



Name _____

Class Period _____

Date _____

Beyond the Sources • *Joseph Hancock*

Using the information you gather on the web site, answer the following questions about the unit.

1. Our memories of events can change over time. Hancock's journal writings are different in many ways from his writings years later as he remembered the same events. How might your memory of an event change over time?

What things might influence your memory of an event?

Do you think your memory of an event years later would be more or less accurate than something you wrote in a journal at the time? Why?

2. Since Hancock lived in Red Wing for many years, how might his books about Red Wing be more reliable than books written by someone who had just visited the town?

What details might a long-time resident be able to provide that a visitor could not?

In what ways might the remembrances or descriptions of a resident be more biased than those of a visitor?

What kinds of information might a resident who intends to keep living in the area be likely to "leave out" of his work that a visitor or researcher might be willing to include?

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3. Cemeteries can often provide very useful information to the historian or genealogist (person who is studying their family history). Often the information provided on tombstones can show us a glimpse of what the person was like or what their interests were. What details might we find on a tombstone that would help us direct our research?

What might we learn from other tombstones near the one we are studying?

Where could we go to find out more about the person after we have studied their tombstone?

4. What role can diaries play in our historical reserach?

What might we learn from a diary that we won't learn from a textbook or letter or newspaper article?

How might a diary we would keep today help us in the future to remember what our lives were like?

What might be some advantages to knowing about the events in our lives and how we felt about them?

How might a historian of the future use our diary?

How might knowing our feelings about an event make a historian's job more difficult if that was the only source the historian had about our life?
