the Bemis logo. Visit the "Moon Pie & R.C. Booth" to bring back memories. At 11AM mosey on over to the big tent where Gaylon, Betty and friends will provide more **\$8 bar-b-que plates until sold out.**

A host of storytellers will "spin Bemis yarns"

starting at 1PM inside the museum. Join Chairman Joel Jackson at 3PM for an update about the Bemis Historical Society, its projects and an update on the status of the Bemis Mill and future landmark.

Mark your calendars! You will not want to miss our Bemis Heritage Days this year. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy this two-day event. For more information, call Joel Jackson at 424-0739.

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 Ray, Augusta & Donald Azbill

By Shelby & Jane Azbill Cearley

In Memory of James Harmon Duncan, Sr.

By Jim & Tony Duncan

In Memory of Carolyn Mitchell Scott

By Erin Fauber

In Memory of Lisa Weir

By R.K. "Buddy" and Pat Weir

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

Society members elected the following new officers in March: Joel Jackson, Chairperson; Carolyn Davis, Vice Chairperson; Sue Roark, Secretary; Warner Turner, Treasurer. Richard Fisher, as past Chairperson, remains on the board.

We thank each of them for giving of their time to support our Society.

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Bemis Gin Billfold
Jo Ann Wilkins Inman

9 Bemis Employee News
Shirley Nesbitt Johns

12 Employee News 2013
2 Bemis Methodist Church Plates
Juanita Hardee

30 Bemis News Clippings in Notebook
Joyce Garrett Hoffman

Benefits by Bemis Notebook
Ray Rogers Estate

Bemis Cemetery Book
**Joel Jackson &
Bemis Museum Facebook**

Bemis Mercantile Company 1952 Notebook
John D. & Jewell Carden

Judson Moss Bemis
“Advice to His Grandchildren”
a 60-page book
Joel Jackson

HONORIUMS/MEMORIALS:

The following memorials have been made:

In Memory of Robert Alderson
Jane Alderson

In Memory of Royce Askew
Virginia Askew

In Memory of Winifred Matthews
Jane Alderson

In Memory of Ray Rogers
Joyce Collins
Sue Roark

In Memory of Carolyn Mitchell Scott

Robert & Janice Deel
In Memory of Carolyn Mitchell Scott
Mickey Granger

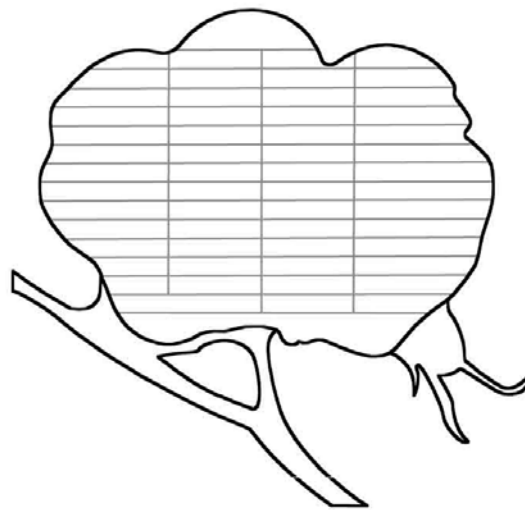
In Memory of Ken Thomason
Sue Roark

In Memory of Mary Watson
Juanita Staggs

In Memory of James Red Young
Richard & Marge Simmons

Cotton Boll Remembrance – Remembering Loved Ones

In 2008, our Society worked with Gable & Schubert in Chicago to design two permanent Cotton Boll Remembrance displays that now hang in the entrance lobby of our museum. Each display contains 48 1-1/2” tall white plates, each of which holds an engraved memorial or honorarium. We are pleased to report that the Cotton Boll Remembrance displays have been a big success both in recognizing Bemis friends and family, and also in raising funds for our museum project.



Cotton Boll Remembrances are made at the \$500 level of giving. This amount can be paid in one lump sum, or in ten (10) monthly payments of \$50.

Send your Cotton Boll Remembrance donation to the Society, along with the name of the person to be honored (*specify honorarium or memorial*) and the person recognizing them. What a wonderful

way to honor family and friends *permanently* in our museum!

BEMIS MILL UPDATE

Shortly before the publication of this newsletter, Mayor Jerry Gist provided an update regarding the demolition of the Bemis Mill. According to the mayor, Christian Morton was to be served with papers by U.S. marshals for leaving a "Public Nuisance" due to failure to complete the mill demolition project. It was reported that the marshals have to-date been unable to locate Mr. Morton to serve him with these legal papers.

Dues are Due!

Dues for 2017 are due! Single and family memberships are only \$25. To pay your dues, just drop a check in the mail made out to the BHS. Mail it to: Bemis Historical Society, P.O. Box 9266, Jackson, TN 38314-9266. We appreciate your support!

JOIN US AT A BEMIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING!

The Bemis Historical Society meets the third Tuesday every month (except January) at the Bemis Mill Village Museum (Bemis Auditorium). Come and reconnect with friends, neighbors and family. Hope to see you there

Bemis Horizons Endowment Fund: Planning for our Museum's Future

Our Society wants to ensure that the Bemis Mill Village Museum will be open and available to serve the community for many years to come. To make that goal a reality, the **Bemis Horizons**

Endowment Fund was started several years ago at the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation. Current projections are that once the museum opens, a minimum of \$13,000 annually will be needed just to keep the doors open (maintenance, utilities, etc.)

Recently the Society's membership voted to donate all monies received for Honorariums and Memorials to the Endowment Fund. You, too, can donate to the fund and help ensure that our museum will continue to operate far into the future, educating the community about the history of our unique Bemis village and its people.

To make ever popular on-line credit card donations to the fund, simply go to:

www.wthfoundation.org/makeadonation

Click on the "make a donation" button. Once you arrive at the **designation field** it will automatically populate that field with the words, "area of greatest need." You can enter the name **Bemis Horizons Endowment Fund** here. A one-time donation can be made, or you can set up a recurring donation to be made on a specified day of the month via credit card.

To donate by mail, simply drop a check in the mail to the Society along with a note that it is designated for the Bemis Horizons Endowment Fund.

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.

The Bemis Historical Society is a 501(c)3 entity. Part or all of your contribution may be tax deductible.

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