



New York State Archives Student Research Awards

Document Analysis - A First Go

Materials Needed:

Included in this document:

- Document #1: “Captain Baker is Now Laid to Rest” from the Elmira Star Gazette
- Document #2: Marriage Certificate from the private collection of the Smith Family
- Archie’s Note Catcher (2 per student or group) –
 - NOTE: There are two versions of this form.
 - V1 is in portrait orientation and has lines to write on for the first page, and then two large boxes for observation and inference – one with lines and one without.
 - V2 is in landscape orientation and has boxes to write in.
- Archie’s Note Catcher keys for documents
- Ticket to Leave with key

Found in the Online Extras Teaching Resources for this issue.

- Vocabulary posters

Vocabulary:

- *Transcription* – a typed or handwritten copy of a document (typically done to make the document easier to read).
- *Obituary* – an article published in a newspaper or online after someone dies. It gives information about the person’s life.
- *Primary Source*: original documents and objects/artifacts that were created at the time being studied. Note that the term “documents” includes photographs, maps, newspapers, letters, diaries, etc.
- *Secondary Source*: accounts that retell, analyze, or interpret events, usually at a distance of time or place. Note: “accounts” includes textbooks, encyclopedias, biographies, documentaries, reviews, etc.
- *Observation* – Observation is just what you see or observe.
- *Inference* - Inference is taking what you observe and adding what you know to infer what is happening or what is the meaning of a document.

Lesson:

Hook: Review primary vs secondary sources, as well as observation vs. inference using the definition posters.

Body:

Model using Document 1: “Captain Baker is Now Laid to Rest”

This is an obituary. A transcript is provided to make reading it easier. Read through the obituary together. Work back through it again while working together to fill out a Note Catcher.

Have a Go using Document 2: Marriage Certificate

This is a marriage certificate (not government issued). A transcript is provided to make it easier to read. Have students read through it on their own and take notes. When they are done, have students/groups share out and discuss what they observed and inferred. The common error students make here is to infer immediately and record these thoughts in the observation box.

Closure: Ticket to Leave.

CANISTEO

CAPTAIN BAKER IS NOW LAID TO REST

**Remains Brought From New
York City Where His Death
Occurred — Family Promi-
nent in Canisteo Valley.**

(Special to The Star-Gazette.)

Canisteo, April 25.—The remains of Captain N. S. Baker were brought here this morning from New York city for burial in Hillside cemetery. The body was taken to the home of Daniel O. Ordway and at noontime will be removed to the First Methodist Episcopal church, where it will remain until this afternoon at 3 o'clock, when the funeral will be held. Captain Baker's death occurred late Saturday afternoon at the home of his daughter, Mrs. A. W. Richardson, heart failure being given as the cause of death.

Captain Baker was born in Canisteo 82 years ago last October. His father was the first white child born in Steuben county and for a century and a half past, the family has been prominent in the history of the Canisteo valley. When the civil war broke out, Mr. Baker enlisted in the 86th regiment, N. Y. V., and on August 25, 1862, he was given his commission as captain. On June 21, 1865, he was commissioned a major. He participated in the battle of Gettysburg and served throughout the entire war.

He was a lifelong member of the First Methodist Episcopal church and, although he has not lived here for several years, he retained his membership in the local church. After the war he was engaged in business here, being associated for a number of years with the late Martin Vanderlinder in the manufacture of carriages and wagons.

He is survived by the following sons and daughters: Mrs. Thaddeus Smith of New York, formerly of Corning; Mrs. A. W. Richardson and N. S. Baker of New York; Mrs. Eli J. Sweet of Hornell; Mrs. Leo Stevens of Andover; Orlando M. Baker of Perry and Harris W. Baker of Elmira.

One brother, O. M. Baker, president of the G. & C. Merriam company, Springfield, Mass., and two half brothers, Jedediah Baker, also of Springfield and Elias Baker of Minnesota, also survive.

Document #1: "Captain Baker is Now Laid to Rest"
Elmira Star Gazette, 25 April 1911, p. 5.
Elmira, Chemung, New York, USA
From the private collection of the Baker Family

Transcription:

Canisteo

Captain Baker is Now Laid to Rest
Remains Brought From New York City Where His
Death Occurred - Family Prominent in Canisteo Valley.

(Special to the Star-Gazette.)

Canisteo, April 25. -- The remains of Captain N.S. Baker were brought here this morning from New York City for burial in Hillside cemetery. The body was taken to the home of Daniel O. Ordway and at noontime will be removed to the First Methodist Episcopal church, where it will remain until afternoon at 3 o'clock, when the funeral will be held. Captain Baker's death occurred late Saturday afternoon at the home of his daughter, Mrs. A.W. Richardson, heart failure being given as the cause of death.

Captain Baker was born in Canisteo 82 years ago last October. His father was the first white child born in Steuben county and for a century and a half past, the family has been prominent in the history of the Canisteo valley. When the civil war broke out, Mr. Baker enlisted in the 86th regiment, N.Y.V., and on August 25, 1862, he was given his commission as captain. On June 21, 1865, he was commissioned a major. He participated in the battle of Gettysburg and served throughout the entire war.

He was a lifelong member of the First Methodist Episcopal church and, although he has not lived here for several years, he retained his membership in the local church. After the war he was engaged in business here, being associated for a number of years with the late Martin Vanderlinder in the manufacture of carriages and wagons.

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One brother, O.M. Baker, president of the G. & C. Merriam company, Springfield, Mass., and two half brothers, Jedediah Baker, also of Springfield and Elias Baker of Minnesota also survive.

Document #2: Marriage Certificate
From the personal family papers of
the Smith Family.

Transcription:

This Certifies
That Emory Ray Hardenbrook
of Bath, N.Y. and
Bernice Marie Smith
of Kanona, N.Y. were
United in Marriage
at Bath, N.Y.
According to the Ordinance of God, and the
Laws of New York
On the 28th day of Sept. in the
Year of our Lord 1920.
D^d Evans

Witnesses:

Dorothy N. Smith
Della Hardenbrook

**This
Certifies**

That *Emory Ray Hardenbrook*
of *Bath, N. Y.* and
Bernice Marie Smith
of *Kanona, N. Y.* were
United in Marriage
at *Bath, N. Y.*

According to the Ordinance of God, and the
laws of *New York*

On the *28th* day of *Sept.* in the
year of our Lord *1920*

Witnesses:

Dorothy N. Smith
Della Hardenbrook

D. Evans
Minister

Archie's Note Catcher



Title of Document: _____

Author: _____

Type of Document: _____

Year Published: _____

Where Published: _____

Pages Used: _____

Web Address or location: _____

Date you accessed this web page: _____

Write your entry in the correct format for a bibliography:

Take notes from this document on the back of this page.

Annotation: Write a few complete sentences that explain how this document helped you to understand your topic better. Explain how it contributed to your project.

NOTES



OBSERVE: Write just what you observe/read in the document.

INFER: Take what was in the document and what you know to make an inference.

NOTES:



OBSERVE: Write just what you observe/read in the document.

INFER: Take what was in the document and what you know to make an inference.

Document	Information
Primary or Secondary Source? (circle)	What can you learn from this document?
Title of Document:	Observations - What you see & read: 
Author:	
Type of Document:	
Year Published:	
Where published:	
Pages Used:	Inferences - What conclusions you can draw:   
Web Address or Document Location:	
Date you accessed the webpage:	
Write your entry in the correct format for a bibliography:	Annotation: Write a few complete sentences that explain how this document helped you to understand your topic better. Explain how it contributed to your project.

Document	Information
Primary or Secondary Source? (circle)	What can you learn from this document?
Title of Document:	Observations - What you see & read:  _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Author:	
Type of Document:	
Year Published:	
Where published:	Inferences - What conclusions you can draw:  _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Pages Used:	
Web Address or Document Location:	
Date you accessed the webpage:	
Write your entry in the correct format for a bibliography:	Annotation: Write a few complete sentences that explain how this document helped you to understand your topic better. Explain how it contributed to your project. _____ _____ _____

Archie's Note Catcher

Title of Document: Captain Baker is Now Laid to Rest; Elmira Star Gazette

Author: A reporter at the newspaper

Type of Document: Obituary published in the newspaper

Year Published: 25 April 1911

Where Published: Elmira, Chemung County, New York

Pages Used: p.5

Web Address or Location: Private collection of the Baker family.

Date you accessed this web page: _____

Write your entry in the correct format for a bibliography:

"Captain Baker is Now Laid to Rest." (1911, April 25). *The Elmira Star Gazette*. Private
Collection of the Baker family.

Take notes from this document on the back of this page.

Annotation: Write a few complete sentences that explain how this document helped you to understand your topic better. Explain how it contributed to your project.

Captain Baker's obituary gave us information about his life. We learned that he served
in the 86th Regiment NYV for the entire Civil War. We learned that his job was
manufacturing carriages and wagons. This document also told he was a prominent
man in Canisteo, which is where he was buried in Hillside Cemetery.

~~NOTE TO TEACHER: For the SRA students will need to include how this information~~
was useful in their project.

NOTES

KEY DOCUMENT 1



OBSERVE: Write just what you observe/read in the document.

- Captain N.S. Baker's remains were brought from New York City to the home of Daniel O. Ordway
- Died from heart failure
- He will be buried in Hillside cemetery.
- Funeral will be at First Methodist Episcopal church at 3 o'clock
- Captain Baker born in Canisteo 82 years ago in October.
- Family prominent in Canisteo for a century and a half
- Served for the entire Civil War in the 86th regiment, N.Y.V.
- Participated in the Battle of Gettysburg
- Lifelong member of First United Methodist Episcopal church
- Manufactured carriages and wagons
- Survived by several sons and daughters.
- The location is Canisteo (even though the paper is Elmira)

INFER: Take what was in the document and what you know to make an inference.

- Mr. Baker was a member of a church, I can INFER that he was of the Christian faith as I know that Christians call their religious building a church. (This helps us know that we could look for church records for more information)
- I can infer that Mr. Baker had a big family, as he is survived by children.
- Since no wife is listed I can infer that Mr. Baker's wife has already died or that he was divorced. (This makes me think I should check the census to see what his wife's name was).
- Captain Baker was a Captain and a Major during the Civil War. I can infer that he was a good leader since he was given those ranks. (I could look at military records for more information).

Archie's Note Catcher

Title of Document: Marriage Certificate

Author: I cannot tell from observing the document.

Type of Document: Marriage Certificate

Year Published: 28 Sept. 1920

Where Published: Bath, N.Y.

Pages Used: _____

Web Address/or document location: From the personal collection of the Smith Family.

Date you accessed this web page: _____

Write your entry in the correct format for a bibliography:

Hardenbrook, Emory Ray & Smith, Bernice Marie (1920). *Marriage certificate*. Issued by
D. Evans.

Take notes from this document on the back of this page.

Annotation: Write a few complete sentences that explain how this document helped you to understand your topic better. Explain how it contributed to your project.

This marriage certificate is proof that Emory Ray Hardenbrook and Bernice Marie
Smith were married 28 September 1920 in Bath, New York. The witnesses have the
same last names as the bride and groom, so that is a clue to other family members.

~~NOTE TO TEACHER: For the SRA students will need to include how this information~~
was useful in their project.

NOTES

KEY DOCUMENT 2

OBSERVE: Write just what you observe/read in the document.

- The names of the people that were united in marriage are Emory Ray Hardenbrook and Bernice Marie Smith.
- They were married in Bath, N.Y.
- They were married on 28th Sept 1920.
- Someone named D. Evans signed the certificate. Under his name it says "minister"
- The witnesses were Dorothy N. Smith and Della Hardenbrook.

INFER: Take what was in the document and what you know to make an inference.

- I notice that one witness, Dorothy N. Smith has the same last name as Bernice Marie Smith. I can infer that they are related/are family.
- I notice that one witness, Della Hardenbrook has the same last name as Emory Ray Hardenbrook. I can infer that they are related/are family.
- I notice that the text says, "According to the Ordinance of God". I can infer that this wedding was at religious organization (I can check for church records to learn more).
- I notice the date is 1920. I can infer that this wedding was over 100 years ago, and these people are no longer alive.
- I notice that the certificate is signed by D. Evans, minister. I can infer that he performed the ceremony and issued the document. (His name might help us find the church where the ceremony took place).

Name: _____

Describe what we did today in three steps.
Give detail about the process, not about the documents specifically.



Step 1



Step 2

Step 3

Name: _____

Describe what we did today in three steps.
Give detail about the process, not about the documents specifically.



Step 1



Step 2

Step 3

KEY

Name: _____

Describe what we did today in three steps.
Give detail about the process, not about the documents specifically.



Step 1

First, we wrote down what type of document then answered questions using the 5Ws.



Step 2

Next, we observed the document. We wrote down only the information that is in the document.

Step 3

Last, we made inferences. We took our own background knowledge and what we read in the document to infer other information.

Name: _____

Describe what we did today in three steps.
Give detail about the process, not about the documents specifically.



Step 1



Step 2

Step 3

