

Sowers Cemetery Chronology of Events

- 1867 - earliest year marked on any grave marker on that of Catherine Caster Hawes Worthington.¹ (This is a modern day marker and not from that period.)
- 1868 - First graves on the property immediately north and adjacent to the property later donated by Edmund Sowers. Folklore believed to be unmarked graves of a woman and her daughter of an unknown “tragic” death.²
- 1874-08-14 – Edmund Sowers officially donates land for church, school and burial purposes.³ This is the existing SW portion of today’s cemetery.
- 1891 – SS Conner, the earliest documented owner of the earliest burial property, sells land to Pete and Lidia Faucher.
- 1893 – Pete Faucher sells this land to SS (presumably Sevier) Smalley
- 1899-08-09 – For \$1, Edmund Sowers donates adjacent land east of the first dedicated burial property to increase the cemetery size.⁴
- 1909-05-13 – E.D. Sowers dies at the “extreme age” of 83.⁵

¹ Grave marker for Catherine Caster Hawes Worthington indicates circa b. 1821 – d. 1867. From Lauren Parker via findagrave.com, the twice widowed daughter of Henry Caster moved to the Sowers community in 1856 to join her father and brothers.

² Texas Historical Marker indicates first grave in 1868 of, “...a woman and her daughter, whose names have been lost...” There are no available research documents for the text used for the marker. There is at least one newspaper reference that declares these graves as unmarked.

³ Land Records Vol. 47, p. 433

⁴ Land records Vol. 233, p.484

⁵ Daily News Texan 1964-04-16 reprinted from 1909-05-20

- 1926-03-02 – Otis Brown donates the current day eastern “Otis Brown addition to Sowers Cemetery” land.⁶ Records indicate this section was also known as Otis Brown Memorial Park or primarily Sunset Memorial Park.
- 1934 – 28 February, DD Brunson and DL Herring purchase the 5.556 acres “Beulahland” property from the Federal Life Insurance Co. for \$300.⁷
- 1934 – 6 August, earliest known mention of a corporation called Beulahland Memorial Park which purchased the same 5.556 acres from Brunson and Herring for \$10⁸
- 1956 – Irving ISD takes over Sowers School District and property donated by Mr. Sowers in 1874 including a portion of the cemetery.
- 1960 – old Sowers School destroyed by fire.⁹
- 1961-06-16 – Sowers Cemetery Association is formed
- 1962 - New chain link fence erected by Cemetery Association.
- 1966-06-13 – Oldest recorded minutes remaining from Association archives
- 1966-09 – Otis Brown Memorial Park Addition and operating funds transferred to Sowers Cemetery Association¹⁰
- 1973-06-10 – State Historical Marker Dedication. The first in the City of Irving.¹¹

⁶ Land records vol. 4, p.46

⁷ Dallas County land records vol 1842, pp447-448

⁸ Dallas County land records vol 1873, pp508-509

⁹ Local news print

¹⁰ Irving Daily News article 1970-09-06 and Association meeting minutes from same period. The news print refers to this as Sunset Memorial Park.

¹¹ Cemetery Association minutes and local news print.

- 1980-05 – Last organized meeting of the 1960 - 1970's era Sowers Association held at Mr. and Mrs. Boatwright's home.¹²
- 1992 – By Laws written that indicate Bobby Crockett, President; CJ Range, VP; Joyce Range, Secretary; Marvin Story, Treasurer¹³
- 2007-05-14 – filed and issued Certificate of Formation for Domestic Nonprofit Corporation with the Secretary of State of Texas. Texas tax payer number 32032049077.
- 2012-10-09 - Sowers Association and Bob and Pat Crockett are recognized at the Heritage Society's Organizations Recognition event.¹⁴
- 2014-01-13 – By-Laws amended
- 2017-08 – Cemetery board approves new fence installation by RM Fabrication on south and east sides of cemetery.
- 2017 Fall – Irving ISD installs approximately 300' of new fence on west side.
- 2018-06-09 – 150th Anniversary event held on the cemetery grounds with Mayor and State Representative in attendance.

¹² Cemetery Association minutes

¹³ Cemetery Association historical documents

¹⁴ Irving Heritage Society