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The Bemis Story

Where Industry and Friendliness Blend Into Progress

A publication of the Bemis Historical Society – www.bemishistory.org

Spring 2013

BEMIS HERITAGE DAYS

May 17-18

Bemis Heritage Days are quickly approaching. Our annual celebration will be held May 17-18 at the Bemis Mill Village Museum on North Missouri Street.

Doors open at 4PM on Friday, and at 5PM you can enjoy delicious bar-b-que plates sold for \$7. 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. Back by popular demand will be Rayburn Anthony and Band from 7-9PM playing 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-2PM. June Holloway will host the ever-popular Bemis Bus Tour at 10AM. Don't be late if you want to get a seat for this all-encompassing tour. After your tour is finished, mosey on over to the big tent where Gaylon, Betty and friends will provide more \$7 bar-b-que plates starting at 11AM until sold out.

If you have a black and white cat that resembles "Biddie," the famous cat from the Bemis "cat in the bag" logo, enter it in the Biddie Look Alike Contest on Saturday morning at 11AM. It will be the Cat's Meow!

A variety of other activities will be available on Saturday. Walgreen's will offer free blood pressures. Quilts will be on display. Rusty Robinson will have a few movie cars on site. Basket making will be demonstrated by Sue Alexander. A host of storytellers will "spin Bemis yarns" from 1-2:30PM.

Bring your children and grandchildren to see old timey toys, Indian games and toys, a finger top maker and string games. They will love to ride our mini-train down Missouri Street (a few adults might also be seen stealing a ride!). Kids will also enjoy seeing and hearing the Story of Cotton by Robert Hays.

So 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.

STORYTELLERS NEEDED

If you have a short Bemis yarn to spin to a very friendly audience early Saturday afternoon on May 18 at Bemis Heritage Days, contact Richard Fisher. Richard is our storytelling coordinator and can be reached at 731-234-9813 or by email at rdfisher@aol.com. If you've been wanting to share some of your precious Bemis memories, now is the perfect time!

HUMANITIES TENNESSEE ASSESSMENT

On Saturday, March 16, Mr. Rob DeHart performed an evaluation of the present operation of the Bemis Mill Village Museum and an assessment of the potential value of our venture for society at large. Mr. DeHart is one of the curators of the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville, but was acting as a consultant for Humanities Tennessee (HT) in performing the assessment. The purpose of the assessment, and hopefully the end result, was to determine if we qualified for the monetary grants, professional help and guidance resources offered by HT.

Mr. DeHart met first with our Board and other active volunteers to familiarize himself with the specific details of our activities and to hear of our wants and needs for the future. A guided tour of Bemis was given to Mr. DeHart by Joel Jackson. After the tour, many of our other loyal BHS members, other citizens and elected officials, met with Mr. DeHart to provide even more excellent input and ideas. After all meetings, Mr. DeHart reported that he was quite favorably impressed with Bemis, our people and our museum operation.

In April, Mr. DeHart will provide a written report of his findings and recommendations to HT. Upon HT's acceptance and approval of the report and recommendations, our museum would immediately qualify to make application for grants and other HT resources. Thanks so much to all who participated in these meetings and who have contributed in the past to getting us this recognition.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

New officers were elected for the Society at the March meeting. Elected were: Anita Ruth Roark, Chairperson; Richard Fisher, Vice Chairman; Kaye Patrick, Secretary; Jimmy Mitchell, Treasurer. Joel Jackson remains a board member as Past President. Many thanks to these officers for their leadership, dedication and time!

DONATIONS

The Bemis Historical Society wishes to thank the following supporters for recent donations:

Damon P. Becker Juanita Dunlap
Ray Landers

MAJOR DONOR

The Bemis Historical Society would like to acknowledge the following donation toward the front doors of the Bemis Mill Village Museum. The memorial will be added to the Major Donor's Plaque which hangs in the entryway of the museum to honor all supporters who provide a one-time gift in the amount of \$1,000 or more.

In Memory of Roy Neal Mitchell
by Delinda and Mike Mitchell
and Renee Mitchell Parker

HONORIUMS/MEMORIALS:

The following memorials have been recently made:

In Memory of Joe Roark
Carl & Kay Edney
Teddy & Jackie Hazlehurst
Richard & Linda Jennings Higgins
Pat Johnson
Richard & Regina Milligan
Penelope Stutzman
Doris Townsend
Marie Williams
In Memory of Homer Jones
Teddy Hazlehurst

COTTON BOLL DONATION

The following Cotton Boll remembrance has been received. A Cotton Boll remembrance is a memorial or honorarium at the \$500 level of giving.

In Memory of Joe Roark
by Sue, Anita, Allen and Andy Roark

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

2 Mill fire buckets
Hubert Williams
Weaver Scabbard
4 Reed Hooks
Marion Smothers
7 Photos Razing Gin
Troy Sullivan
11x14 Color Photo Dr. Smythe
Sandra Morgan Williams
Butler Dairy Story in SUN
WTJS Building Story in SUN
Farrell Harper
Photo Transfer Mill Office Sign
Delaney
3 Land Grant Maps of Bemis
Land Grant Maps of Area
James Hanna
Family Tree of Jack Smythe
Mary Alice Dickson
1982 Bemis Methodist Directory
1985 Bemis Methodist Directory
Reggie Smith

SPECIAL DONATION

The Society would like to recognize a special donation of a fringed American flag, including the pole and stand, for the Bemis Mill Village Museum.

In Memory of Robert Hardy Haney

In Honor of Rachel Maness Haney

by their children Barbara Haney Shepard, Kathy Haney Williams and Ken Haney.

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.

Dues are Due!

Dues for 2013 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!

The Bemis Historical Society
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Or Current Resident