



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

1. Editorials like the one in News 2 can teach us much about the community in which they were written and the interests of that community's citizens. What things do we learn about Hibbing from this editorial?

We learn that some persons were interested in Power's political future and wanted him to work for the state government. We also learn that many people liked what he was doing in Hibbing as village president and wanted him to stay in that position.

What do the editorials in your local paper tell you about your community and its concerns?

These editorials can tell you what issues are being discussed or disputed in your town, and how people are reacting to recent events in your community.

How can an editorial be used as a primary source for your research?

Editorials can give us indications of the importance of certain issues or events to a community. They can also give us some insight into the thoughts of one person on an event or issue.

What challenges does an editorial present for the researcher?

Since an editorial is by nature an opinion piece, it is important to recognize that the author has a definite purpose (to convince the reader) in writing the editorial and that some of the information may be presented in a misleading way to achieve that purpose.

2. Obituaries can give us a great deal of information about a person's life. What information do we need to know in order to locate an obituary? What information contained in an obituary like Power's can lead us to more detailed information about him and his work?

We can learn the name of the law firm he worked for and the dates of his employment as mayor. We can also learn of his educational background as well as information about his family life.

What sources might we use to search for that information?

Court records, newspaper articles (business-related or wedding announcements, etc.) and his personal papers can give us more information about the topics mentioned in the obituary.

Why might using his obituary alone as a source be a problem for our research?

An obituary is often written as a summary of a person's life and might omit some important details.

Beyond the Sources • Victor L. Power

3. Power was recognized as a “friend of labor” and supported the strikers in their efforts in many ways. How might we find out what kind of relationship Power had with the owners of the mining companies, since he was the mayor of a mining community?

We can guess that Power might not have been popular with the mining companies, but there may have been letters written between Power and the companies that would give us some indication of the relationship they formed.

What sources would tell us more about what the company owners thought of him?

Newspaper articles might also tell us more about his work with the companies and negotiations for the workers.

4. The sources in this section show us some of the ways in which Power influenced his community as mayor and as business leader. What other sources might tell us more about how he influenced the community through his personal life or leisure activities?

He may have been a member of a local fraternal organization or society that would have records of his membership or might have presented him with an award for service. These would often be mentioned in an obituary.

How could those sources provide us with a more complete picture of the man and his life?

By knowing more about him than just his professional life, we can get a better picture of his interests, priorities, and work within a community.