

One hundred years ago 1923, Society members took a significant step to ensure the consistent care of the Wright City Cemetery. The 17 members in attendance at the March 2, 1923, meeting voted to employ a groundskeeper - the first in the history of the cemetery. Previously, the society would contract with individuals for specific work, such as mowing, tree removal or filling in of graves or the work was simply performed by volunteers.

Mr. Miller agreed to accept the position and to "spend all his time at work in the cemetery", according to Society records. Unfortunately, those records do not give his first name and refer to him only as "Mr. Miller". He would be paid \$35.00 a month for this work.

The Society purchased the following items from Wright City businesses for the new caretaker to use in the cemetery:

- Lawn mower, purchased from Schneider and Spoede for \$15.00
- Wagon, purchased from Astroth and Wiemer for \$4.25
- Scythe, purchased from Blattner and Stamer for \$2.50
- Handle for scythe, purchased for \$1.40
- Files, purchased for 50 cents

Mr. Miller began work in March and worked through the first week of October (he was paid \$8.75 for the one week of work in October). Mr. Miller informed Society members he would continue as caretaker in 1924 but requested a pay raise to \$45.00 a month. Society members agreed to pay increase, and he resumed his work in March. For unknown reasons, Mr. Miller resigned in April, and Mr. Riche was employed as his successor. Again, we do not do Mr. Riche's first name.

In future articles, we will share the names of others who served as caretaker of our city cemetery.