

The Founding of the Society

Other than the date – August 30, 1888 – and the number of organizers – 12 women – we know little about that first meeting of the Wright City Memorial Society. There are no known records of the first 27 years of the Society so the sparse information we have comes from the local newspapers of that time.

We do not know the names of these energetic women or where they met and what they did during that first meeting. We can imagine it was likely a hot August afternoon when the dozen ladies gathered at the home of one of the organizers. The hostess no doubt served some refreshments, perhaps fresh lemonade and a light homemade angel food cake. Perhaps the women cooled themselves with hand-held fans as they discussed plans for this new Society. The women were likely the wives of local businessmen, farmers and town leaders. We would expect that they elected a set of officers, established bylaws for this new group and set about drawing up a list of priorities – what they planned to do to beautify and care for the cemetery where their family and friends had been laid to rest.

Today we salute this group of unnamed women, and thank them for their vision, their tireless work and their steadfastness.