



Beyond the Sources • Sea Wing Disaster

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

1. This section of the site shows a photograph and a drawing of the same scene. What would be the advantages of studying a photograph over a drawing?

A photograph will probably show more detail and be a more accurate picture of the event.

What might be the advantages of studying a drawing?

Photographs can be blurred by moving people or damaged over time and made unreadable. A drawing, if preserved, can give a clear and easy to read interpretation of the event.

Which source do you think you would be most likely to use in your research?

Answers will vary.

2. Memorial editions of newspapers and magazines are often published after a disaster like this one. Why do you think these are produced?

People in the community may want something to remember the event and honor those who were killed. These editions could also provide a kind of compact version of the event that might provide more information than the immediate newspaper reports were able to give.

What recent world or community events have had memorial editions published about them?

Answers will vary, but students might suggest the death of a famous person, a plane crash, or a crime that killed many people.

What can these editions tell us about who or what has impacted our lives in the last few years?

Looking back on these editions, we can get an idea about which entertainment personalities were extremely popular at the time of their death, or what kinds of tragedies were occurring in the area that caused the community to mourn together.

3. In this section of the site, we have shown you both a newspaper article and a narrative from a memorial pamphlet describing the same event. Which of these would you consider the most useful to you as a historian? ***Answers will vary.*** Why? ***Answers will vary.***

What benefits does each kind of source have for the researcher?

Newspapers may have a more accurate and immediate view of the event, but a narrative will give you a more complete telling (because more time had elapsed and therefore more information would be known) of the event in a story form.

4. In the aftermath of a tragedy like the *Sea Wing*, many communities band together to comfort the family members of the victims or to prevent such events from happening again. What sources might

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we look for from Red Wing that would tell us how the community worked to recover from the tragedy?

Newspaper articles and letters that show offers or requests for help, flyers from charity events to raise money for survivors or families of victims, poems or songs written about the event, or records of money sent by other communities as donations.

What sources might tell us how far news of the tragedy traveled?

Newspaper articles from other states or countries talking about the event, letters from people at a distance who mention the event, and telegrams from state and national leaders expressing their sympathy would all help us to understand how widespread the news of this event became.