

## *Future of Cemetery Is Secured*

After years struggling to raise money to pay for the care of the cemetery, Society members in 1929 decided it was time to pursue a stable source of funding. At its first meeting of the year on March 1, Memorial Society President Manie Krome appointed a committee of three women – Maggie Crews, Marguerite Astroth and herself – to meet with the Town Board regarding establishment of a perpetual care fund.

At the April meeting, the committee reported the Town Board was receptive of the idea and would proceed to draw an ordinance establishing such a fund. It was agreed that all persons who purchase a lot in the city cemetery would be required to pay \$100.00 for the perpetual care of the lot. The lot owner would be issued a perpetual care certificate, and the money placed in an endowment fund. The interest from the endowment fund would then be used to pay for the care of the lot.

That fall town officials sent letters to all existing lot owners asking each to pay a one hundred dollar perpetual care fee. A perpetual care marker was placed on the lot of all who paid the fee. Many of these markers can still be found in the older sections of the cemetery.

Through the years, the perpetual care amount had been adjusted by city officials, but the cemetery endowment fund remains a designated fund under the management of the Board of Aldermen. Interest from the fund helps pay for cemetery maintenance.

The following excerpt from an article in the December 15, 1939, issue of the *Warrenton Banner* recounts the establishment of the fund. The excerpt is taken from an article regarding the December monthly meeting of the Memorial Society.