

Classroom Activity- Famous Waukeshonians

From Diaries to Newspapers- Primary vs. Secondary Resources

Objective: Students will learn the difference between primary and secondary resources. They will analyze examples of primary and secondary resources so they can know the difference, and then figure out what can be learned from these types of sources. The students will then discuss how sources connect to the fame of individuals.

Curriculum Standards:

- SS. Inq2. a. i
 - Gather a variety of resources into categories to guide the inquiry
- SS. Inq3. b. i
 - Select appropriate evidence from sources to support a claim

Materials:

- Paper
- Pencils/pens
- Hand outs
 - Transcribed Primary Sources
 - Plat Map
 - Transcribed Secondary Sources
 - Excerpt from a book
 - Picture with annotation

Back Story: When thinking about historical sources, where we get our information from, do we notice the difference between sources written at the time being described and sources written by people years after the fact? This is the nature of the activity. When discussing famous Waukeshonians, does having more sources automatically make the people being talked about more well known, or is it something else that creates fame? These questions will be discussed in this activity.

Activity:

- Step One: have the students break into groups of 4-5. This can change based on class size.
- Step Two: read the following passage:
 - There are two main types of sources, primary and secondary sources. A primary source is a source of information created during the time being studied. This includes things such as autobiographies, documents, accounts, diaries, and recordings. Secondary sources are a source of information that references primary sources. These include books, biographies, documentaries, etc.
- Step Three: give the hand out to the class. The first part of this activity is to determine what primary and secondary resources are, and what you can learn from them. The first picture is a plat map of the town of Oconomowoc. Ask them if they think this is a

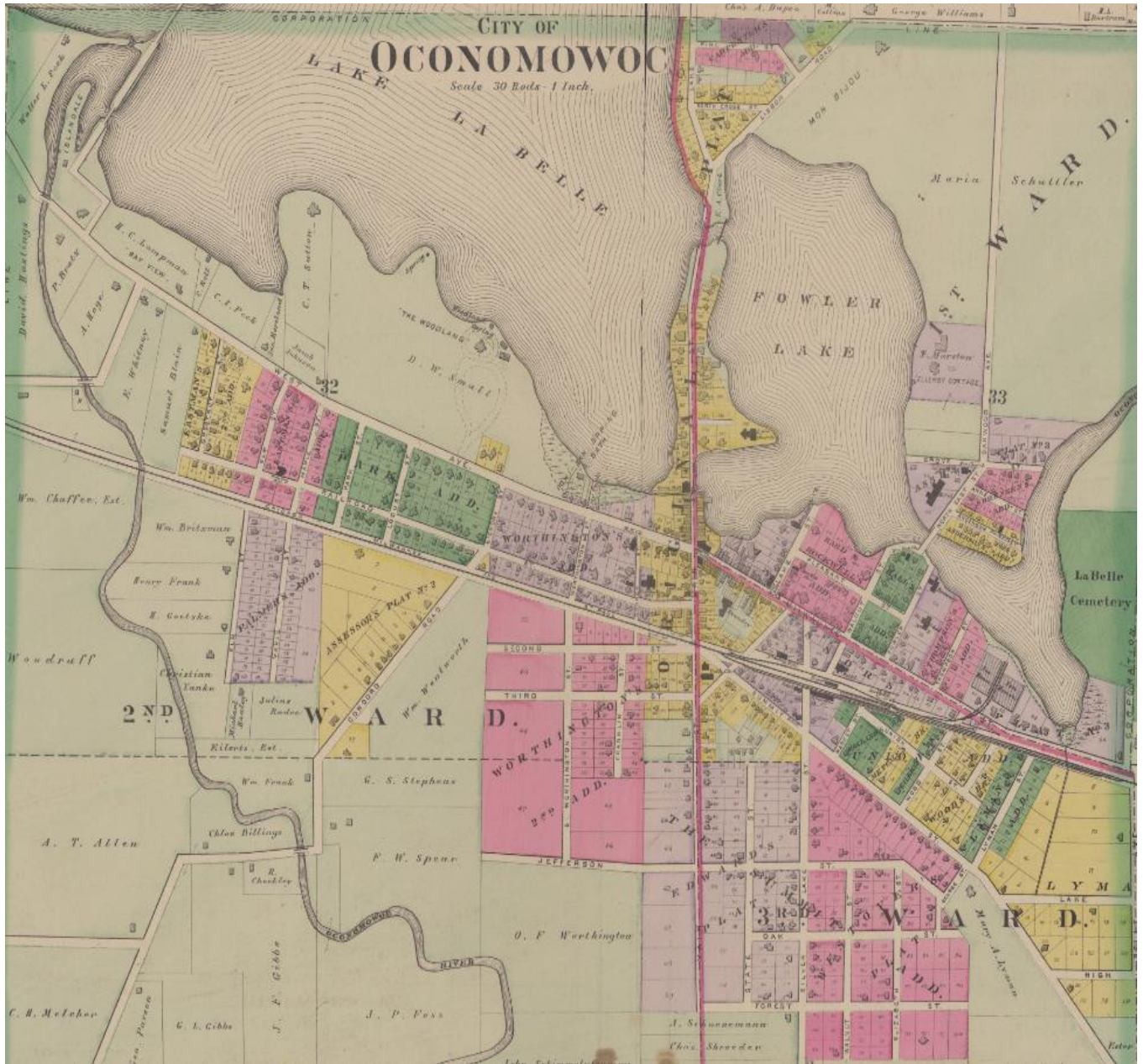
primary or a secondary source. Here they can find the property belonging to the Peck family. Have the students analyze the map and have them write down what they can learn by looking at this map.

- Step Three: The second group of sources includes an excerpt from a book talking about Caroline Ingalls and her father's property in Brookfield, while the other is a picture of Caroline Ingalls from a book. Ask them if they think this is a primary or a secondary source. Have the students write down what they can learn by reading these sources.
- Step Four: Now that they have analyzed an example of a primary source and a secondary source, ask the students what they think can be learned from these types of sources generally. The students should share their results with the class.
- Step Five: Once they finish discussing their results, read the following passage:
 - The Peck family has had a larger economic impact on the area of Oconomowoc than Caroline Ingalls. The Pecks also have more sources talking about them than Caroline Ingalls has talking about her. Despite this, Caroline Ingalls is much more famous than the whole of the Peck family.
- Step Six: Ask the students why they think this is. Have them share their results with the class.

Activity Vocabulary:

- Primary source
- Secondary source

Oconomowoc Plat Map 1891. These maps were created to show which land belonged to which family. The colored squares show the property of the village itself. If you look in the upper left corner, you will see property belonging to the Peck family.



Excerpt from “Henry Newcomb Quiner” found in “Historic Landmark Tour: Brookfield, Elm Grove, Wisconsin.” By: Kettle Moraine Questers.

“Henry Newcomb Quiner was the grandfather of Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of the Little House Books. Laura, in her many story books, tells of the family’s pioneering life in the last quarter of the 19th century. Laura’s mother, Caroline Quinter Ingalls, who was portrayed as “Ma” in the “Little House on the Prairie” television series, was born at the family home on the corner of Brookfield and Davidson Roads.”

Image from “Brookfield.” This is a picture of Caroline Ingalls, along with information from the book describing who she is and the picture.

