

# **CHARLESTON, KANSAS**

Gray County, Kansas

Written by Juanita Trebilcock

*Consultants: Terrence Byrne/Burns and D. W. "Doc" Barton, both of Ingalls, Kansas*

Charleston, Gray County, Kansas on Highway U. S. 50, and the Santa Fe Railroad was founded and named in 1888 by the railroad. When they laid the sidetrack, the town was founded as a station. The purpose was to have a station between Ingalls and Pierceville because there was a need for sidetracks closer together.

The owner of the land where they first founded the town was a man named Wilkinson. He was the first resident on the town site and homesteading there. Later he sold out to George E. Morgan, and for many years, everyone knew it as the Morgan Ranch. The town has never been much more than a station, so there isn't a settled community or any community affairs.

The industries at Charleston are not numerous. Two elevators are in operation. A post office and store are the only other business places. (*The Charleston post office closed permanently in 1944.*) There are only a few houses, and those are the homes of businessmen. You will find recreation and communal life elsewhere.

There are no schools or churches in Charleston. A grade school building was built there in 1919 by the Barton boys of Ingalls. The school was later consolidated with Ingalls and eventually moved there. School buses gather the grade school children and take them to Ingalls during the school term. Transportation is furnished to High School children if they live along the regular bus routes.

Charleston has transportation by Santa Fe Stage Lines and Greyhound Buses along the highway. The Santa Fe Railway also provides transportation.

*(Today, in 2024, Charleston is an unincorporated community, located along Highway 50.)*