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The Town and Schools of Bazaar

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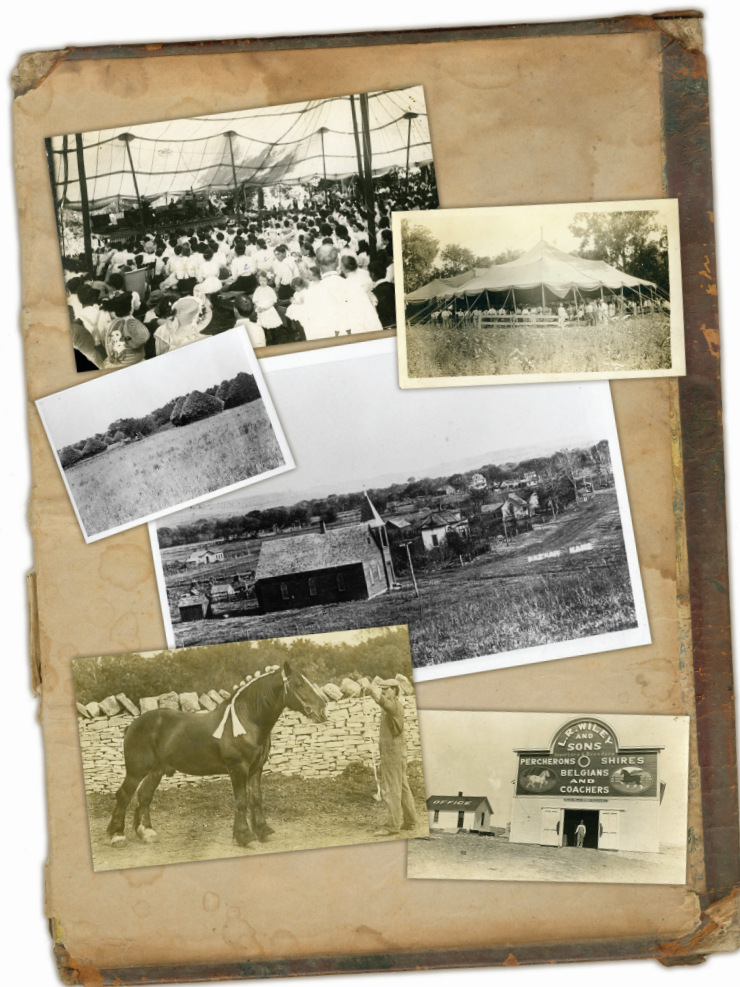
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BAZAAR, KANSAS
 Chase County Historical Society Museum and Library

The Town and Schools of Bazaar

Bazaar was named by Martha (Mary) Leonard, first wife of Dr. M.R. Leonard, in memory of a shoppe or bazaar she had owned in Pennsylvania.



The settlement was started in March of 1856 on Rock Creek southeast of the present site. It was later moved about a mile farther north. The first post office was established in 1860. From July 1876 to March 1878 it was called "Mary." With the coming of the Santa Fe Railroad in 1887, the town was moved to its present site.

In its heyday, about 1920, there were 37 homes, three gas stations, a barber shop, a restaurant, a boarding house, an implement dealer, a garage, and three saloons. Bazaar was recognized in 1920 as the largest railroad cattle shipping point in the state, hauling annually about 1,800 to 2,000 cars of stock.

Bazaar has gone through many changes. The post office closed in 1974. Now there are no businesses left in

Bazaar; only a few homes and the church remain, along with the cemetery and a community building west on K177.

The church continues to hold services, and the community building (the old schoolhouse) is still being used by the families continuing to call Bazaar home.

The Bazaar School House is located alongside Kansas Highway 177 in Chase County, a mile west of the town of Bazaar and approximately seven miles east of the site of the 2010 Symphony in the Flint Hills. Although the Bazaar School House has not served as a school since 1965, it remains a community gathering place and a landmark in the Flint Hills. The information about the history of Bazaar is adapted from Roots & Patchwork: an Historical View of Chase County, Kansas, U.S.A.,

published by the Chase County Historical Society in 2002. The remembrance of the schools of Bazaar was adapted from Chase County Historical Sketches, Vol. II, published by the Chase County Historical Society in 1948. It was written by Grace Hays Blackburn, who married Robert Z. Blackburn in 1897 and moved to Bazaar, where they operated a general store and post office for thirteen years. More information about the history of Chase County can be found at the Chase County Historical Museum and Library in Cottonwood Falls.

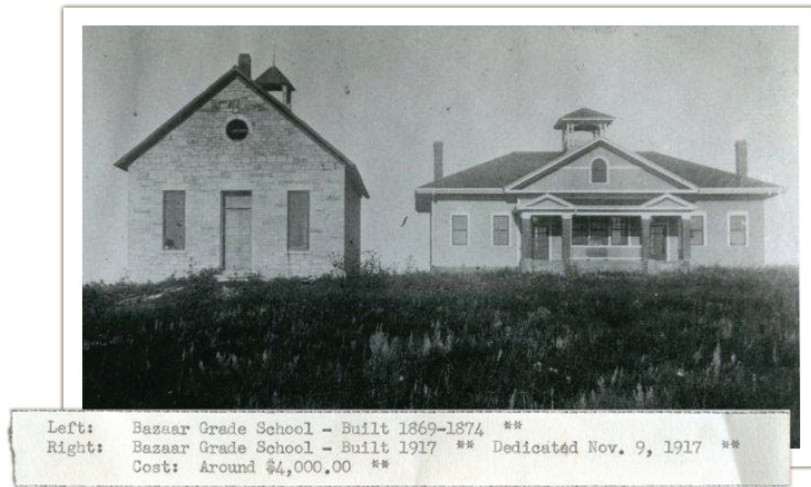
*Remembrances of Bazaar Schools
by an Early Resident,*
GRACE HAYS BLACKBURN

The first schools in Bazaar were subscription schools. The sessions were held in log cabins rented for that purpose. Mary Walton Leonard was a teacher in a subscription school, prior to 1858. Unused to the hardships of pioneer life, she passed away in the summer of 1858, and was the first white woman buried in Chase County, at Bazaar. She was laid to rest in the old burial ground,

just north of the present site of Bazaar. Her remains were later moved to the new cemetery, which was established later, just north of the old town site.

The first school house at Bazaar was built in 1860. It was constructed of log slabs, the rough bark on the outside, with the smooth sides forming the inside walls. Slabs were used also for benches, with wooden pegs for legs. It was a one room structure, with a fireplace in one end and stood only a short distance south of the stone school house built some years later. When Bazaar school district was organized, it comprised an area of seventy-five square miles.

In 1871 Bazaar's second public school house, a large stone structure, was begun, and in 1874 the building was completed. It was a fine large structure, and served well its purpose through the years, almost half a century. It was a wonderful building for those times: well-finished and furnished with a large stove and two swinging chandeliers of three lamps each. It had two large slate blackboards on the



BAZAAR GRADE SCHOOL
 Chase County Historical Society Museum and Library

two side walls and across the west end a commodious book cupboard, with a large world globe, several maps and many other things. The desks were graduated in size from the large ones at the back to small ones down front, a fine long recitation bench in front and other benches at the back. Besides being primarily a school house, it served as a community center for the people for miles around, furnishing a place for church meetings, Grange sessions, spelling bees, Magic Lantern shows, literary societies, and political meetings.

In later years this sturdy old stone school house gave way to a new building. It was erected on the site of the stone school house which had served so well for so many years. The new building is a modern structure and cost around \$4,000. It has two large school rooms, a library, two vestibules, two wash rooms, and a kitchen. It is a fine up-to-date school house and it was dedicated November 9, 1917.

Taken from material provided by the Chase County Historical Society and edited by Cathy Hoy, Symphony in the Flint Hills board member, Emporia, Kansas.