

## **The Life and Times of Goldsboro**

Written in 1976, by Goldsboro History Society, edited by Jessie Sanders is now out of print. The book is 145 pages and covers Goldsboro PA facts, events, people buildings and businesses from 1748 thru 1976. The book is very detailed and well written. Below are some of the facts from the book. The many human interest stories and details will be left for you to find and read a copy of the book.

### **Businesses of 1800's**

H. C. Beck: general merchandise

I. N. Boyd M. D.: drugs

Lewis Gross: furniture and undertaker

The National Hotel

J. A. Willis: flour and feed

The Eagle Hotel

Free's Distillery

Red Mill owned by P A & S Small

Martin Burger store

Hussey's (Middletown) Ferry

Goldsboro Saw Mill

Frazer & Kister store

Adam Kister Ferry

There were several boat builders.

Mrs. R Williams: dealer in general merchandise

D. L. Kunkel: stoves, heaters, ranges, pumps, more

Dugan & Funk Limited: manufacturers of cigars

Henry Etter's Tavern (one mile north)

Crull's Tavern (one mile south)

Sandstone quarry (two miles southwest)

### **Churches**

The Bethel Church

The Church of God

The Methodist Church

The Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

### **School**

In 1888, the first organized school was held in the band hall.

In 1893, the school board had the Bible read at the opening of every School day.

In 1898, the school board levied a new 2 mill property tax to pay for a new building.

In 1909, the school board raised the property tax to 7.5 mills.

In 1925, the school board had a water system installed for a lavatory.

In 1929, the school board raised the property tax to 16 mills and \$5 head tax.

1929 thru 1947, High School students were sent to Harrisburg High every day by train.

In 1947, 8 thru 12 grades were buses to New Cumberland High at \$290 a month.

In 1958, Goldsboro's School District became a part of Red Land Union District.

## **Businesses of 1900's**

The early 1900's proved to be very prosperous for Goldsboro. The businesses from the late 1800's were well established and other new stores and shops were springing up.

Aughenbaugh's Sewing Factory  
C. W. Bamberger's Store  
C. E. Bair & Son's Cigar Factory  
Numerous blacksmiths  
Smith & Spahr box factory  
Peterman Box Factory  
Several butcher shops  
John Coble & Sons cooper's shop  
Several doctors and a dentist  
William Graft drug store  
Several feed stores  
Lewis Gross: furniture and undertaker  
Howard Miller's Restaurant  
The King's Arm Hotel  
Kunkel's Grocery Store  
Nagle Wilson had a restaurant  
There were many small stores  
Skee's Service Station  
There was a tombstone shop  
Train Station

## **Fires**

1896 Poor House Row fire (only bucket brigade)  
1888 Methodist Church with four buildings burned  
1896 Five barns and large lumber warehouse burned  
January 1917 Hemlock Row fire (help by fire equipment and men brought in by train)  
April 1917 Goldsboro Fire Company was started. The number of taps on a large bell was used to indicate where the fire was.  
In 1932, 14 buildings were destroyed by fire before outside help arrived.  
In 1964, fire broke out at Skee's Service Station with explosions damaging several adjacent buildings.

## **Floods**

March 1904, ice flood occurred. They had to rescue people from Shelly's island.  
1936 flooded several homes  
1952 high winds knocked power, damaged many homes and blocked roads for hours. Then the hail and rain came.  
1962 a wind and hail storm broke every window in town.  
June 21, 1972 hurricane Agnes devastated the town. Two weeks into clean up another major storm hit causing more damage.  
1975 tropical storm Eloise caused similar to Agnes.

**Worst US Nuclear Accident March 28, 1979 Three Mile Island (not in book)**

## **Honor roll**

Issac Frazer built a saw mill and employed 30 to 50 men for over 30 years.

Reuben Strominger served in Civil War Company F 16<sup>th</sup> PVI and Company K 143<sup>rd</sup> PVI was Goldsboro Justice of the Peace 21 years and constable for 10 years

Dr. Homer Hetrick delivered over 6,000 babies and many times did not charged fees.

Edward Wertz lost his life in World War II

Greg Gross, became a professional baseball player for Huston Astros. He was named Rookie Player of the Year by Sporting News, Baseball Digest and Topps Chewing Gum.

Clarence Orendorff great leader in the area schools.

J. Michael Bishop, won the prize in 1989 for his work on explaining how malignant tumors develop. (not in book)

## **Organizations**

YMCA had a place there.

Boys Scouts

Goldsboro Cornet Band

Independent Order of Old Fellows

Junior Order of United American Mechanics council # 155 (with 250 members)

Fire Company Auxiliaries

Historical Association

## **Sports**

Goldsboro Baseball Team

Goldsboro Basketball Team

Ice racing on the Susquehanna River

Ice auto racing on the Susquehanna River

Soap Box Derbies

## **Entertainment**

Junior Order of United American Mechanics Parade

Many plays that were high quality and drew standing only crowds.

Band fairs that would last a week

Circus came to town several years

Halloween Parades 1957-71 with up to 7 bands

Greg Gross parade and festivities in 1974

1976 Bicentennial festivities included many events with a visit of the Freedom Train

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“For the next 40 or 50 years Goldsboro moved forward. Then Goldsboro, like the rest of the world, started to change. Cars became popular. People didn’t have to be content to stay in their home town. Movies took the place of the local plays. For some, television took the place of band fairs and carnivals. And then there was the railroad- the train stop in Goldsboro was no more!! The station house was even torn down. Business establishments started to close and people found employment elsewhere.”