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### Sowers Community Life

William Haley and his wife Catherine came to northwest Dallas County from Missouri in 1857. The couple purchased one section of land. They found a deserted cabin on the land which they used as a temporary home. In a letter home, Haley says of the cabin "it is a very good house if it had a dore and a flour and was painted and didn't leak but after all i wouldint exchange with nary a man in Mo for I don't half to set around the fier and rost my shins and frees behind like the Missourians about this time . . . ." Pictured above is the permanent home the Haley's built for themselves.



On the left is a photo of Dr. D. W. Gilbert. Born in 1854, he was raised in Mississippi. At age 20 he moved to Grapevine, Texas, where he began the study of medicine. After attending medical school in Missouri, he returned to Texas. He moved to the Sowers community in the early 1880s. He was one of the first physicians in northwest Dallas County. He also owned a large farm, orchard, and dairy farm in the community. The photo on the right is of Dr. Gilbert's home in the Sowers community. Dr. Gilbert practiced medicine in the Sowers community until after the founding of Irving in 1903. At that time, he moved his practice to Irving. Dr. D. W. Gilbert died in 1930.



The Sowers community was named for Edmund Sowers. Sowers and his wife Freelove moved to northwest Dallas County from Illinois in 1856. Through the years, he established a general store, a blacksmith shop, and a post office in the area that was to be known as Sowers. Edmund Sowers also donated land for a community cemetery. For a time, the Sowers community was the largest between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth. Sowers was known far and wide for his community gatherings, especially his Fourth of July picnics to which all were invited to enjoy barbecue, dance, and compete in games. The city of Irving annexed the area in the mid-1950s. Only the cemetery remains as a link to the Sowers community. On the left is a photo of a some locals enjoying a community get together. On the right is a photo of the Sowers Cemetery as it looks today.