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# Thaw: A Memoir

[Diane Bush, Utah State University](#)

**Date of Award:**

12-2009

**Document Type:**

Thesis

**Degree Name:**

Master of Science (MS)

**Department:**

English

**Advisor/Chair:**

Jennifer Sinor

**Abstract**

This collection of creative nonfiction essays is a hybrid text of narratives located broadly within the genres of memoir, research history. Women's memoirs, including a number of non-traditional narratives, and an archival collection of photographs, provide exploration of and reflection on the emotional terrain of loss, and the ultimate desire for peace.

Ultimately, this work is a search for solace amidst emotional upheaval in childhood, after the deaths of my father, mother, first husband. Unable to sit still with my grief, I moved from the Midwest to pursue a career as a newspaper photographer and writer. My tragic story of the Donner party, trapped in the Sierra Nevada

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1846-47, connected me to Capt. Charles E. Davis, the first pers party's western route on the first transcontinental highway. Fi the collective memory of historical tragedy, my fascination tu by similar childhood trauma, who took to the road to find a p searched for ways to memorialize loved ones, I found peace v of grief.

### Recommended Citation

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