

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: A gripping tale of life and murder on the 1880s Dakota prairie**

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***Recovery of Civil War Veteran's Memoirs Inspires New Novel A Killing Snow***

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*In 1886, schoolteacher Mariel Erickson leaves the civilized comforts of Chicago for a small frontier settlement, but she's unprepared for the hardships she encounters. As if harsh weather, destitute Indians, and shady frontier politics aren't enough, she soon finds herself embroiled in a murder case. In full view of five witnesses, liveryman Clyde Hartwig kills an Irish immigrant with a baseball bat. By all appearances, the victim was a decent and hardworking family man. Or was he? Rumors circulate that he made bombs for the Fenian Brotherhood. Was Hartwig protecting the town from a terrorist? Hired by the town's fledgling newspaper, Mariel must get the killer's story before he is forever silenced by the hangman's rope.*

Iowa authors Dave Hoing and Roger Hileman are known for creating historical fiction based on family history. When Hileman learned that the lost memoirs of a heroic ancestor had been recovered, they knew they had a rich backdrop for their next novel. Those memoirs, along with a real-life murder case in 19th-century Iowa and an infamous winter storm, became the inspirations for *A Killing Snow*.

The memoirs of Michael Hileman Jr. (1820–1915) are filled with firsthand accounts of critical events in American history, providing fresh, personal insights into the Lincoln-Douglas debates, the Battle of Chickamauga, Andersonville Prison, and the horrific “Schoolhouse Blizzard” of 1888. In *A Killing Snow*, Michael’s fictional counterpart serves as Mariel’s mentor in surviving the rigors of the Dakota prairie.

Karen Nortman, retired history teacher and author of *The Time Travel Trailer*, praises the authors’ realistic approach, stating, “Hoing and Hileman do a great job of defining and elaborating the context of the times: a couple of decades after the Civil War, the height of immigration, the beginnings of modern technology (the post office gets a telephone but it is useless for the time being because no one else has one). A wonderful and enjoyable read.”

*Perihelion* reviewer Carol Kean agrees. “Hoing and Hileman write historical fiction so believable, you'd swear the authors have been alive since before the Civil War. The prose is spare, poetic, and vivid. I'm amazed at the research that allows them to casually narrate so many everyday details from a life we no longer live.”

*The Midwest Review of Books* also states, “*A Killing Snow* is a superlative literary effort of historical fiction, related in a compelling style of prose ...”

*A Killing Snow* is the engrossing story of a woman’s grit and determination in overcoming both the intentional misdeeds of humans and the impersonal capriciousness of nature. It is now available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and most online retailers.