



Name _____

Class Period _____

Date _____

Beyond the Sources • *James Lawther*

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

1. On this site, you were able to study an invoice from a hardware store that showed items purchased by Lawther. What can invoices like this tell us about a person's business?

What information can they not tell us?

Why might it be difficult to understand what a person is like just from knowing what they buy?

What other sources do we need to get a clearer picture of someone's life and priorities?

2. James Lawther was an immigrant from Ireland who became a success in Red Wing and a major contributor to the town's development. What kinds of obstacles might one have to overcome as an immigrant?

What kinds of sources might we be able to find that would give us some hints about the kinds of challenges Lawther and other immigrants may have faced?

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3. The sources on the site about James Lawther can tell you much about his business dealings, but not much about his personal life. What sources might we look for if we wanted to know more about his home life and family?

4. Lawther was not only a businessman but also a politician. How do you think his experience in business could have helped him in his work as Red Wing's mayor?

How do you think his work as mayor could have helped his work in business?
