

The Struggle to Provide Water in the Cemetery

During the summer months and particularly during dry spells, we often become more aware of water. Perhaps you have never considered it, but there is no access to water in the cemetery. As far back as a hundred years ago, the Society has discussed various options to provide water.

During the 1920's members bemoaned the lack of water for flower beds but no remedy was seriously discussed. At a meeting during the August heat of 1930, President Manie Krome suggested the Society dig a well in the cemetery by the tool house for the purpose of watering cut flowers. (Remember, at this time, family and friends decorated the graves of loved ones with fresh flowers from their garden.) According to the minutes from that meeting "this did not meet with the approval of the members so it was decided to have a tank of water hauled out to the cemetery on the 30th of May of each year for watering flowers". At that time, Decoration Day, what we now know as Memorial Day, was always observed on May 30th.

Two years later, members again discussed digging a well. Again, members agreed to continue to haul water to fill barrels.

By the 1950's, Society members turned their thoughts from well-digging to having water piped to the cemetery. That apparently proved too costly, and the matter was dropped.

While water is no longer transported to the cemetery and placed in barrels, Society members continue to haul water to the cemetery. Now it is transported in a 400-gallon tank and is used to water trees during the dry summer and fall months. The water is then pumped through a 100-foot hose to each tree.