



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

THE BEMIS STORY

A publication of Bemis Historical Society

Bemis . . . Where Industry and Friendliness Blend Into Progress

Bemis Mill Village Museum, 2 North Missouri Street, Jackson, Tennessee

Bemis Historical Society, PO Box 9266, Jackson, TN 38314-9266

www.bemishistory.org

Autumn 2019

Major Donor

Bemis Historical Society would like to acknowledge the following donation toward roof repairs of the Bemis Mill Village Museum. The donation will be added to the Major Donors Plaque displayed in the entryway of the museum to honor all supporters who provide a one-time gift in the amount of \$1,000 or more.

C. Richard Jackson

Cotton Boll Remembrances

Cotton Boll Remembrances are honorariums and memorials at the \$500 level of giving.

In memory of Robert, Merline, & James Coatney
Linville & Eva Holley

By Lin & Sandra Coatney Holley

In memory of Nancy Scott & Lynda Mae Duncan
My Twin Sisters Reunited at Last
By Tony Duncan

In memory of Shirley Mae Kern Spencer
By Her Girls: Chris, Dianne, Cheryl, Donna, Connie,
Angie, Brooke & Grandchildren

Memorial and Donations

The following memorial and donations have recently been received:

Memorial

In memory of Opal Buckingham
Donated by: Wayne & Wanda Lee

Monetary Donation for Bemis Heritage Days

\$500 Jackson-Madison County Community
Economic Development Commission

Monetary Donations

Donated by:
Arrington Funeral Directors
Robert & Helen Bell
J. D. Carden
Bruce Dorris
Nellie M. Gaia
J. C. Gezon
Jerry Gist
Ronnie Hatch
Randy & Leigh Ann Lamb
Doris K. McKenzie
Joe Nip McKnight
Gloria Tapley

Donations

Winding Road to Liberty by Dan Morris
Donated by Anna Wulfert Kirk

More than Names on a Wall by Ricky Long
Donated by Ricky Long

Three stories written by Opal Buckingham
Donated by Bobby Buckingham &
Brenda Buckingham Shires

Artifact Donations

The following artifacts have recently been donated:

Alfred Garner Brinkley's 5, 10, 15, &
20-year Cat-in-the-Bag pins
Donated by: Jackie Nesbitt Barnett

Three issues of "BemiStory" &
"50 Years in the Life of a Community"
Donated by: Billy Fred Brewer

Copy of letter from James Forrestal
Donated by: Polly Buckingham

Bemis engineer Marvin Howard's trinket cabinet
Donated by: Danny Butler

"Bemis" section from Bemis Water Tower
Donated by: Dale Nelson of Dale's Recycling

1939 Bemis Mercantile Company calendar
Donated by: Larry Hearn

Two Bemis Golden Anniversary commemorative bills
Donated by Ricky Long

1927 Bemis Baseball Medallion of E Petree/Unknown
Donated by: Pete Pruitt

Ten Watchman clocks from the Bemis Cotton Mill
Donated by: Terry Sanders

Knob & tube wiring & other Bemis-style electrical
Donated by: Gary Scates

5 & 10-year Cat-in-the-Bag pins
Donated by: Garney Scott

<https://bemishistory.org/>



THE BEMIS STORY

Bemis Historical Society
Autumn 2019 – Page 2

Bemis Website and Social Media

Bemis news, stories, photos, and memories are shared on the Bemis website and social media.

Bemis Historical Society www.bemishistory.org

The Bemis Museum

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Bemis-Museum-149237151757283/>

If you grew up in Bemis, TN

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/155498407861366/>

Thank You to Robert Gaugh

Thank you to Robert Gaugh for replacing six lightbulbs on the east side of the Museum – Lighting Our American Treasure. The LEDs have 15-year life expectancy.

Thank You to Jeff Haltom

Thank you to Jeff Haltom for replacing the outside light sensor.

Museum Water Damage Repaired

After Bemis Heritage Days 2018, we discovered water damage from a storm that destroyed the “doghouse” on the roof which, in turn, caused twenty-seven leaks. Through a number of repairs, the leaks were all stopped and the walls were fixed and painted. The flooring was finally in place and sealed on October 1, 2019. It’s good to see those repairs finished. Approximately 96% of the total repairs were covered through our building insurance and a \$3,000 donation from the City of Jackson.

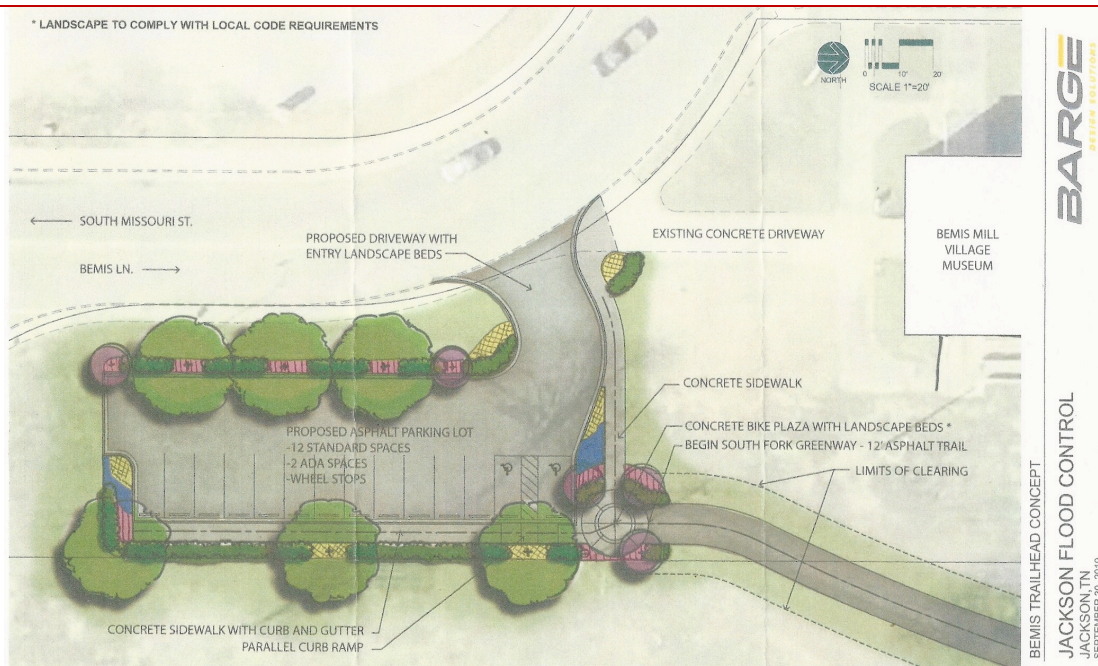
Create a Legacy

Honor and preserve the heritage of Bemis through planned gifts that will keep the Bemis Mill Village Museum open for decades to come. Direct donations, bequests in wills, life insurance, trusts, donations of real estate and gifts of stocks and bonds will help to ensure that the doors of our museum remain open and the history of Bemis stays alive. If you wish to leave a donation to the Society through a simple codicil to your will, contact our legal consultant, H. Brent Patrick, Attorney (son of Kaye and Harold Patrick). Brent has generously offered to prepare codicils benefiting the Society free of charge. Anyone who is interested in this gifting option may call Brent directly at 615-742-8554. Thank you for considering a gift that will benefit generations to come!

West TN Basin Authority

The West TN Basin Authority is in the process of straightening Cane Creek near Forked Deer River. This should help prevent Bemis flooding. They also are planning on removing sand behind the Dam/Falls so the stream can once again go through the Dam as designed. As a side benefit, the Frogmoor Walking/Bike Trail was added. Stan Pilant of Regional Planning recently sent a Proposed Trailhead Plan which involves Museum property. Coming up the old Illinois Central roadbed from downtown Farmers Market is a 12-foot wide asphalt track which ends just south of our railroad spur to the Mill.

The area will have twelve regular parking spaces plus two handicapped spaces on asphalt. It will have a bike rack for ten bikes. Sidewalks and shrubs will accentuate the area. This should “dress-up” the area.





THE BEMIS STORY

Bemis Historical Society
Autumn 2019 – Page 3

Bemis Historical Society's Board of Directors

If you have questions or comments, please contact the Board of Directors.

Chairman Joel Jackson 731-424-0739 home
joeljackson2@eplus.net

Vice Chair Kathy Haney Williams 731-225-6938 mobile
KatherineWilliams@charter.net

Secretary Robert Gaugh 731-499-2229 mobile
rgaugh@gmail.com

Treasurer Anita Roark 731-427-2609 home
arr285@me.com

Past Chairman Richard Fisher 731-234-9813 mobile
rdfisher@aol.com

Bemis Cemetery Fund

Donations for Bemis Cemetery may be mailed to:
Bemis United Methodist Church, 23 N Massachusetts
Street, Jackson, TN 38301-7424.

Museum's Company Store

There are a variety of items for sale in the Museum's Company Store with proceeds supporting projects of Bemis Historical Society and maintenance of the Museum. To purchase items, attend a monthly meeting or mail a check to the PO box.

	Cost of Items	Shipping Costs
Brick from J.B. Young School	\$5	\$10
Brick from Cotton Mill	\$5	\$10
Cat-in-the Bag License Plate	\$7	\$5
Historical Ornaments*	\$15	1-3 for \$5
Coloring Books	\$10	\$3
50 th Anniversary DVD	\$15	\$3
Map of Bemis from 1932	\$10	\$5
Map of Cotton Mill	\$10	\$5
UU Photos/Postcards	\$1	1-5 for \$1

*Historical Ornaments – \$15 each, plus \$5 shipping

(Up to three ornaments can be shipped for \$5.)

2009 – The Bemis Auditorium (Mary Spellings)

2012 – Judson Moss Bemis Fountain (Rosalee Gibbons)

2015 – Bemis Cotton Mill (Rosalee Gibbons)

New items will be available in December:

** Baseball caps

** Historical Ornament – 2019 – Union Church/
Bemis United Methodist Church

Artist: Melanie Marcom

Pre-sales will be taken at the November meeting.
Prices are to be determined for the new items.

Watch the website and Facebook for updates.

<https://bemishistory.org/>

Monthly Meetings – 2019-2020

Bemis Historical Society meetings are held the third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Bemis Mill Village Museum. Attend our meetings to learn about Bemis and the surrounding area and to preserve our history.

July 16 – Anna Wulfert Kirk shared the Wulfert family's stories and their struggles surviving WWII and coming to America.

August 20 – Ricky Long presented a program titled "More Than Names on a Wall, The World War II Dead of Madison County, TN."

September 17 – Gwen McCaffrey McReynolds told us how to dowsing for unmarked graves and how to properly clean tombstones.

October 15 – Kenneth Newman and Carolyn Malone presented "Before We Were Yours – Fact and Fiction Concerning Georgia Tann."

November 19 – Alice Yarbro Holtin will present a program about "Remembering World War II." This meeting will be held at Bemis United Methodist Church.

We will not have meetings in December and January due to cold weather and high utility bills to heat the museum.

Programs for 2020:

February 18 – Kathy Haney Williams – US Census Records in Bemis, TN ~ 1910-2020

March 17 – Rodger Holtin – American Pop Songs Inspired by the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927

April 21 – Penny Stutzman – Bemis Book Club's 90th Anniversary (Organized April 14, 1930)

May 19 – No meeting due to Bemis Heritage Days on May 15-16

June 16 – Robert Gaugh – Civil War Union Veterans in Bemis, TN

July 21 – Lucy Smith and Greg Hammond – Congo Street and Old West Bemis School

August 18 – Jackie Utley – How Tennessee Secured the Right for Women to Vote in August 1920

September 15 – To be announced

October 20 – To be announced

November 17 – Christmas Memories in Bemis



Artwork for 2019 ornament

Annual Dues

Annual membership dues are \$25 for individual or family memberships and are payable January 1.

Please mail a check to:
Bemis Historical Society
PO Box 9266
Jackson, TN 38314-9266.

Thank you.



THE BEMIS STORY

Bemis Historical Society
Autumn 2019 – Page 4

Bemis Mill Memorial Park

Our new Bemis Mill Memorial Park is a fun and interesting place to visit. There are twenty-one historical photographs on the memorial wall that are a timeline of Bemis' history. Children enjoyed the splash pad this summer, and the walking track is a great place to walk alone or with friends. We have new sidewalks in front of the park, and a fence is being erected. Security cameras are installed.

The City of Jackson is discussing plans to construct a picnic pavilion at the west end of the park.



First two photos on the Memorial Wall



Memorial Wall & Splash Pad



Gaylon Cooper & Joel Jackson



Joel Jackson & Jerry Gist

Visit the website to view videos of the May 18 ribbon cutting at the Bemis Mill Memorial Park.
<https://bemishistory.org/>



US Veterans at Bemis Heritage Days



Children enjoyed the splash pad.