

PRELIMINARY EXHIBIT CONCEPTS

Entrance

This area is the primary entrance (east side), queuing area, admissions, and "teaser exhibits" in the form of wall graphics, framed artifacts, and some three dimensional objects inside cases adjacent to the south doorway (which will remain closed).

- A 1.01 - Teaser Exhibit
- A 1.02 - Teaser Exhibit

Intro Exhibit

An angled title panel offers and introductory greeting to the visitors. Copy will honor the Primary Donor(s) and the Bemis Historical Society. Exhibits on the visitor's left will explain the "Bemis Plan." On the right will graphically depict a Bemis timeline reflecting regional, local, and international historical events.

- B 1.01 - Greeting
- B 1.02 - "The Plan"
- B 1.03 - Bemis timeline

Heroes Exhibit

Viewed next in sequence, over 18 feet of casework will deal with the heroes' aspect of the Bemis community. A central exhibit of oral histories that tell the unique stories of the people of Bemis is flanked by look-in-the-past dioramas of Dr. Smythe's office and the Company Store. A large artifact (possibly the Drug Store Sign) will be suspended from overhead.

- C 1.01 - Audio Spotlights
- C 1.02 - Dr. Smythe's Office
- C 1.03 - The Company Store

Technology and the Bemis Mill

An oversized glass case will house and interpret the technological advances and business aspects of the mill, and Bemis' role in the cotton industry. Included will be a display of a training loom. Stories of the planning and implementation from the intro exhibit will be reinforced and expounded upon in this case by depictions of "Little Egypt", unionization, J.B. Young family, the conveyor system, water management, etc.

Milltown Model

A unique opportunity exists to re-create a scale replica of the entire village in the 12' diameter table height display. The full color representation is an excellent educational tool, as well as focal point of the surrounding freestanding display cases.

Bemis Musicians

This exhibit will feature the most influential and famous musicians of the town of Bemis.

The Bemis Auditorium, the "old theater"

The largest artifact owned by the society is the Bemis Auditorium. A huge photo mural on the back wall of the museum will depict one of those special nights. The original chairs will be refurbished back to an "as-new" look, and a protective reader rail will explain and depict the functions, fun, and importance of the facility. Also, information on the architect and recent renovations.

A Special Place To Worship

The Bemis Company appreciated the need for a community church, one that would be unique to the village. The stories of the first and subsequent churches, the congregations, and activities will be thoroughly covered in the exhibit.

The Bemis Family

The wisdom and entrepreneurial spirit of the Bemis family of St. Louis, Mo. merged the talent and cooperation of architects, engineers, contractors, mill workers, and their families into one of the most unique communities at the turn of the 20th century. This exhibit will honor this proud family and their accomplishments.

Educational, Sports, and Cultural Matters

This exhibit will delve into the educational, leisure, social, and cultural aspects of the community. Artifacts, memorabilia, and vintage photographs will play a key role interpreting this aspect of the Bemis story.

War Memorial

The village's participation, sacrifices, and community involvement in the military will be highlighted in this exhibit.

Museum Store/Gift Shop

The retail portion of the floor plan allows the visitors to exit the exhibits through the gift shop. The admissions area serves a double function allowing the staff from admissions to also service the museum store. An open counter area permits full view of the merchandise and exiting customers.

Research/Administration

A research loft will be built above the admissions/storage area. The loft will be accessible by stairwells and a public elevator, enabling all researchers, educators, and interested parties to use this facility. The loft will also accommodate additional administrative staff.