# Imes

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Imes was founded as a railroad stop or station when the Missouri Pacific Railroad was built through the farm of Herman Imes just south of Peoria.  Harmon Imes came to Franklin County in 1865 from Illinois and settled on a farm in the broad flat bottom land south of the Marais des Cygnes.

In the summer of 1880 the railroad built a station on Imes' farm, first called Larimore Station, and Imes was appointed agent.  He was appointed postmaster in 1881 and served in the two posts for 20 years.  He also opened a mercantile business with a stock of $2,000.  According to A.T. Andreas History of Kansas, Imes owned 260 acres of farm land and the entire "townsite" of Larimore later known as Imes, the station served as a shipping point and early accounts list large stockyards in the area where farmers would bring stock to be fed and shipped to market. Harmon Imes died in 1919.

In 1960 when Kansas was celebrating its Centennial, Mrs. W.H. (Phyllis Mock) Williams, a granddaughter of Harmon Imes, wrote about the family's early history.

"My grandfather, his wife and two older children came to Franklin County in the fall of 1865, from Illinois.  The family lived with his sister, Julie Young and family just west of Imes while building their log cabin.  Seven more children were born in this house. In 1865 he built the three story house now standing in Imes.  This house was built just northeast of the log cabin.

In 1880 the railroad was built through grandfather's farm.  The station was named Imes in honor of him.  The town was once called Lyle—then Larimore-- before finally deciding on Imes. At one time, Imes was quite a town—having two general stores, two blacksmith shops, an elevator, stockyards, railroad station and post office in the store.

Imes never had a school or church.  Grandfather helped to organize Pacific Valley School District #36 up the tracks west, in 1878.  Children attended school there and in Peoria and church in Peoria.

I remember the merchandise in the stores and the clang, clang of the shops, the loading of grain at the elevator to be shipped.  It was quite an event when the cattle were driven through town to the stockyards.  It seems the trains always stopped at night and I never got to watch

them load, but I remember my father George Mock always helped.  One store owned by Mr. Bradford was robbed one night.  He had an alarm run to the house.  He chased the robber with a gun bit with no luck.  I've heard my mother tell about this.

My uncle Henry Mock owned one blacksmith shop.  The house he built still stands.  He died in 1905.  My grandfather, Joseph Mock lived his last years with him and died in 1894.  Charlie Kaub was another remembered "smithy."

The house I was born in stood just north of the tracks until the flood of 1951.  The little house where I lived for 18 years still stands.  My father rebuilt this house in 1901.  William Judson homesteaded this place in 1854.  The other house still standing in Imes was built by another uncle, John Mock.  I remember four houses east of Imes that are no more.  There is a little cemetery just south of Imes where at least seven of the Davissons are buried from dates 1857 to 1876.

Today, a sign above the track still carries the name "Imes."  The station and stores are gone but a number of homes laid out in a grid system remain and are occupied.  The 1910 census listed a population of 40.

By Catherine Jane Richards, 1992, and Deborah Barker, 2011