

Grewing “In the Blizzard” Manuscript

Collection Summary

Identifier: MA 24

Title: Grewing “In the Blizzard” Manuscript

Dates: 1949, 1975, 1997

Extent: 0.21 linear feet (1 document case, narrow)

Creator: Grewing, Frederick, 1867-1937; Grewing, Louis, 1843-1908

Language: English, German

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, MA 24, box number, folder number, Grewing “In the Blizzard” Manuscript, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

The manuscript *In the Blizzard* documents a blizzard that struck South Dakota in March 1882. Originally written by Louis Grewing (1843–1908) and later copied by his son, Frederick Grewing (1867–1937), the original version is now lost. Notes suggest Frederick intended to publish the story, with the earliest known publication appearing in 1949. The manuscript has since been translated and studied, notably by Carl R. Sunde, Professor of German at South Dakota State University, with support from an SDSU research grant. Various translations have appeared in German and English, including in *Evangelisches Gemeindeblatt* and *Watertown Public Opinion*. However, some versions, including one by Reverend Elwood Habermann, omit key details such as Frederick's editorial role. The manuscript holds

historical significance as a firsthand account of extreme weather in the region and reflects the challenges faced by settlers, contributing to both historical and linguistic scholarship.

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.

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.

Access Points

Subjects

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

Names

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

Places

- South Dakota
- United States--Dakota Territory

Genre

- Translations
-

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to all researchers, with materials accessible on-site only and not available for circulation.

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Container List

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