

Nov. 9, 2021



Gangster In Our Midst—available at local bookstores, [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com), [Walmart](https://www.walmart.com) & [Barnes & Noble](https://www.barnesandnoble.com)

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Gangster Blog

The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse (Pre-orders)

Most of you know that during Covid-19, I wrote and published Book Two in the Gangster Series, *The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse*, Murder on the Prairie. I invite you to **read a sample on**

page 2. The historical crime novel is still only available by pre-order, \$16.95 + tax, S&H (\$23 total). Contact me for my address to mail a check. Only one Author Talk (below) is scheduled for Nov.-Dec. 2021: Parkview Assisted Living in Fairbank on Dec. 4. 6 pm.



www.BettyBrandtPassick.com



**THE BLACK BAG
OF DR. WILTSE,
Murder on The
Prairie**

**\$16.95 + tax,
S&H (\$23 total)**

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Two Towns — A Shared History



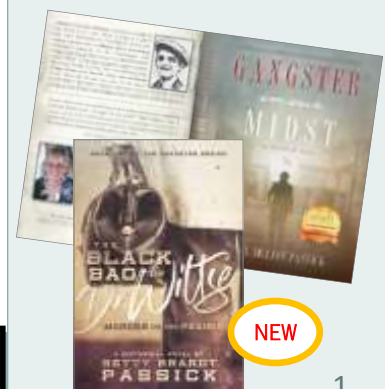
**Parkview Assisted Living
Sat., Dec. 4 (6 pm)**

114 Forest Street, Fairbank, IA



**Fairbank Native
Betty Brandt Passick**

**Book Two
-Gangster Series-**



(Sample) The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse (2021)

(takes place in
Bremer, Buchanan,
Clayton, and
Delaware Counties,
Iowa)

Book Description:

Dr. Wiltse leaves behind
his beloved Canada in
the 1850s with his fam-
ily to establish new
roots in the Midwest.

Only his wife Phebe knows of his attraction to murder... His well-oiled
black canvas bag simply allows him into places where others may not
go. Still, his fellow French Canadians called him *Guérisseur*, Healer. Per-
haps, the Canadian is also running from entanglements of the past.

The strawberry moon disappeared behind a cloud, so once more I
was plunged into a blackness that enshrouded my senses like a thick
blanket. A flick of the whip above the *bœufs*' heads, and the wagon
crept up the hillside to a stable smelling of animals and last fall's
hay.

I stepped from my perch seat and pulled open the bulky double
doors. Inside, I searched for a lantern. A splinter of a moonbeam
reflected off a glass chimney on a shelf. I withdrew a match from a
tin box beside it, struck the match on the shelf, raised the chimney,
and held the flame to the wick. Suddenly, the small stable lit up.

A shorthorn in a pen rose to her feet and began lowing, awakening
her spring calf. A mule turned his head in my direction and *brayé*.
Above, chickens fluttered from a perch, and what I perceived to be a
feral cat scampered out of sight at my feet.

I released the oxen from the thick wooden yoke and metal arcs and
directed them into a stall. Using a pitchfork thrust into a mound of
hay nearby, I transferred forkfuls to their trough, then to a vacant
stall to make a bed for Phebe and me and our children. From the
wagon, I carried blankets, a small chest of *vêtements* and personal
items, my *accordéon*, and black bag.

Preparing to extinguish the light, I raised the lantern once more to
observe the stable filled with tools, hay, and animals. *Uri has done
well for himself. I only hope to do as well in Amérique*, I thought.

I reached for the latch, noticing a wide blotch the size of a man's
palm. I sniffed for the indubitable metallic *odeur* of fresh blood. The
streak ran along the frame to the floor; shards of discolored hay lay
at my boots. Another flash of the lantern around the space revealed a
long-handled wooden hatchet leaning against an exterior wall. Lift-
ing it to the light, similar blotches emerged on the steel head, wood-
en shoulder, and belly of the hatchet. This had been the tool of the
crime. *What violent thing had happened in this stable?*



Book launch (hybrid) of *The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse, Murder on the prairie*, at the Denver Public Library, Denver, Iowa, Oct. 12.

Author Events (Nov.—Dec.)

Hybrid: on-line/Zoom*

— **Sat., Nov. 13, 10-4**

(book signing), Minn.

Author's Fair, Lowell
Inn, 102 2nd St. N, Stillwa-
ter, MN

— **Sat., Dec. 4, 1-4,**

“Denver’s Old Fashioned
Christmas” (Book Signing),
Denver Public Library/City
Center, 100 Washington
St., Denver, IA

— **Sat., Dec. 4, 6 pm**

(Book Launch), Parkview
Assisted Living, 114 Forest
Street, Fairbank, IA

— **Thurs., Dec. 9, 5-9**

pm (book signing),
“Holiday Market,” The
Woman’s Club of Minne-
apolis, 410 Oak Grove St.,
Mpls, MN

Writing Seminars

-- **Sept. 8-11, 2022**, Bou-
chercon--Land of 10,000
Crimes (World Mystery
Convention), Mpls, MN

Book Clubs

-- (Pending) Kaylene’s
Book Club