

# Grewing In the Blizzard Manuscript

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## Collection Summary

**Identifier:** MA 24

**Title:** Grewing In the Blizzard Manuscript

**Dates:** 1949, 1975, 1997

**Extent:** 0.21 linear feet (1 half-document case)

**Creator:** Grewing, Frederick, 1867-1937

**Language:** English

**Repository:** South Dakota State University Archives & Special Collections, University Station, Box 2115, 1300 North Campus Drive, Brookings, South Dakota, 57007

**Access Note:** Open. Materials must be used in-house and do not circulate.

**Preferred Citation:** Title or description of item, date, collection ID, box number, folder number, collection title, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

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## Abstract

This collection centers on *Im Schneesturm (In the Blizzard)*, an undated manuscript originally written in 1882 by Louis Grewing (1843–1908) and later copied by his son, Frederick Grewing (1867–1937), whose editorial role shaped the document's preservation and later dissemination. Although the original manuscript is now lost, Frederick's copy survived and became the basis for multiple published translations beginning in 1949. The materials document the manuscript's transmission, translation, and publication history, including efforts by South Dakota State University faculty to translate the handwritten German text into English with institutional research support. Supplementary newspaper accounts, photographs, and background materials illuminate both the historical context of the narrative

and the evolving understanding of its authorship, making the collection a valuable resource for studying immigrant narratives, translation practices, and textual transmission.

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## Biography

The manuscript *In the Blizzard* recounts events from a blizzard in South Dakota in March 1882 and was written by Louis Grewing (1843–1908). His son, Frederick Grewing (1867–1937), copied the document, though the original's whereabouts are unknown. Notes suggest Frederick intended to publish the story, with the earliest known publication appearing in 1949, twelve years after his death. Carlene Aro, a descendant of Louis Grewing, later provided a copy of the manuscript to Carl R. Sunde, a Professor of German at South Dakota State University, for translation from handwritten old German script into English. A small grant from SDSU's research support fund aided the translation and related research.

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## Scope and Content

The materials include an undated manuscript titled *Im Schneesturm* (*In the Blizzard*), along with newspaper accounts, photographs, and other background information. Various translations of the manuscript were published in 1949, 1975, and 1997. Among these are versions printed by the *Evangelisches Gemeindeblatt*, a German-language Lutheran church bulletin from Madison, Wisconsin, and by the *Watertown Public Opinion*, which includes a translation by Reverend Elwood Habermann. However, Habermann's translation omits Frederick's role as editor and copier of the original document, along with several other significant details that were unknown to him.

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## Access Points

### Subjects

- Blizzards
- Frontier and pioneer life
- Natural disasters
- Personal narratives—German
- Severe storms

## Names

- Grewing, Frederick 1867-1937
- Grewing, Louis 1843-1908

## Places

- South Dakota
- United States--Dakota Territory

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## Conditions Governing Access

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## Container List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1	1	Accompanying material	undated
1	2	Manuscript: "Im Schneesturm"	undated
1	3	Translations	1949, 1975, 1997