

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

# The Bemis Story

*Where Industry and Friendliness Blend Into Progress*

*A publication of the Bemis Historical Society – [www.bemishistory.org](http://www.bemishistory.org)*

*Summer 2014*

---

## Permanent Bemis Mill Landmark Planned

After many months of negotiations and a search to find potential investors to save the Bemis Mill, its deconstruction is underway. A valiant effort was made by city officials, including Mayor Jerry Gist and Councilwoman Vicky Foote, to save the structure, but in the end the mill's size and condition were too much to overcome in finding investors. It was estimated that it would cost \$6-\$8 million to bring the building up to code, and another \$500,000 to \$700,000 to put a new roof on the mill, according to the current mill owner.

The mill was built in 1900 and has been vacant since 1993. Only the mill itself will be deconstructed, not the surrounding buildings.

Plans are being made to place a landmark park on the two acre lot where the mill stands. Christian Morton, current mill owner, has been reported to have agreed to donate 20,000 bricks from the mill to be used in the construction of the park. According to *The Jackson Sun*, "The bricks will be used to build two 20-foot towers with a 10-foot high wall that will display the history of the mill and its significance in the Bemis community, in South Jackson."

The park, provided by the city of Jackson, will have the city's first splash pad for children. Benches will be provided and possibly a picnic tables, but plans are still under development. The city will provide a camera directly connected

to police dispatch for security at the park, as well as lighting.

*Articles from **The Jackson Sun** were the basis for the story above.*

## Museum Committee Update

Considerable work was completed prior to Bemis days refining many exhibits throughout the museum. Recently our Museum Committee's primary focus has been to complete the Technology and the Bemis Mill Exhibit with the direction and financial support of a grant from Humanities Tennessee.

In the first meeting with Rob DeHart, our exhibit design consultant from Nashville, the group collectively established an outline and potential exhibit area layout for the story featuring the "cutting edge" technology that was present in Bemis. We intend to professionally communicate that interesting and significant part of our Bemis story to the museum visitors.

Some basic exhibit components were established and individuals were assigned the task of developing narratives for each component. Mr. DeHart has refined and returned the narratives to the committee for their review. Graphic images and artifacts to complement the narratives are being selected. Another meeting of the committee will convene after our reviews and feedback is complete, probably mid-autumn.

## NEW OFFICIERS ELECTED

New officers were elected for the Society at the March meeting. Elected were: Joel Jackson, Chairperson; Larry Green, Vice Chairman; Rosalee Gibbons, Secretary. Warner Turner stepped into the Treasurer's position in July. Anita Roark remains a board member as Past President. Many thanks to these officers for their leadership, dedication and time!

## HONORIUMS/MEMORIALS:

The following memorials have been recently made:

### In Memory of Cynthia Hailey Aderhold

By Sue Roark

### In Honor of Rosalee Gibbons

By Linda J. Higgins

### In Memory of Sam Henson

By Sue Roark

## ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Dr. Smythe's Glasses

**Sandra Morgan Williams**

Draper Loom X Series Training Manuel

**Troy Sullivan**

1926 Nov. Auditorium Program

1925 Y Basketball Schedule

1959 WEST Drugs Calendar

1938- 6 Union Organizing Letters

**Carolyn Callis**

3 Kinds of Domestic

**Joyce Cross Collins**

CD of inside & outside MILL

17 Bemis Blotters

**Don Bemis**

20ft Line shaft Belt

**Robert Mitchell**

1950 Bale of Cotton

**Unknown**

Big Roll of Cloth on Rolling Stand

**Rod & Jeff Bawcum in Memory  
of Father RED Bawcum**

Bemistory 1956, Street Skate Key,

2 Band Music Books

1954 Chat Book, 1957 Card Album,

1951 Strike Letter FJ Young

Loomis Strike Speech,

Servicemen Tribute Card 1257 served,

**Sadie Collins Rogers**

Bruce Rogers Funeral Flag

Bruce Rogers NAVY Uniform

**Wanda Rogers Taylor**

1940's Floor Lamp

**John D. Carden**

JB Y Shop End Table, Bemistory Editions,

Textile News

**Melvin Collins Estate via Johnnie Wylie**

Funnel Bucket, 1946 Bemis Electrical Map

**Hubert Williams**

2 Buddy Jones Boxing –SUN

**Unknown**

29 Inf D Day Certificate for George D. Harris

**Mildred Harris**

1941 J B Young Basketball Team,

1947 Bemis Puddle Jumper Club

**Unknown**

1932 Bemis High Annual

Class '37 Photo Album w/50 Reunion Pics

**Arvin & Mary Francis Frye**

**“Jackson Fibre Co.” Dec 20 1904 Jackson**

**Daily Whig**

Joel Jackson

## DONATIONS

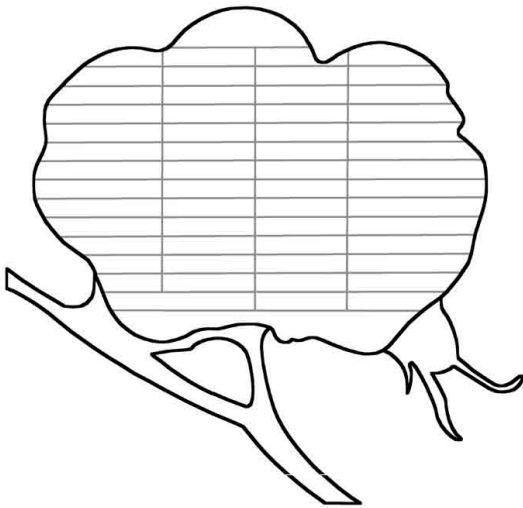
The Bemis Historical Society wishes to thank the following supporters for recent donations:

Robert Carter                      Mayor Jerry Gist  
Shirley Held

### Cotton Boll Remembrance – Remembering Loved Ones

In 2008, our Society worked with Gable & Schubert in Chicago to design two permanent Cotton Boll Remembrance displays that now hang in the entrance lobby of our museum. Each display contains 48 1-1/2” tall white plates, each of which holds an engraved memorial or honorarium. We are pleased to report that the Cotton Boll Remembrance displays have been a big success both in recognizing Bemis friends and family, and also in raising funds for our museum project.

Currently, both displays have limited space available for new honorariums and memorials. If you would like to honor family and friends with a Cotton Boll Remembrance, now is the time.



Cotton Boll Remembrances are made at the \$500 level of giving. This amount can be paid in one lump sum, or in ten (10) monthly payments of \$50. Send your Cotton Boll Remembrance donation to the Society, along with the name of the person to

be honored (*specify honorarium or memorial*) and the person recognizing them. What a wonderful way to honor family and friends *permanently* in our museum!

### 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](http://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](mailto: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 2014 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*  
*P. O. Box 9266*  
*Jackson, TN 38314-9266*

## **WAR VETERANS: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

The Society is seeking to verify the names of all mill workers who served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. We would like to know what years you spent working at the mill and what years you spent in active military duty. This information can be emailed to Chairman Joel Jackson at [joeljackson2@aeneas.net](mailto:joeljackson2@aeneas.net), or mailed to the Bemis Historical Society, P.O. Box 9266, Jackson, TN 38314-9266. Thank you for your help in this project!

Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Jackson, TN  
Permit #20

Or Current Resident