



**Beyond the Sources • Lucius Hubbard**

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

1. Since Hubbard was well-known and a key state government figure, we are able to locate sources from a variety of his activities. What advantages are there for the historian in being able to see sources from a variety of events or parts of a person's life?

***Being able to see a variety of sources from a person's life can give us a clearer picture of the kinds of things the person did and what their priorities were.***

How can this make the research more difficult?

***A large number of sources can often be confusing to interpret (especially if many of them are undated or unidentified) and make it harder to focus on one aspect of the person's life for our study.***

How might you decide which sources are most important for your work?

***Your decision will depend upon what interests you, and what your goals are for your work. If you were studying the Civil War, you would want to study Hubbard's Civil War letters and activities; if you were studying Minnesota government, you would want to look at his work as governor.***

2. During the Civil War, officers were often given promotions for courage and leadership "on the field." Hubbard received one of these promotions. How do you think that promotion to brigadier general affected his life and his influence in later years?

***Getting a promotion to that level of the military usually carries a certain amount of respect that remains with you for the rest of your life. Even in his obituary, Hubbard was referred to in the headline as a "general." Leadership under battle conditions often lead people to trust that the person might also be a good leader in government or business.***

3. The Minnesota State Board of Health had as its first leader a doctor from Red Wing named Charles Hewitt. Does that fact affect your interpretation of Hubbard's comments about the Board of Health in his biennial message?

***If Hubbard and Hewitt knew each other, Hubbard could have been trying to help out a friend by encouraging the legislature to support the Board of Health. It could also be that Hubbard simply agreed with the work that the Board of Health was doing and wanted Congress to support it.***

How might we find out if Hewitt and Hubbard knew each other or if they even lived at the same time?

***We can easily find out if they lived at the same time by looking in county records and finding their birth and death dates, but we may not be able to find out whether or not they knew each other or were friends unless there are some letters or references to their acquaintance.***

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4. Military swords like the one used by Hubbard are often kept as family heirlooms. These heirlooms are often rich sources of information about a family's history. What family heirlooms do you have in your family and what do they mean to you?

***Students might mention photographs, pieces of jewelry, tools, clothing or other items.***

What do they tell you about your family and its history?

***Students might suggest that these items tell them about their ethnic heritage or the lives of their grandparents and great-grandparents.***

How could you find out more about these heirlooms in your family and how they were used or received?

***Asking other relatives for information or researching in the library or a museum for information about the object's uses and time period could all help gain more information.***