

## *Manie Krome – Society President from 1923 through 1945*

The longest-serving president of the Society was Manie Hudson Krome. During her 23 years at the helm, Mrs. Krome oversaw many cemetery improvements and initiated several new programs.

Mrs. Krome assumed the leadership role in 1923, and three months later, the Society hired its first cemetery caretaker. Also that year, the Society paid for the removal of dead trees from the cemetery, and the following year, it hired a temporary worker to clear brush from the unimproved area of the cemetery. Society members planted flowers in designated beds at the cemetery entrance and along the road.

In the following years, Mrs. Krome was instrumental in the purchase of property to provide a new driveway into the cemetery and in the construction of a bridge. Throughout her time in office, member participation in the Society increased. Attendance grew from 18 to 23 members at a meeting to 30 to 35 members. Most meetings were held in the homes of members, and the hostess served a light lunch of sandwiches and desserts. When the designated hostess for the month could not accommodate such a large gathering in her home, the meeting was moved to a church basement.

Mrs. Krome's most lasting legacy was the establishment of a perpetual care fund in 1929. That fund is still in existence today and provides money to pay for the care of the cemetery. In next week's post, we will share information about the fund's establishment.

Mrs. Krome served as president through 1945, and was succeeded by Mrs. Malinda Schmitt. Mrs. Krome remained a member of the Society until her death in 1969 at the age of 88. She is buried alongside her husband William in Block 3. Also buried there is the couple's only child, Virginia Krome Ryker Wood. While a student at Lindenwood College in the 1930s, Virginia wrote a detailed history of her hometown in which she interviewed many long-time Wright City residents. A copy of that history is available at the Warren County Historical Society Museum in Warrenton.

We remain grateful for Manie Krome's leadership, her years of dedicated work to improve and beautify the Wright City Cemetery and her vision to sustain the cemetery for perpetuity.