

# Johnson School Reunion Held Recently

G. W. Lovell, who was related to the Bruce family, was on of the members of the board who made plans for the first school in 1872 and it was called Confederate school. It was made of logs and was located near Confederate gulch, east of the Christie ranch.

School was next held in a building about a mile east of the present building where classes were held until the new school could be built.

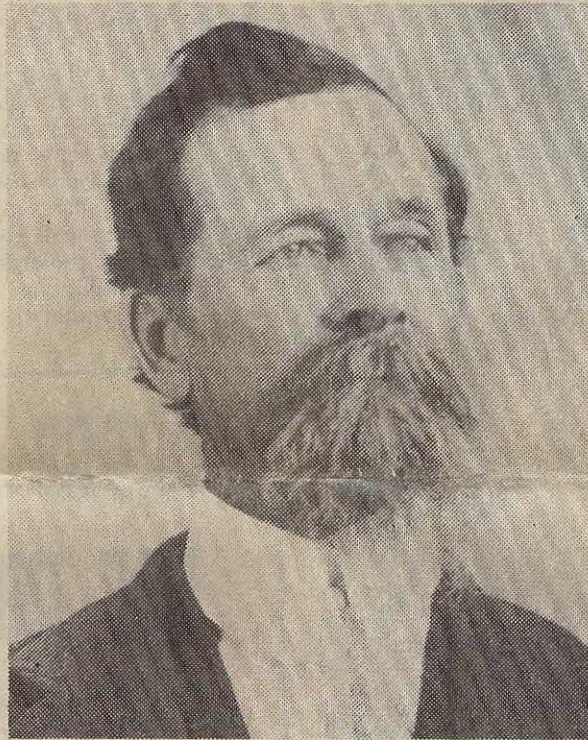
The new school was built in 1905 and named the Johnson school and is still standing. Some of the board members were George Christie and John Barker. Mrs. Mildred Fisher Hadcock, a guest at Broadwater Rest Home, is the only one left of the first grade at that school.

The Johnson school reunion, held August 21 and 22, 1982, was for pupils who attended this school from 1905 to 1947. Present at the reunion from the classes were: Ross and Etta Bigler, Eureka, Ca.; Irene Goodwin Cornforth, Twin Bridges; Maxine Nilson Davis, Toston; Tillie Nilson Williams, Radersburg; Gertrude Wall Danehoo, Bozeman; Ed and Dora Gross, Placerville, Ca.; Pete Gross, Helena; Helen (Gross) and Willard Moe, Helena; Ray and Mary Alice Goodwin, Helena, Homer and Mary Henry, Helena; Billie Horne Thornes, White Sulphur Springs; Don and June Matthews, Butte; May Matthews, Helena; Mary (Shea) and Robert Neilson, Seattle, Wa.; Adelle Bruce Zink, Laurel and her daughter, Miss Zink; Henry J. and Dorothy Wall, Belgrade; Bill and Lucille Wall, Clancy; Carl and Clara Wall, Bozeman and Fritz and Viola (Banken) Weed, Helena.

Attending from around Townsend were: Minnie Bruce, Doug and Ruth Christie, Frank and Rose Flynn, Adah Kelly Horne, Irma Horne, Bob and Peggy Kenney, Frank (Pat) Kenney, Margaret Kenney and May Thomas Sweeney. Invited guests were Henry

Barron, who provided some entertainment and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sweetser and son Greg.

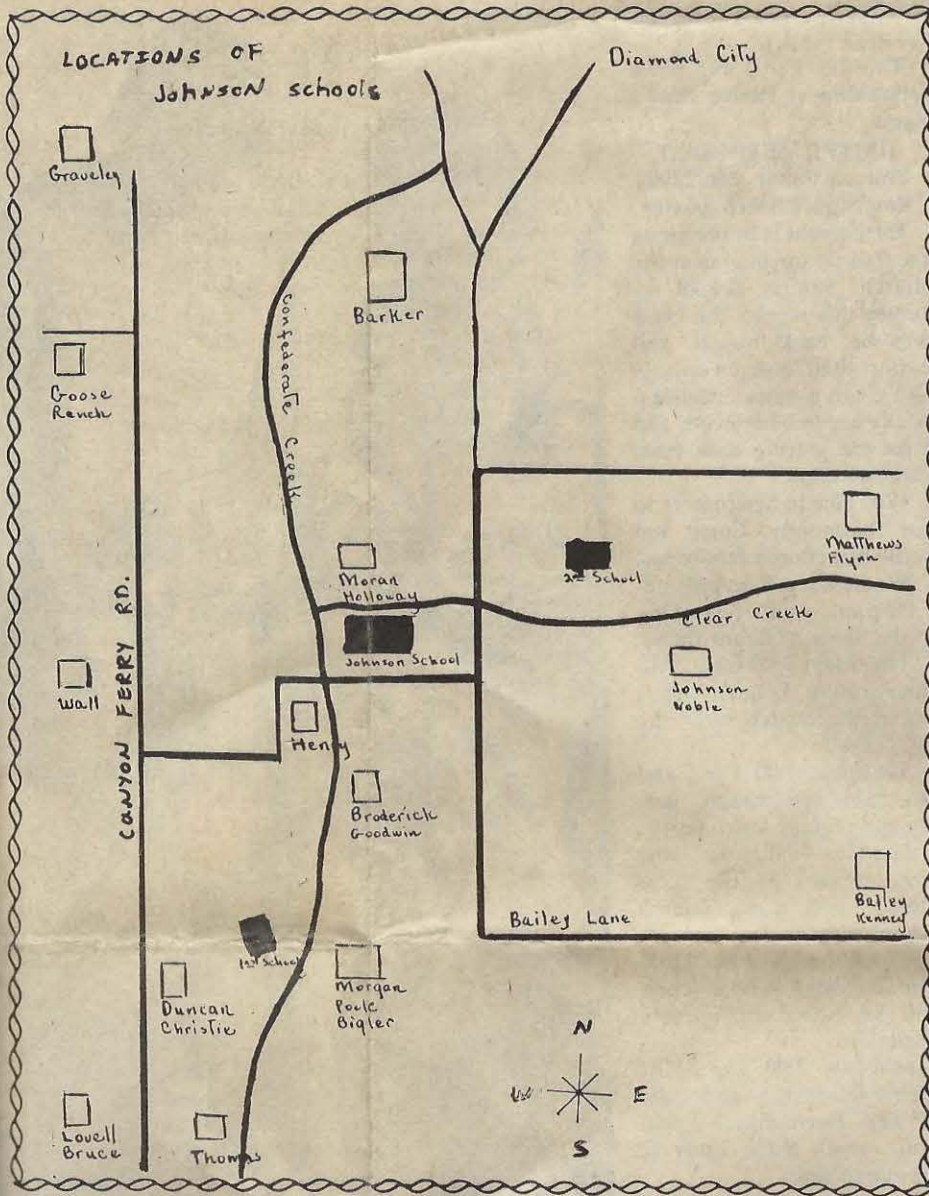
The school got its name from one of the original settlers, Reuben A. and his wife Anna M. Johnson. They are the grandparents of Mrs. Gladys Noble Simons. Gla-



Reuben A. Johnson, Founder of Johnson School



Anna M. Johnson, Founder of Johnson School



butcher knife to perform the operation.

And Pat Kenney remembered the eclipse when it turned dark in the middle of the day and the chickens went to roost.

For those who were not able to attend the reunion, and for those who just like to remember all the old days, there are memories and history at the Broadwater Museum. Books of interviews, pictures and history are waiting to be read.

The old Johnson school is being taken care of by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sweetser and their son Greg of Helena who have taken it upon themselves to restore the old building. Starting from scratch they have removed spitwads from the ceiling. They have railed the roof, put in new windows and planted trees. They plan to do some painting and re-do the floors. They hope some day it may become a Community Center.

Pat Kenney composed a poem in commemoration of the 1982 reunion. It follows. It stands alone in silence, our little Johnson school.

The pupils all have gone away, which is the natural rule.

And now we all have come at last Some new friends we will meet.

So now gather all around To grace the food we eat.

First off the eulogy is read for those who long have passed

To their reward in lands on High to serve at home at last.

Three mothers and our teacher too Have come at our request

To help us celebrate the day They were the honored guest.

We journeyed up to Rose's place A pretty place to see And there we had a picnic It was grand we must agree.

At last we say our fond farewells To school-mates of the past

And journey on our separate ways With memories of the past.

So now we come again this year to take more members in

For those who went to Johnson school When first its life began.

And now our school is all in smiles From windows to its walls

A good man will fix her up God Bless him from us all!

dys taught at the Johnson school in 1925.

Probably about the first hot lunch programs in the country schools around 1935 is a story about a sack of potatoes that was dropped off a wagon going to town. The teacher had the pupils pick them up and she cooked them in the coals of the fire for a school lunch.

A story related by Bill Wall was about the primitive living of the frontier schools of that time when a new teacher came and she asked the board for an outhouse. One of the conservative members of the board spoke up and said he could see no need of an outhouse with so much brush around the place.

Gladys Noble Simons sent pictures of the founder of the Johnson City and school district, Mr. and Mrs. Reu-

ben Johnson.

In reply to the invitations by the planning committee to come to the reunion here is some news from some of the pupils who were not able to come. Gertrude F. Horne attended this school in 1910. Some of the teachers then were: Tom Lenahan, Mayme Liddy, Minnie Bruce and Mable Brockway (who married Henry Bowhay). After Gertrude finished school in 1923 she taught in Duck Creek for two years.

Minnie Bruce remembers when Bill, Carl and Mary Wall had a fight over a ball. The teacher took the ball away from them and held it until school was over.

Carl Wall remembered when two brothers, Joe and Peter Mahren, were running. Joe ran into Peter who fell and his two front teeth were knocked out.

Maxine Nilson Davis remembers riding to school on a horse but the horse would not go for her, so, unless her brother went to school, Maxine could not go.

Some of the other teachers were: Helen Worthington, Mrs. Gordon Graveley and Florence Keene.

Water had to be carried to the school in pails from the creek. Discipline was kept by keeping pupils in at recess or sometimes using a switch. At one time the seventh and eight grade pupils took their examinations in Townsend. The teachers boarded at the homes, according to how many children in the family, one week for each child.

Bob Kenney and Ross Bigler remembered the silo-ette show. It must have been a doctor show when their instruments were a meat cleaver, a meat saw and a