

TOPIC 3 – LAW & ORDER IN DAKOTA TERRITORY

Topic Overview

Topic 3 highlights criminal activity and conflicts in Dakota Territory. It includes primary sources that will help you understand challenges related to protecting the citizens and upholding laws of civil conduct.

Topic Objectives

- As a result of the study of Topic 3, you will be able to
 - Analyze and interpret primary documents.
 - Describe problems and resolutions connected with maintaining law and order in Dakota Territory.

ND Content Standards

- 8.1.2
- 8.4.1
- 8.4.6

Common Core Standards

- RH 2
- RH3
- RH5
- WHST 2

Topic Activities

- Learning from Historical Documents

Learning from Historical Documents

To access a photo/document/map, refer to the topic reading assignment or use the SEARCH feature to enter its name or number.

When Dakota Territory was organized, people wrote many letters. Letters and diaries are primary sources that come directly from an individual's personal experience. They offer valuable opportunities to see directly into the past. In order to investigate this type of primary source, the following questions need to be asked: Who wrote it? When? Where? Why? After gathering information from primary sources, historians analyze them to create meaning and understanding.

Answer the following questions for each step in the appropriate box below.

Step One – Collecting evidence (identifying and noting details)

- Look closely at one of the letters written by **James Black**, **Governor Pennington**, or the **warden**. Optional: There is a box for each person if you choose to complete more than one.
 - Who created the letter?
 - What is the date of the letter?
 - For what audience was the letter written?
 - List 2-3 things the author of the letter said that you think are important.

Step Two – Speculation (formulating questions and searching for answers)

- Why do you think the letter was written?
- What evidence from the letter helps you know why it was written? Quote from the letter.
- What does the letter tell you about life in Dakota Territory at the time it was written?

Step Three – Reflection (analyzing and summarizing the evidence gathered)

- What did you learn from these sources?
- How did these documents reveal issues around law and order in Dakota Territorial times?

For additional information about the issues surrounding law and order in Dakota Territory, read the **Introduction for Law and Order in Dakota Territory**.



Learning from Historical Documents (continued)

James Black

Step One: Collecting Evidence

Step Two: Speculation

Governor Pennington

Step One: Collecting Evidence

Step Two: Speculation

The Warden

Step One: Collecting Evidence

Step Two: Speculation

Step Three: Reflection

