

Land Purchase Spearheaded by Society Members

The Memorial Society played a key role improving the entrance to the cemetery nearly 100 years ago. The Society initiated talks with a neighboring landowner to secure the small tract of land and then loaned the City the money it needed to purchase the property.

At a meeting Aug. 7, 1925, Society President Manie Krome appointed a committee of herself, Marie Nieburg and Caroline Schnadt to meet with Emil Osterwald and determine if he would agree to sell a small portion of his property lying east of Elm Avenue and adjoining the cemetery grounds. The committee was also tasked with asking the Town Board to purchase the land if Mr. Osterwald agreed to the sale.

Upon negotiations with Mr. Osterwald and Town Board members, Mrs. Krome called a special meeting of the Society Sept. 17, 1925, to present a proposal from town officials whereby the town would purchase the parcel of land from Mr. Osterwald provided the Memorial Society would lend the Town the \$100.00 purchase price. The Memorial Society members agreed to the loan, and on Nov. 12, 1925, the Town Board executed a note for \$100.00 due the Society in two years with a 6 percent interest rate. On that same date, Mr. Osterwald signed a deed conveying the property to the Trustees of the Town of Wright City. With the acquisition of the Osterwald tract, the entrance to the cemetery was improved to what we now know today. Prior to that, the entrance is believed to have been located to the north and near the walk bridge.

If you are wondering about the loan, it was repaid by the Town ahead of schedule. Society Treasurer Caroline Schnadt reported Feb. 9, 1927, the Town Board repaid the money it had borrowed, and the money was "immediately placed on time deposit at the Wright City Bank."