

August 2, 2019



Gangster In Our Midst—available at local bookstores, [Amazon](#), [Walmart](#) & [Barnes & Noble](#)
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Gangster Blog

Mason City Author Event

Southbridge Mall, Mason City, IA — Aug. 3

I'm privileged to be among the Iowa authors who will be signing books at Southbridge Mall, 100 S Federal Ave, in Mason City on Saturday, August 3rd, 10 am to 4 pm.

Other authors will include Karen Carr, KM Ryant Hutzell, Dan Grunwald, Bartenn Mills, Melissa Christopherson, Linda Betsinger McCann, and Robert Kerr.

Lake Country Booksellers

White Bear, MN — Aug. 9

Ma Barker, Alvin "Creepy" Karpis and Baby Face Nelson laid low in the cottages around White Bear and Bald Eagle Lakes. Mahtomedi had its speakeasy. A notorious dance club lies at another location.

Find me at the Friday Farmers Market in White Bear on August 9, 10-11:30 am, where I'll be signing copies of *Gangster in our Midst*, outside Lake Country Booksellers, 766 Washington Square.

You'll learn the true story of another gangster, Louie La Cava.

New Vendor Johnson County Historical Society, 860 Quarry Rd., Coralville, IA 52241, (319) 351-5738



"Three Fingers"

Bulletin Board

Current Projects (2):

I'm writing 2nd in a series of *Gangster in our Midst*—plus the screenplay.



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Two Brothers Passing in the Night

The state of Iowa voted to go “dry” three years before the United States Congress passed the 18th Amendment outlawing alcohol in 1919.

Sioux City never got the memo.

Initially, the city of 71,000 took on the name of “Little Chicago” for its burgeoning meat-packing industry, but the name was set in stone when the community welcomed mobsters like Alphonse Capone, the kingpin from Chicago.

Sioux City was an attractive location along Highway 20, the gangster-bootleg rout from Templeton, Iowa to Chicago.

Unbeknownst to Al, who often frequented Sioux City, residing just cross the Missouri River in Homer, Nebraska was his “long lost brother”.

Vincenzo “James” Capone, the first child born to Gabriel and Teresa Capone, had left his Brooklyn, New York home around age 16 (1908) to join the circus. He ended up in Homer, fourteen miles southwest of Sioux City. By the time he married Kathleen Winch, a Homer girl, he had legally changed his name to Richard J. Hart, in honor of his favorite cowboy film star William S. Hart. The couple had four sons. His expertise with the six-gun shooter landed him the job of Homer town marshal, then a federal Indian agent. A feared lawman, he became known as “Two Gun” Hart.

The two brothers never crossed paths in the Sioux City area.

Decades later at the federal income tax trial of brother Ralph “Bottles” Capone, Richard was finally outed as the “lost Capone brother” and forced to testify. Only then did he reveal to his family and to the public his true identity.

By then, Gabriel had died (1920), and brother Salvatore (Frank), too, was dead, killed in a Cicero, Ill election skirmish (1924).

Jackson Street Brewery, 607 5th Street, located in the heart of Sioux City’s Fourth Street Historic District, hosted my book signing event on Sunday, July 21st in celebration of the brewery’s fourth anniversary. It’s a favorite hangout for local historians.

One lady said several years ago for a school project her daughter had interviewed Richard Hart’s youngest son, Harry Hart, who died in Homer 2018 at age 92. He learned his father was a brother to Al Capone when the rest of the world did.



(above) Harry H. Hart, son of Richard J. “Two Gun” Hart, and nephew to Al Capone. (right) Richard Hart as a Nebraska lawman.

Photos: www.findagrave



Author Events

— **Sat., Aug 3, 10 am-4pm** — Mason City Author Event, Southbridge Mall, 100 S Federal Ave, Mason City, IA, (641) 423-6688

— **Fri., Aug. 9th, 10-11:30 am** — “Meet & Greet,” Lake Country Booksellers, 766 Washington Square, White Bear Lake, MN, 651-426-0918

— **Tues., Sept. 24, 6:30 pm** — “A Ray of Hope” (Iowa’s Oakdale Sanatorium), Clear Lake Public Library, 200 N. 4th St., Clear Lake, IA 641-357-6133

— **Fall 2019** — The Center, Corner of 8th and Kingwood Streets, Brainerd, MN, (218) 829-9345

Book Clubs

— **Beancounters**, Burlington, IA

— **Cicero Public Library**, 5225 West Cermak Rd., Cicero, Ill, (708) 652-8084

Book Festivals-Conferences

— **Sat., Aug 10, 9 am-3 pm** — Northwoods Arts & Book Festival, Hackensack, MN

— **Sat., Sept. 9, 8:30 am-4:30 pm** — WOW 10 Annual Writers Conference, Oak Knoll Luth Church, 600 Hopkins Crossroad, Minnetonka, MN

— **Oct 11-13** — St. Paul Art Crawl, 308 Prince St, St. Paul, MN, (651) 270-0563

— **Sept 20-Oct 6**, Iowa City Book Festival, 123 S Linn St., Iowa City, IA, (319) 356-5245

— **Sat., Nov. 17, 10 am-2 pm** — Sterling Lord Writers and Readers Festival, Burlington Public Library, (319) 753-1647

Pending...

— Date/Time: **TBD (new)** — Chicago History Museum, 1601 North Clark Street, Chicago, Ill, (312) 642-4600

— Fall/Winter, Time: **TBD** — Lake Time Brewery, 801 Main Ave, Clear Lake, IA, (641) 357-2040

— Date/Time: **TBD** — Coralville Public Library, 1401 5th St, Coralville, IA, (319) 248-1850

— Date/Time: **TBD** — Jefferson Public Library, 200 W Lincoln Way, Jefferson, IA, (515) 386-2835

— Date/Time: **TBD** — “Gangsters Hid in Small Towns, too”, Roseville Public Library-Shoreview, 4560 Victoria St. N., Shoreview, MN, (651) 724-6090

— Date/Time: **TBD** — “Autism at the turn of the Twentieth Century”, Mary Hanson Show, TPT Twin Cities PBS

— Date/Time: **TBD** — Musser Public Library, 408 East 2nd St., Muscatine, IA, (563) 263-3065

— Date/Time: **TBD** — Sawyer Co. Historical Society & Museum, County Highway B, Hayward, WI, (715) 634-8053

— Date/Time: **TBD** — James Kennedy Public Library, 320 1st Ave E, Dyersville, IA, (563) 875-8912

— Date/Time: **TBD** — Harrison County Welcome Ctr, 2931 Monroe Ave., Missouri Valley, Iowa, (712) 642-2114

— Date/time: **TBD** — Big Foot Inn, 11508 N US Highway 14, Harvard, IL, (815) 943-4740

— Date/time: **TBD** — Wapello County Historical Society, 210 W Main St., Ottumwa, IA, (641) 682-8676

— Date/time: **TBD** — Landmark Commons Retirement Community, 1400 Maxhelen Blvd., Waterloo, IA, (319) 296-7100