

Name _____

Date _____

Worksheet 4
Points to Ponder

We form our opinions about people and events by merging things we hear from others, what we observe, references in books or on television, what we learn at school, etc. Without this framework, we need to develop an understanding by examining different sources. In the preceding lessons, facts about the life of Benjamin F. Harris unfolded as primary documents were introduced. Please share your thoughts on this process.

1. Before we began this unit, did you know anything about B.F. Harris? If so, what?

2. Which local primary sources did you find most interesting? Why?

3. Did the review of the three speeches, Surrender of Fort Sumter, the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg Address, help you to better understand why Harris felt he needed to visit his good friend, Abraham Lincoln? If so, how did they help? If not, why not?

4. We have read references to Harris in several roles: cattleman, father and husband, friend, wealthy citizen of Champaign, founder of First National Bank, religious leader, etc. What other primary documents might help you better understand B.F. Harris's life?

5. What secondary sources could you check for additional information?