George N. Cornelius (Posthumous 1843-1904), is considered to be the one person who has had more impact on Orangeburg County than the notable man who was generally referred to as our “mayor.” Cornelius grew from a small village to a bustling city by the turn of the century. He was a visionary entrepreneur and was the driving force behind the growth of Orangeburg. Cornelius is best known as the city founder and the owner of the Orangeburg Ice and Fuel Co., which was the first ice plant in the state of South Carolina.

Dr. Henry N. Tisdale has been the visionary president of Claflin University and leader of the present. His energetic and well-planned initiatives have been instrumental in guiding the university to unprecedented levels of excellence. His dynamic leadership has enabled Claflin to flourish and grow, resulting in an increase in enrollment, the expansion of academic programs, and the enhancement of facilities.

Charles Thompson, a widower of a lifetime of distinguished service to the City of Orangeburg, was born in Kingstree, South Carolina. He was the proud parent of three daughters and a son and is survived by his wife, Emma C. Dantzler, and his step-daughter, Annie C. McLees. He was a member of the Board of Education and a member of the Orangeburg Preparatory School Board.

As a faithful member of First Presbyterian Church in Orangeburg, he liberally provided funds for church causes. He was also an active member of the Order of the Eastern Star and a member of the Mystic Shrine.