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## SESSION 1.1: GUIDE: About the Book

### In All Its Fury the Great Blizzard of 1888

*In All Its Fury* is a compilation of stories and reminiscences collected and compiled by W.H. O’Gara and edited and arranged by Ora A. Clement both members of the Blizzard Club.

In collecting personal reminiscences and stories about the memorable storm, January 12, 1888, Blizzard Club has not overlooked the fact that voluminous accounts of the event are to be found in the newspapers of that time. Both daily and country press in all the states visited by the storm gave ample wordage to the blizzard and its resulting casualties. Turning the pages of the newspapers one is at once impressed by the great difference between the business of news reporting then and now. The reporter of that period knew nothing of the restraints imposed upon the newsgatherer of today. Every story of human interest was wrung for its last drop of drama and in his strain for effect the

reporter sometimes overlooked the importance of accuracy. For this reason it is difficult to get all the facts about the famous blizzard from contemporary newspapers. In many columns written about Minnie Freeman you find her name spelled differently sometimes the victims names were omitted or their place of residence not mentioned. At the time of the blizzard telephones were in use only in the larger cities. In 1888 the storm broke down the lines that did exist. Telegraph lines followed the railroads and both wires and trains were out of commission following the storm. In favorable weather the people in rural districts got their mail once or twice a week, when they made a trip to town.

Source: *In All Its Fury: A History of the Blizzard of January 12, 1888*, by Ora A. Clement, 1947, pages 47-48