

Sowers Cemetery

A s s o c i a t i o n

A Memorial to the Sowers Community and Irving Pioneers for over 150 years

August 30, 2019

Dear Sowers Cemetery families of those interred or friends of the cemetery,

The Sowers Cemetery (est. 1868) located at 3101 W. Pioneer Drive is privately run by a small volunteer board – it is not owned by the City of Irving. The Association is confronted with long-term expenses that include monument repairs, grounds maintenance, driveway maintenance – all on a limited permanent-care budget.

During the past four years, the Cemetery Association has:

- **Orchestrated replacement of over 1000 feet of fencing**, designed a new entrance driveway with the gate inset allowing cars to safely pull off the street before entering. A plaque will be dedicated to those that significantly supported this effort.
- **Partnered with Wreaths Across America** Irving Chapter for the last three years to lay a Christmas Wreath on every veteran's grave in the cemetery.
- **Created the sowerscemetery.org website** to publish information about the cemetery.
- **Created a Facebook page** to announce work days, post maintenance milestones and historical information about interments.
- **Held the 150th Anniversary Celebration in June 2018.** Speakers included the Mayor of Irving, 2 previous mayors, State Representative and several speakers on the history of the area and their families.
- **Organized our first annual Sowers Appreciation Day** for September 2019 to share food, fellowship, donation opportunities and exchange facts about the cemetery.
- **Researched land documents and historical information** to discover important articles and documents about the cemetery and surrounding community. One example is the Sowers Historical Marker was the first in Irving placed in 1973.
- **Continued to research and survey the cemetery** to locate unmarked graves, and adding interment data.
- **Ongoing cleaning and repair of headstones** – At their own expense, two of our officers attended a two-day workshop in Tahlequah, OK. by Dr. Jonathon Appel, the leading expert on headstone restoration in the US.
- **Reduced cemetery maintenance costs** by acquiring equipment and having weekly volunteer days open to the public.

Please consider making a donation to the Sowers Cemetery Association to honor families and other community members who are interred there. Thank you for helping us honor the memories of over 1300 loved ones who are resting in Sowers Cemetery.

Yours truly,
The Sowers Cemetery Association Board

Gerald Farris, *President*
Bruce Burns, *Vice President*
Betsy Farris, *Treasurer*
Susan Candelaria, *Secretary*

SOWERS CEMETERY FOUNDATION – FUND DRIVE

☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other _____

Checks payable to: Sowers Cemetery Association, 1817 W. Pioneer Dr. #1007 Irving, TX 75061

If you would like your gift named in memory of a loved one, please let us know below.

Gift in memory of _____

Your check's name and address will provide us the necessary address information for our records.

Can we publish your donation on our website? YES ☐ NO ☐ I do not wish to have my name published.

www.sowerscemetery.com | Follow us on Facebook

Sowers Cemetery Association is a domestic nonprofit corporation registered with the state of Texas



September 28, 2019 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sowers Cemetery Grounds, 3101 W. Pioneer Drive, Irving, TX 75061

Public Welcome – Reminisce about Old Irving History and the surrounding Sowers Community.
 Celebrate Improvements to the Cemetery and discover one of Irving's most historic sites.

You are encouraged to bring copies of historical cemetery and community records and documents.

Agenda and Activities

10 a.m. – Cemetery Tour

11 a.m. – General Meeting and Plaque Dedication

12 p.m. – Hamburgers, Hotdogs drinks will be served under the big oak trees

1 p.m. - Cemetery Tour

Sowers Cemetery
 Association

Contact Gerald Farris with more information 972-754-6547, info@sowerscemetery.com
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