

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 2023-2024



*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.*

Happy Holidays!!!

Major Donors

Bemis Historical Society would like to acknowledge the following memorials that have been 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.

**Keith, Mary Kathryn, Mike,
& Ronnie Crowley**
From the Crowley Estate

Larry & Jenny Beeman
In honor of the Fisher Family



Mural by Rosalee Gibbons & Wagon by Richard Fisher
inside the Bemis Mill Village Museum

Estate Donation

During Bemis Day 2023, Jerry Elston presented a check for \$10,000 to the Bemis Historical Society as requested by the late Mary Kathryn Crowley who passed on May 20, 2022, at age 98.

Memorials

Rosalee Jennings Gibbons was a charter member and the first secretary of Bemis Historical Society. She painted the cotton field mural in the museum, helped get Bemis on the National Register of Historical Places in 1991, and served two additional terms as secretary. Rosalee painted two Bemis collages, and both are on display in the museum. She and her sister, Linda J. Higgins, collaborated on the publication of the *Bemis Mill Town Coloring Book*. Rosalee passed March 27, 2023.

Patricia "Pat" Latham Johnson served as treasurer of Bemis Historical Society in 2004 and 2005, and she served as chair of the Nominating Committee. Pat passed November 2, 2022.

Warner Turner served two 2-year terms as treasurer of Bemis Historical Society. Warner and his wife Fran were loyal Bemis supporters. Warner passed August 1, 2023.

Message from Chairman Joel Jackson

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who helped us have a successful Bemis Day in May and interesting programs at our 2023 monthly meetings. Our members help with the preservation of our museum and our history. Your donations are greatly appreciated, and they are tax deductible.

Our building celebrated a centennial birthday in 2022. We have a list of projects that are needed to keep the museum in good condition.

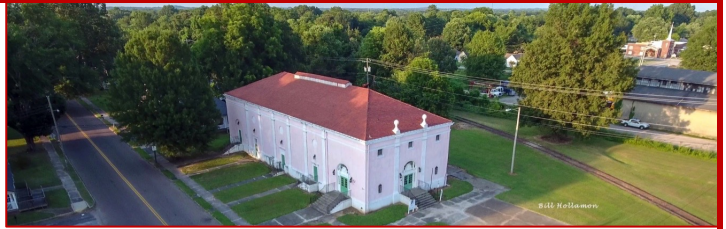
- We need an exterior paint job ~ \$20,000.
- Repair or replace the east door with a vinyl door and side windows ~ \$15,000.
- The "approach" to the handicap ramp needs filling in with concrete and sloping to match the ramp and to eliminate the water puddle ~ about \$8,000.
- The stage lights are 3/4 out and need new bulbs (LED) ~ \$2,000.

Old buildings are like old folks. They both require maintenance. We just missed receiving a grant from the State of Tennessee for all of the above. Seventy museums beat us out.

Monetary Donations

Thank you to the following donors for their generous support in 2023.

Alice Catherine Carls
Anonymous
Anonymous
Community Foundation for Northern Virginia
Joe Nip McKnight
Anita Ruth Roark
Sue Roark
Garney B. Scott, Jr.
Gloria Tapley
Museum Tour Participants



Memorial Donations

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

In memory of Joe Billy Austin

Donated by Bruce & Jamie Boone

Donated by Jewel Carden & Bruce Carden

Donated by Bob Rice & Tony Rice

In memory of Wesley & Myrtle Bell

Donated by Butch & Kathy Haney Williams

In memory of Barbara Nell Bridges

Donated by Sue Roark

In memory of Pam Belch Coyne

Donated by David & Beth King

In memory of my cousin Pam Belch Coyne, daughter of Robert E. Belch, granddaughter of Marie & Arlie Kinchen

Donated by Ray & Sandi King Johnson

In memory of Pam Belch Coyne

Donated by Ann Holcomb

In memory of Betty Fisher

Donated by Craig & Olive Fisher

In memory of Rosalee Jennings Gibbons and all the efforts she made on behalf of preserving the history of Bemis

Donated by Richard L. & Linda J. Higgins

In memory of Rosalee Jennings Gibbons

Donated by her nieces and their husbands: Robin & Bob Horwitz, KaCarole Reece, Beth & Brad Jones, and by her great-nieces and nephews: Kelsey & Bonnie Ledford, Keegan Thornton, Parker, Ben & Jett Jones

In memory of Joe Nip McKnight

Donated by Sue Roark

In memory of William Lowell "Bill" Simmons Jr. & Cynthia "Cindy" Pickens Simmons

Donated by Richard & Marge Simmons, Pamela Simmons, Bettye Simmons Crouch, Laura Simmons, Trey & Casey Crouch & Boys, Trinity Crouch

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

Bemis Historical Markers

New historical markers were erected in 2023.

BALL FIELD 1946-1968 – Second Street at

Massachusetts Street – David & Jerry McNatt

BEMIS CLINIC – 219 S Missouri Street – In Memory of our uncle, Jack Smythe, who was raised by Dr. Kelly Smythe – By Johnny Morgan & Sandra Morgan Williams

HOME OF FRANK JOSEPH SPANN, SR. – 23 Butler Street – By The Spann Family (The family plans to restore the home and open the home to the public to show life in the 1940s with simple furnishings.)

The following historical sites need sponsors.

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

Markers are \$100 each. Contact a board member to sponsor a marker. Thank you for supporting the historic preservation of the Bemis Mill Village.



Bemis Day ~ Saturday, May 18, 2024
Mark your calendars!!!



Kathy Haney Williams, Jerry Elston,
& Joel Jackson



Armed Forces Day



Jewel Carden & Jamie Boone

Bemis Day May 20, 2023



Sue Roark



Treasurer Anita Ruth Roark



Servers were busy.



The Bemis Boogie Blues Band
Clint Blackwell, Bobby Cleary, & Tony McCaslin



South Side Friends – Classes of 1966-1969



Ryder Gaugh enjoyed the water puddles.



BBQ is ready.
Let's eat.



Tommy Dean presented a program about Bemis sports.

Bemis Day May 20, 2023



Vintage Bemis photos are always enjoyed.



Gaylon Cooper



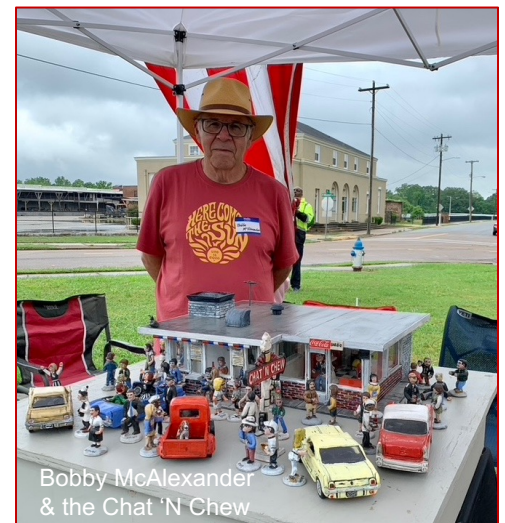
Bemis Day & Armed Forces Day



Jackson's Fire Department displayed the beautiful USA flag



Bobby McAlexander's Ceramics



Bobby McAlexander & the Chat 'N Chew



Friends from Class of 1964 – South Side High School



Members of DAR and C. A. R.

Artifact Donations

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

"Please use Spittoon" Plaque by Myrtle Frye
Story of Daniel Boone from Bemis Elementary 1966
The Jackson Sun 9/3/1999 article about the reunion of Bemis' first football season in 1949
Gregg Shorthand Book c1949
Homecoming '86 six-inch Red Ribbons (10)
TN Homecoming 1986 Coffee Mugs printed w/Bemis name and Cat-in-the-Bag logo (10)
Bemis Homecoming 1986 Caps (red)
Bemis Homecoming 1986 Cap (tan/black)
Bemis Homecoming '86 Cap
Homecoming '86 Bumper Sticker
Wonnell Meals' 1952 Graduation Diploma
Miscellaneous Snapshots (18)
1952 Photo 4 Teachers of 6th & 7th Grade
Donated by Wonnell Warren Meals

Gold Service Records 13x21 1940, 1941, 1942, 1946*
Bemis Recruitment Booklet 1919*
Bemistory September 1943*
Drill Style Cloth Sample*
Premium Wage Receipts 1/1922-1/1930*
9 pages of Member Memories from Bemis website
Bemistory History from Bemis website
Donated by Cindy Maddox Harris from the estate of her grandfather Jack Nickolson*

South Side Yearbooks – The Hawk 1993, 2007, 2008
Donated by Dee Dee Rives

Bemistory 1953, 1965, 1967, 1976, 1977
Bemistory Sep/Oct 1973 w/Jimmy Sandlin article
Bemis School Kids Nov 1936 w/Guy Curtis Johnson
2 Mill Shuttles
20-Year Club "Cat Booklet" Programs (5)
Donated by Kevin Monroe from Patricia Latham Johnson's estate

J. B. Young Home Ec "Everyday Foods"
Class Night Program May 8, 1950
Class of 1950 – 45th Reunion "Thank You"
8x10 Photo of Unknown Couple (At marriage?)
Tillie Nesbitt's Autograph Book 1939, 1940, 1941
Donated by Jackie Nesbitt Barnett

Photos: 8x10 of group at Benny Scott's Radio Store Christmas Party, 1930 Students in front of new Bemis Elementary, 1950 Parade (W.O.W. Float, Textile Workers Float, J.B. Young High Float, Kids w/Straw Hats & Pick Sacks, Girls w/White Dresses & Bonnets, Boys w/Straw Hats, 1st Grade Kids, Tau Phi Lambda Float, Spinning Room Float, Uncle Sam, Big Kids in Cat Costume, Dutch Girls)
Donated by Carolyn Callis

65 Photos & Newspaper Articles 1945-1947
A Study of the Readjustment of the Educational Program at Bemis, Tennessee, hard bound 200 pages, 1928
Donated by Peggy Young Riley from estate of Ray Curtis "Shot" Young and Nina French Young



Monthly Meetings

Bemis Historical Society meetings are held the third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Bemis Mill Village Museum in February, March, April, June, July, August, September, October, and November (unless week of Thanksgiving) with Bemis 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.

Our programs are posted to YouTube. The URLs are listed on our website.

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

2024 Programs

January – No meeting

February 20 – David Mayo – Pirtle Ancestors from Hardeman County to Madison County, TN

March 19 – Dr. Kenneth Newman – Delores Ballard, Jackson's Own Emily Dickinson

April 16 – Diane Lassiter Harris – Lassiter Family and Wells & Lassiter Dairy

May 18 (Saturday) – Bemis Day – Joel Jackson – How Water Built Bemis

June 18 – Rodger Holtin – Music from World War II
July 16 – Alice Yarbro Holtin – Yarbro Family from Bemis

August 20 – Jan McGill – For the Fun of It (American Childhood Toys 18th – early 20th century)

September 17 – Jamie Carden Boone – Carden Family Memories

October 15 – Dr. Kenneth Newman – Memories of Bemis & Malesus

November 19 – Kathy Haney Williams – Vintage Bemis Postcards & Christmas Cards

December – No meeting



Membership Dues

Please help with the maintenance of our beautiful 101-year-old building by sending annual membership dues of \$25 for individual or family memberships to:

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

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
Squeeze Coin Purse w/Bemis Logo	\$5	\$2
Museum Note Cards/Envelopes (10)	\$10	\$3
1919 Bemis Co Recruitment Book	\$10	\$2
Recipes from Bemis Historical Society	\$15	\$8
Bemis Tidbits by Joel Jackson	\$15	\$6
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
Wall Street Executive Pen - handcrafted from wood flooring from Historic Bemis Cotton Mill	\$40	\$4

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/>

"The Bemis Story"

Digital editions of our newsletters 2018-2023 are posted to our website and to our Facebook page.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBemisMuseum>



Home Sweet Home Mill, East Hampton, Long Island...1771

Home Sweet Home Mill

East Hampton, Long Island...1771

Christmas Card from Bemis Bro. Bag Co. 1960

Artist Lloyd Harting

Donated by Lois Lindgren of Bloomfield Hills, MI

More will be shared about vintage

Bemis Christmas cards in 2024.

Wall Street Executive Pen

Limited Supply

The Bemis Museum's Company Store has a limited supply of special-edition Wall Street executive pens that were hand-crafted by Curtis Howard from the wood flooring of the historic Bemis Cotton Mill.

A certificate of authenticity will be included with the pen in a gift box. The cost is \$40 + \$4 shipping.

First Come – First Served.

Orders cannot be held without payment.



BHS Board of Directors

If you have questions or comments, please contact the Bemis Historical Society's 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