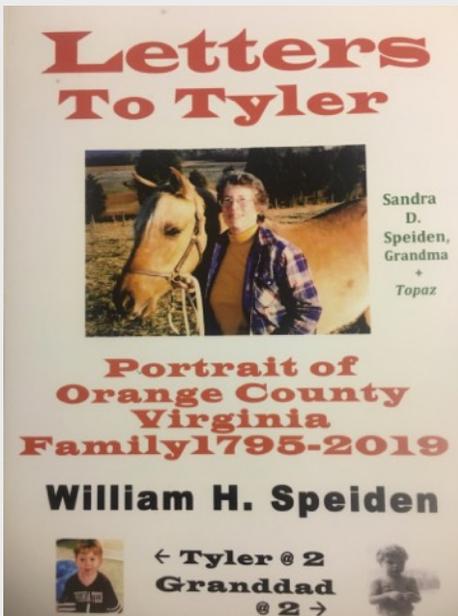


# Orange Oracle

An Occasional Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

## History-to-Go



Our next episode of History-to-Go is Bill Speiden’s “Letters to Tyler,” a power point presentation gleaned from a recently published book. Just click on this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvPfUSloS7GZW4Pce\\_17XQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvPfUSloS7GZW4Pce_17XQ)

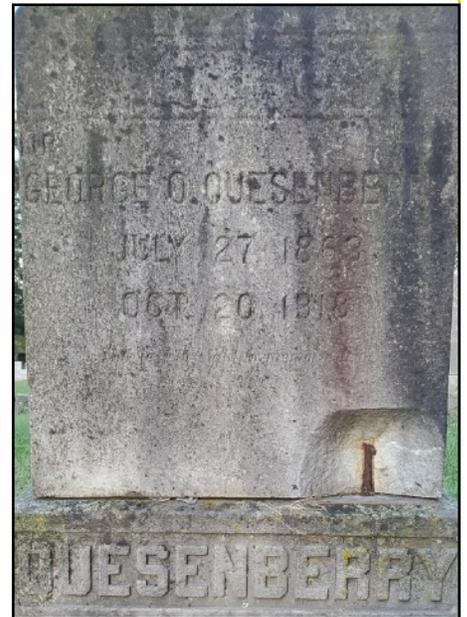
[Videoing History-to-Go below](#)



## Graham Cemetery and Pandemics

by May and Mike Saxton

*A cemetery is a history of the people, a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering—always.*  
Author unknown



As we live through a pandemic period of history, this is an appropriate time to recall the impact of the 1918 Spanish influenza pandemic on Orange. Some of that history is preserved in Graham Cemetery. The first recorded death from the pandemic was J. Browning, Jr, age 16, who died on October 12, 1918. The cemetery records show he died from the “Spanish Influenza.” While we know the lot (Original Cemetery Div 4, Range 6, Lot 3) the grave is not recorded; nor marked with a stone.

Up the hill (OC Div 5, Range 3, Lot 2) from the first victim, the second victim died about a week later. Dr George O. Quesenberry (1863-1918), a well-known

Next up: Ray Ezell's fascinating "Buried Above Ground."



This photo is a builder's board recovered from the Center Hill house in eastern Orange County, dating to the early 1850s. This artifact was found after removing finish lathe and plaster over a first floor wall cavity. The builder's board dates to 1851 and clearly displays the name of the master carpenter and his work crew.

## Newsbits

### CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS- Books and Videos from the Orange County Historical Society

The perfect gift for someone new to Orange County: Frank Walker's *Remembering, A History of Orange County* or the video "Rediscovering Little Petersburg." Proceeds from both go to the historical society. Many, many others available. Go to our website [www.orangecovahist.org](http://www.orangecovahist.org) to order on-line or stop by Tue.-Fri. 1 to 5 pm. Closed Thanksgiving and Friday after.

physician in Summers County, WV where the Spanish Influenza hit particularly hard, was "on his horse day and night providing what assistance that could be provided..." before succumbing himself to the pandemic of 1918 on October 20th. The Central Baptist Church in Hinton, WV, has a stained glass window that reads "George O. Quesenberry, MD." Having family roots in Orange County, including going to school at Locust Dale Academy in Madison County, he was returned to Orange for burial.

Another healthcare worker, Miss Jane Minor Henricks who died November 26, is listed as a "Red Cross Nurse." Her stone is three rows to the west (away from town) from Dr. Quesenberry's stone. From Somerset originally, she died of Spanish Influenza while traveling through New York in route to France to serve in the Red Cross. The inscription at the bottom of her stone "*pro patria*" meaning "for one's country" is certainly a testament to her service.

In the months that followed, three more "Influenza" deaths occurred that are presumably the same Spanish Influenza. John Green Williams, Jr. (OC Div 6, Range 2, Lot 6) died January 12, 1919; followed by Anna Ottolingu (OC Div 4, Range 7, Lot 2) on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Sadly, the last recorded death was another 16 year old, Ollie Stanley (OC Div 6, Range 1, Lot 4). He died February 6, 1919 and lies in another unmarked grave.

Graham Cemetery has also become the final resting place of Orange County's first COVID-19 pandemic death. Colonel Patricia Lucille Stewart, RN, who served our country with distinction in the Army before retiring to and serving our community in many volunteer capacities, died May 27<sup>th</sup> this year.