

Marshal C.C. (Christopher Columbus) Gresham



Bartow Police 1st Town Marshal 1882 (1st Term)

On July 1, 1882 the town of Bartow was Incorporated C.C. Gresham was chosen Bartow's first town marshal. An ordinance went into effect several weeks later prompting this article in the town newspaper:

"There will be no more drunken brawling or shooting about the streets of Bartow, as such fun now cost from eleven to sixty dollars in each case."

Marshal Gresham's biggest responsibility in the town of the early 1880's was to stop drunken brawls from occurring in the streets. The Marshal was paid \$50 per month. Marshal Gresham also served as the Polk County Sheriff at the same time. He resigned in Nov. 1882 and recommended George H. Blackwell to be his successor.

1897-1902 Town Marshal (2nd Term)

Elected May 4, 1897, then appointed by the mayor a year later. The appointment forever altered the way Marshals were chosen. From this point forward, Marshals/Chiefs have been appointed rather than elected. Gresham remained in office until June, 1902.

In Nov. 1897 Marshal Gresham was out of work with illness for several days, and during those times S.R. Powell and J.J. Platten filled in as Marshal. In addition to his law enforcement duties, he also had to serve as code enforcement officer and dog catcher. Excerpts from newspaper articles read:

"The city market would be a good place for our new city marshal to begin his rounds for cleaning up. We have an ordinance regulating our market, and it should be enforced."

"City Marshal Gresham is busy having streets and sidewalks repaired, ditches opened and in other ways improving the condition and appearance of our streets."

"City Marshal Gresham is doing good work trying to make our merchants keep the streets clean. Keep it up, and if necessary, get the assistance of the mayor. Our city must be kept clean and attractive this winter." "Won't our citizens cooperate with the marshal and see if the lots and main streets at least, can't be free from rank weeds and other noxious growth."

Records indicate that Gresham was assisted with his duties by the following night policemen: B.M. Barrow, W.O. Stanley, Ed Jordan and Tom Lang.

1906 -1909 Town Marshal (3rd Term)

During Gresham's final three year term, he had seven (7) officers working for him: John Hays, Lyttleton Euries, J.J. Hooker, J.E. Glovan, James Driver, Claude Williams, and S.L. Carter

Marshal Gresham passed away on June 25, 1918 at the age of 72.

Military Service: Confederate Army:

- October 3, 1861, 17 year old Christopher C. "Grisham" resident of Lake City, Florida, enlisted in Company Florida First Calvary Battalion. Mustered out on January 1, 1862
- March 8, 1862, enlisted in Company B, Florida Fifth Infantry Regiment. Mustered out on July 18, 1862.
- July 10, 1863, enlisted in Company K, Florida Ninth Infantry Regiment.

