



Public Media
Issues & Voices that Matter

**Commentary
for the February 9, 2012
36th edition of *Central Florida Matters***

by Francis Oliver, curator, Goldsboro Westside Historical Museum

Word Count (370 words)

In 2009 the Goldsboro Westside Historical Association was organized for the purpose of preserving the history of the Goldsboro Community. The Goldsboro community was once an all-black city incorporated in 1891. History recalls that Goldsboro was incorporated fourteen years after the City of Sanford. The City of Eatonville, just south of Sanford, is the first incorporated all Black City in Florida. While Goldsboro is recorded as being the second all Black City incorporated in the state. However Goldsboro's charter lasted only 20 years and was taken from them in 1911.

In commemoration of the one hundredth year of the demise of the City of Goldsboro, the Goldsboro Westside Historical Museum was opened in October 2011.

During its short life, Goldsboro blossomed with its own unique personality. It was a town with its own post office, police station and jail. The residents of Goldsboro owned businesses and had their own schools. They worked on the railroad, on the St. Johns' River docks and many were farm laborers. Nineteen of those workers met in 1891 to incorporate the town. They were led by William Clark.

As you enter the Goldsboro Westside Historical Museum you will visualize meeting the people, imagine William Clark riding down the street on his famous mule Pie and feel the happiness of being an independent community.

But you will also feel the sadness that came with having their city and their identity taken away by the efforts of Forrest Lake the Mayor of Sanford during the time. Sanford wanted to expand and Goldsboro stood in the way. In 1911 the Goldsboro charter was revoked and it was absorbed by its larger neighbor. The long struggles between the City of Sanford and the City of Goldsboro are documented at the museum. There is a copy of one of the lawsuits filed against the City of Sanford a year after Goldsboro's demise.

In the museum, documents, artifacts, and pictures capture life in the town. It is important to remember the hardship and the happiness, the courage and the pride of the founders of this small town.

The Goldsboro Westside Museum is located at 1211 West 13th Street in Sanford, Florida.

I'm Francis Oliver and the story of Goldsboro matters.