

March 26, 2020



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

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## *Gangster* Blog

### Coronavirus Stay-at-Home Lockdown

It's a pivotal time in our country. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, all of us need to follow the emergency protocols put in place by health officials to stay home to save lives. I remain positive that the books events (Page 2) will happen in June. Please remember to **confirm before leaving home** that an event is happening. I'll announce any updates on my website and author Facebook page.

### A Little Unfinished Business

Every author I know is busy during doing the stuff we normally can't find the time to do... I believe I have failed to aptly thank Gloria.

Thank you [Gloria VanDemmeltraadt](#) for helping with the second edit of *Gangster in Our Midst*. I met you soon after joining Women of Words (WOW) East author's group. When you offered to read my book, I had no idea what a busy lady you are! Following your suggestions, I published a new edition—and the mystery crime novel won a **2019 Notable 100 Indie Book Award** from Shelf Unbound book review magazine. What a pleasure to work with you. I fully trust your expertise.



### Not a Good Time in America to be Named Adolph

By the time Ernst Henry Gottlieb Bartels (my ancestor) emigrated from Schaumburg-Lippe, Germany to America in 1843, "His lump sum in cash had condensed to about 75 cents," wrote his eldest grandson in a memoir. What did Ernst do to survive in his new homeland? "His well-learned trade as cabinetmaker was surely a great help to him to do carpenter work and help build. This perhaps gave him a chance to earn a little and to get back on his feet financially," the grandson added.

(cont. p2)



'Three Fingers'

**COMING!**

**Sequel to  
Gangster in Our  
Midst:  
Summer 2020!**

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## ...Good Time to be Named Adolph (cont.)

Such was the case for countless immigrants who found they had to work 2-5 years as laborers before saving enough money to buy land, a mule, wagon, and supplies.

Most had hoped to homestead land (160 acres) from the government, but found eighty percent of the land had gone to speculators, cattlemen, miners, lumbermen and railroads years earlier.

Banks were in short supply, too. The first Bank of the United States was established in Philadelphia, PA in 1791. The bank, with branches in eight cities, conducted general commercial business as well as acting for the government. Not until the mid-1800s did private banks begin popping up across the Midwest.

Then came the Panic of 1819, which marked the first depression in America—perhaps when Americans first realized the importance of politics and government policy in their lives, according to one source. The depression lasted until 1821.

The Panic of 1857 lasted two years, which was followed by the Panic of 1873 lasting until 1878.

Two years before the Panic of 1893, C. B. Everett and a few others founded Citizen's Bank in Fairbank, Iowa, located at the northwest corner of East Main and Second streets, according to the *1976 Fairbank Times Bicentennial Newspaper*. Clarence was the son of F. J. Everett, one of the founders of Fairbank Township. His obituary states he was the first white child born in Fairbank.

Eventually, C. B. Everett became president of Citizen's Bank, and on May 24, 1897, the bank received a new charter as Fairbank State Bank. He remained president until his death in 1926.

The Wall Street Crash of 1929 ushered in the Great Depression which continued for a decade. The worst year came in 1933, when one in four Americans who wanted to work was unable to find a job.

In 1930, A.H. Nieman—who had begun as teller at Fairbank State Bank in 1914—became president and major stockholder. He died in 1958. Survivors included his wife Herma (Minton) Nieman, and one daughter Mary.

In a 2017 interview, Mary (Nieman) Bellis told me her father used the initials 'A.H' throughout his 45 years in banking. "It was not a good time in America to be named Adolph," she noted.

President A.H. Nieman perhaps knew the town's gangster, Louie La Cava, better than most in the area. Allegedly, Louie came into the bank every day he was in town...to count his money.



A. H. Nieman, president (1930-1958), Fairbank State Bank. Photos: Bob Bellis, and Howard Durham, Fairbank historian



## Author Events

(January--July, 2020)

### Writing Workshops:

— **Sat., June 6, 1 pm,**  
(Author Workshop: Writing a Memoir, We Are Eight),  
Bremer County Historical Society, 402 W. Bremer Ave,  
Waverly, IA, 319-352-1309

### Author Talks/Book Signings

— **Mon., June 8, noon/5:45 pm,**  
(Author Talk: Gangster in Our Midst) Rotary Club/Lions Club, Decades, 25 South Frederick, Oelwein, IA,  
319-504-1464

— **Sat., June 20, 1 pm,**  
(Book Signing: Gangster in Our Midst) Sweet Reads Books and Candy, LLC 407 North Main St., Austin, MN, 507-396-8660

— **Sat., June 26, 5-9 pm,**  
(Book Signing: Gangster in Our Midst) Friday Night History Cruz, Paperbacks Plus Bookstore, 2539 7th Ave E, No. St. Paul, MN, (651) 770-0384

— **Thurs., July 16th, 6:30pm,** (Author Talk: Gangster in Our Midst) Stuart Public Library, 119 E Front Street, Stuart, IA, 515-523-1455