

Lot Owners Respond to Call for Donations

After much discussion on how to pay for the care and beautification of the cemetery, Memorial Society members decided in 1923 to turn to individual lot owners for help. In those days, individuals paid the City a nominal fee to purchase a lot in the cemetery. Each lot contained 12 grave sites. No money was paid to the City or the Society for the care of the lot – mowing it or filling, leveling and seeding new graves.

At their meeting Jan. 5, 1923, Society members agreed to send letters to all lot owners soliciting money for the care of the cemetery. The ministers in each of Wright City's three churches were also asked to read the letter at their church service. Response to the letter was swift, and by the first of February, the Society had received \$103.00. Donations continued to be received throughout the year, and by year's end, \$310.60 had been given to the Society by lot owners.

These donations allowed the Society to pay the expenses incurred through the year for cemetery care - \$218.75 paid to the caretaker and \$26.70 paid for implements used by the caretaker. The Society ended the year with \$65.15 in its checking account.

The Society continued to send yearly letters to all lot owners until the establishment of the cemetery endowment fund in 1929. Information regarding this new fund will be shared in a future article.