

THE BEMIS STORY



A publication of Bemis Historical Society
Bemis Mill Village Museum, 2 North Missouri Street, Jackson, Tennessee
Bemis Historical Society, PO Box 9266, Jackson, TN 38314-9266
www.bemishistory.org & <https://www.facebook.com/TheBemisMuseum>
Winter 2022-2023



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Happy New Year 2023!!!

from Bemis Historical Society



BEMIS AUDITORIUM/BEMIS MILL VILLAGE MUSEUM
1922-2022

Bemis Heritage Day – May 21, 2022
Photographer Bill Hollamon

Bill Hollamon

Bemis Heritage Day

2022

Bemis Historical Society welcomed over 300 friends to the Bemis Mill Village Museum on May 21 for Bemis Heritage Day. We celebrated the Centennial Anniversary of the Auditorium/Museum and the Bicentennial Anniversary of the City of Jackson and Madison County.

2023

Reserve May 20, 2023, for our celebration to welcome Bemis friends to Bemis Heritage Day 2023. Until then, see Page 5 for meetings scheduled in 2023.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Bemis Historical Society Membership

Please help with the maintenance of our beautiful 100-year-old building by sending membership dues of \$25 for individual or family memberships to:

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

"The Bemis Story"

Digital editions of our newsletters 2018-2022 are posted to our website and to our Facebook page.

<https://bemishistory.org/newsletter/>
<https://www.facebook.com/TheBemisMuseum>

Artifact Donations

The following artifact donations have been added to the historic preservation of Bemis Mill Village.

Frances Reid "SUN" history of South Side Library
Three 8x10 Photos of Miss Reid
1957 Class small composite
1960 Class small composite
1960 Library Assistants
Cartoon of Miss Reid
South Side Hawk Talk Feb 1959
1964 Class Directory & Program 10th Reunion 1974
1959 Class Directory & 15th Reunion 1974
1956 Class Directory 25th Reunion 1981
1958 Class Program 25th Reunion 1983
1953 Class Program 30th Reunion 1983
1954 JBY School Phone Book
(*Mary Frances Reid Tillman, 1909-1987*)
Donated by Vera Tillman

Mill floor made into work of art by Kirk Smith
Donated by Kirk Smith

Two Scrapbooks 1950-1980 of Oneida Deming Yelverton
Donated by Guy Yelverton Jr.

Bemis Methodist Info Brochure 1997
Bemis Methodist Newsletter 1997
Nina Haney Johnson – Mill Bonus Envelope
WWII Window Card 37 Gold Stars & 1257 Blue Stars
Tribute to Bemis Personnel in War
Donated by Pete Pruitt

Set of two "CHUMS" /Prints
Boy with dog & girl with cat, by C. Bremont
Mid-1800s/ From J. B. Young Elementary
Donated by Judy Mitchell Lyell

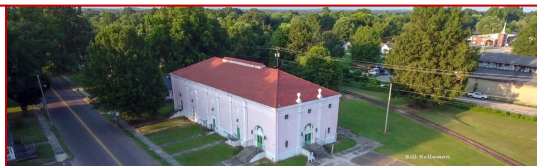
Big Brass Spittoon from Bemis YMCA
Photo Album
Donated by Wonnell Warren Meals

Royce Askew Hall of Fame Nomination Notebook
Donated by Debbie Latham Woods

Mill Training Manuals
Lab Testing 1953
Time Study 1949
Donated by Irene Rolison



Lab Scales and Loom Fixers manual
Donated by Kemp Reed
from John Townsend Estate



South Fork Greenway

Bemis Historical Society received \$4,950.75 from the City of Jackson for the right-of-way easement in conjunction with the South Fork Greenway.

Memorial Donations

Thank you for your kindness in remembering your loved ones with a donation to Bemis Historical Society.

In memory of Mildred Austin
Donated by Bruce & Jamie Boone
Donated by Jewel Carden
Donated by Sue Johnson Roark

In memory of Mary Kathryn Crowley
Donated by Sue Johnson Roark

In memory of Donald Ray "Don" Eads
Donated by Butch & Kathy Haney Williams

In memory of Vicky Mayo Foote
Donated by Jimmy & Jennie Mitchell
Donated by Overton Park Memorial Fund
Donated by South Side High, Class of 1962

In memory of Onus King
Donated by Dot & Bob Anderson
Donated by Joel & Brenda Jackson
Donated by James & Sandra King

In memory of Gwen Siler
Donated by Dorothy Spicer & Family
Donated by Larry & Marilyn Walton

<https://bemishistory.org/memorialshonoraria/>

Monetary Donations

Thank you to the following donors for their generous support.

Anonymous
Anonymous
Ralph Fisher
Nellie Maitland Gaia
Joe Nip McKnight
Sue Johnson Roark

Bemis Historical Markers

New historical marker was erected in 2022.

SHOP/CAFETERIA – By Penny Stutzman

The following historical sites need sponsors.

BALL FIELD – Second Street at Massachusetts Street
– Sponsor pending

BEMIS CLINIC – S Missouri Street

BEMIS HIGH SCHOOL, CLASSES OF 1938-1940 –
TN & B Streets (northwest corner)

HOME EC HOUSE – TN Street

SHOE SHOP – By West Drug Store (building in back,
sign on street) – Sponsor pending

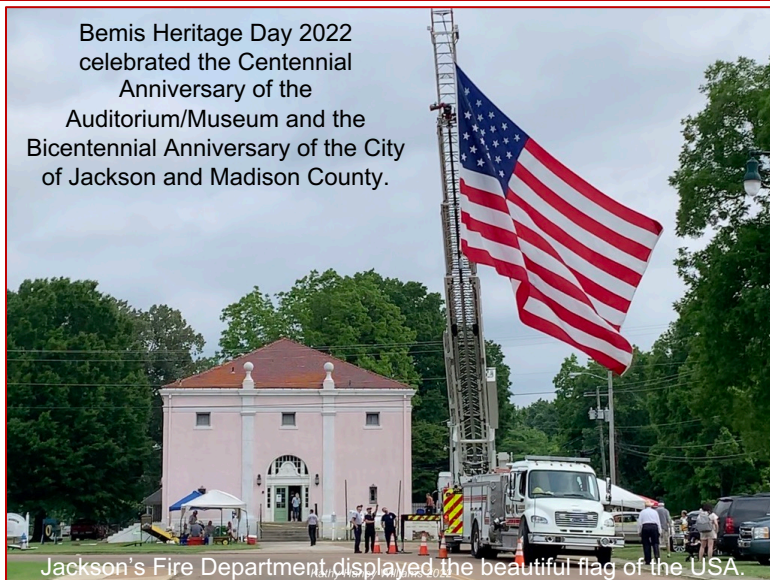
SKEET RANGE – Cemetery Road

SLUICE WAY CLEAN-OUT BUNKER – Center of

Second Street lawn (big ft x 5 ft concrete/very
visible – provided water via twin pipes to mill pond
from falls/dam

Thank you for supporting the historic preservation of Bemis Mill Village.

Bemis Heritage Day 2022 celebrated the Centennial Anniversary of the Auditorium/Museum and the Bicentennial Anniversary of the City of Jackson and Madison County.



Jackson's Fire Department displayed the beautiful flag of the USA.



Jackson Mayor Scott Conger presented a proclamation to Joel Jackson for Bemis Heritage Day 2022.

Photos by Kathy Haney Williams



The Bemis Boogie Blues Band - Tony McCaslin, Willie X Evans, Bobby Cleary, and Clint Blackwell - entertained the crowd.



Amerigroup Community Care and the Jackson Recreation & Parks Department held a grand opening of the new playground equipment at the Stella Duncan Park of Bemis.



Rhonda & Clay Young displayed information about historic preservation of family archives.



Friends enjoyed visiting.



The Jackson-Madison Chapter, NSDAR, recognized our US veterans on Armed Forces Day.



Bobby McAlexander's new ceramic replica of the Chat 'N Chew was a hit.



Marjorie McClanahan and June Holloway welcomed guests.



Bobby McAlexander and his granddaughter displayed his ceramic mugs.



Gaylon Cooper, Jackie Barnett, and Linda Farmer fed the hungry crowd.

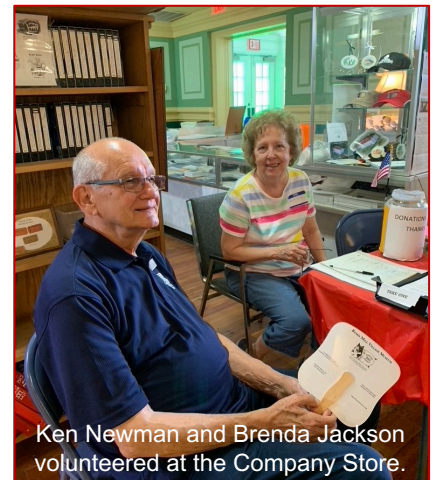
Photos by Kathy Haney Williams



Jamie Boone, Jackie Barnett, Linda Farmer, Gaylon Cooper, and Sue Roark served BBQ plates.



Armed Forces Day 2022



Ken Newman and Brenda Jackson volunteered at the Company Store.



Judy Roach Dorris portrayed a Bemis Book Club Founder from 1930.



Bemis Heritage Day 2022.



Bemis Forever Friends
Sandra Holley, Kathy Williams, Doris Raddcliffe
Photo by Butch Williams



The Hammond Family
Photo was submitted by Greg D. Hammond.
Greg M. Hammond portrayed his grandfather,
the late Ransom Hammond, a Bemis employee.



Will Kemp from R & J Feed Supply provided
homemade strawberry ice cream with all
proceeds to Bemis Historical Society.

Museum's Company Store

There are a variety of items for sale in the Company Store. Mail a check to the PO box, attend a meeting, or contact a member of the Board of Directors to visit the museum.

	Cost of Items	Shipping Costs
Baseball Caps – Historic Bemis ¹	\$15	\$7
Baseball Caps – Chat 'N Chew ²	\$15	\$7
100-Year Anniversary Fan ³	\$2	\$2
Historical Ornaments ⁴	\$17	\$5
Cat-in-the Bag License Plate	\$7	\$3
Cat's Out-of-the-Bag Microwave		
Bowl Cozy	\$10	\$2
Museum Note Cards/Envelopes (10)	\$10	\$3
Recipes from Bemis Historical Society	\$15	\$8
Coloring Book w/Bemis History	\$10	\$2
50 th Anniversary DVD w/123 photos	\$15	\$5
Map of Bemis from 1932	\$10	\$7
Schematic of Bemis Cotton Mill	\$10	\$7

¹Baseball cap – unstructured, cotton twill, 6 panels, choice of three colors – red, khaki, or gray

¹Baseball cap – structured, cotton twill, blue with mesh back in charcoal, 6 panels (limited supply)

²Baseball cap – unstructured, cotton twill, black, 6 panels with an embroidery of the Chat 'N Chew sign

2-3 caps can be shipped for \$8 postage/handling.

³Keepsake fans (1-2) can be shipped for \$2 postage.

⁴Historical Ornaments

2009 – The Bemis Auditorium (Mary Spellings)

2012 – Judson Moss Bemis Fountain (Rosalee Gibbons)

2015 – Bemis Cotton Mill (Rosalee Gibbons)

2020 – Union Church/Bemis United Methodist Church (Melanie Marcom)

2-4 ornaments can be shipped for \$6 postage/handling.

Other items are listed on our website.

<https://bemishistory.org/museums-company-store/>

BHS Board of Directors

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

Chairman Joel Jackson

731-424-0739 joeljackson2@eplus.net

Vice Chair Kathy Haney Williams

731-225-6938 KatherineWilliams@charter.net

Secretary Robert Gaugh

731-499-2229 rgaugh@gmail.com

Treasurer Anita Roark

731-427-2609 arr285@me.com



Bemis was represented in the Jackson-Madison County Bicentennial Parade on August 13, 2022.

Bemis Historical Society's Monthly Meetings

Bemis Historical Society meetings are held the third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at Bemis Mill Village Museum in February, March, April, June, July, August, September, October, and November with Bemis Heritage Day on the third Saturday in May. Attend our meetings to learn about Bemis and the surrounding area and to preserve our history. If you would like to present a program, please contact Vice Chairman Kathy Haney Williams.

Meetings in 2022:

February 15 – Kenneth Newman – Education:

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

<https://youtu.be/So3oVkw08N8>

March 15 – Rodger Holtin – 1922 Popular Culture

https://youtu.be/v601taveq_E

April 19 – Kathy Haney Williams – 1950 US Census

<https://youtu.be/0iT6x01xE3o>

May 21 – Bemis Heritage Day – Bemis Auditorium Centennial – Kathy Haney Williams & Joel Jackson

<https://youtu.be/w0f2KY-clFU>

<https://youtu.be/oeC9SCKEv-4>

<https://youtu.be/xGOzoHvSX38>

June 21 – Steven Harrison – Photo Identification & Restoration

<https://youtu.be/-f96P7hzXMg>

July 19 – David Mayo – FindAGrave & Tombstone Preservation

<https://youtu.be/RpG4ryTRId8>

August 16 – Gregory M. Hammond – Legacy of Butler Street in Bemis, TN

<https://youtu.be/AU6sF87h3Cg>

September 20 – Ralph Fisher – Journey to Bemis, TN: The Fisher Family of 15 Young St.

https://youtu.be/p1_qgoBGC7Y

October 18 – Jamie Carden Boone – Find Your Bemis Ancestors – Some Genealogy Research Tips

<https://youtu.be/j1890dkE90o>

November 15 – James Mayo – Musical Heritage of Jackson & Madison County, TN

<https://youtu.be/ZPuOJCAXV9M>

Meetings scheduled in 2023:

February 21 – Jon Rowl – Salem Cemetery in NE Madison County, TN

March 21 – Ricky Long – What It Means to Be Scots-Irish

April 18 – Judy Fisher – Bemis Silver Circle Neighborhood Association

May 20 (Saturday) – Bemis Heritage Day – Tommy Dean – Youth Sports in Bemis

June 20 –

July 18 –

August 15 –

September 19 –

October 17 –

November 21 –



<https://bemishistory.org/monthly-meetings/>



BEMIS AUDITORIUM/BEMIS MILL VILLAGE MUSEUM

Centennial Anniversary – 1922–2022

Bemis Heritage Day – May 21, 2022

Photographer Bill Hollamon

Revisiting the Rosenwald Days

As a part of the Jackson-Madison County Bicentennial Celebration, the Walter Brewer Bemis Community Center (WBBCC) at 324 Second Street sponsored an event themed “Revisiting the Rosenwald Days” on June 24-25. A special presentation titled “Much Obligated, Mr. Rosenwald” was written, directed, and narrated by Dr. Jerry Woods. The WBBCC building was originally West Bemis Elementary School and was built as a Rosenwald School in 1916. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. According to research by the Middle TN State University Center for Historic Preservation, it is the oldest Rosenwald school building in the State of Tennessee still standing in its original structure.



The cast of “Much Obligated, Mr. Rosenwald”
Photo by Greg D. Hammond