

## **Classroom Activity- Famous Waukeshonians**

### **A Product of Their Environment: Does Waukesha Alone Create Famous People?**

**Objective:** Students will learn about how famous people are impacted by their environment, and also how famous people affect their environment.

#### **Curriculum Standards:**

- SS. Hist2. C. 1
  - Analyze Individuals, Groups, and Events to understand why their contributions are important to historical change or continuity.

#### **Materials:**

- Paper
- Pencils
- Famous Waukeshonian cut outs
- A board to hang the pictures up on

**Back Story:** It is often said that people are the product of their environment. In other words, people are affected by the place they come from. Many great people have come from Waukesha, and have been greatly affected by their environment. There were others, of course, who came from outside Waukesha and were still greatly impacted by it. A few people, however, came from the outside, and impacted Waukesha without being a product of its environment. This is all to say, some people have become famous due to being part of Waukesha, and others have become famous by impacting on Waukesha. Can you figure out which was which?

#### **Activity:**

- Step One: break into six groups.
- Step Two: Hand a laminated picture of one of the six people to each of the groups.
- Step Three: Have the students read the information on the back of the picture about the famous Waukeshonian.
- Step Four: Have the groups discuss if they think the person was impacted by Waukesha, impacted Waukesha, or both. Write down the answers as well as an explanation of why. There is no singular correct answer.
- Step Five: Create three categories on the board: Impacted Waukesha, Impacted by Waukesha, and both.
- Step Six: Have each group share their answers with the class and post the picture on the board.

- Step Seven: discuss the findings from the activity.

**Activity Vocabulary:**

- Environment
- Product
- Impact



### Asa Clark

- Born in Vermont, moved to what is now Pewaukee in 1837
- First white settler of the area
- Built a dam on the snail river. This raised the water level by six feet creating the Pewaukee Lake
- Founded the first school in the area, which was held in his parlor
- Donated land to build a permanent school on



### Amable Vieau

- Born in Northwest Territory in what is now Green Bay in 1790
- At age 11, he started to live with the Potawatomie as a guest. By age 13, he almost forgot how to speak English and French
- In 1825, he set up a fur trading cabin in what is now Muskego
- The fur trade wiped out many animals in the area, such as otter, beaver, minx, bears, and bobcats. This changed the environment of Waukesha permanently



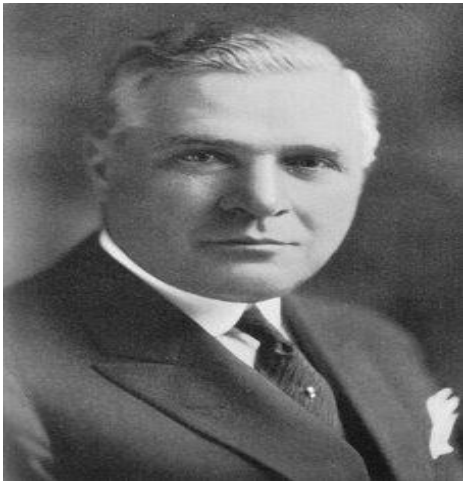
### Ferdinand Peck

- Born in Chicago, Spent several years in Oconomowoc as a summer home
- Created a hotel in Oconomowoc
- Founded a yacht club and attracted Chicago yacht owners to the town
- Helped establish Oconomowoc as a vacation spot for wealthy Chicago families



### Caroline Ingalls

- Born in Brookfield Wisconsin on her family's farm
- Became a teacher at age 16
- Married Charles Ingalls at age 21
- Moved to De Smet, South Dakota, with her husband and children
- Mother of Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of Little House on the Prairie.



### Julius P. Heil

- Born in Dussmund, Germany, moved to New Berlin as a child
- Founded the Heil Rail Joint Welding Company, in Milwaukee
- Became a self-millionaire and had over 2,000 employees at his company
- Became governor of Wisconsin in 1938, and won reelection in 1940



### Andy Hurley

- Born in Menomonee Falls, WI.
- Attended the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee for history and anthropology
- Joined the band "Fall Out Boy" in 2003 as their drummer
- Created 7 albums with the band
- Now lives in Portland, Oregon