



Beyond the Sources • Ard Godfrey

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

1. Godfrey wrote letters to his family when he was building the mill in St. Anthony and on his gold-mining expeditions in the West. What details can we learn about someone from the letters they write?

What perspective are we missing if someone has not written letters about important events in their life?

What sources other than personal letters might you need if you were writing a biography of someone?

2. Legal documents like the agreement between Godfrey and Steele can give us much information about what life was like during a certain time period. What specific kinds of information can we learn about life and work during this time from documents like these?

What can we learn about how people worked and how they were paid?

How might a document like this help us to have a better understanding of the way in which businesses were run during this time?

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3. It is quite common for people to write in their diaries or scrapbooks about their experiences when they were younger. Why might Godfrey's daughter have made a point of writing down information like the notes shown on this site?

How does that information help researchers today who might be studying Godfrey?

How might this source be more or less accurate than some others we would study?

4. Seeing primary sources from different periods in someone's life can give us a clearer picture of what their life was like. Why does this help us get a clearer picture of who the person was and what they did during their life?

What challenges can we face if we research someone using sources from only one time period in their life?

Why might you have to use sources from only one part of a person's life?
