

Nov. 25, 2022



**Gangster Series**—available through: [Amazon](#),  
[Indie Book Stores](#)  
**Customer Reviews:** [Amazon Author](#), [Goodreads](#)  
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## Gangster Blog



### Twin Cities Book Launch - The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse



Paperback Plus Book Store  
No. St. Paul, MN  
October 5



Once Upon a Crime  
Minneapolis, MN  
October 8



Oakdale Public Library  
Oakdale, MN  
October 24

### THE BLACK BAG OF DR. WILTSE Murder on the Prairie (2021)

Available:

- [Amazon.com](#)
- [Indie Book](#)

### 12 Months: 45 Book Events (and a Book Award)!

**The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse, Murder on the Prairie** launched November 24, 2021.

If the past 12 months were a t-shirt, this is what it would look like.

The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse has now won a

### BOOK AWARD

([more info coming soon!](#))

Grateful for all the support I've received. **Thank you!**



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## The Tragic Death of Dr. Alexander Wiltse (Christmas 1876)

**The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse, Murder on the Prairie (2021)** tells the story of Dr. Alexander Wiltse who immigrates from his beloved home in Ontario, Canada, with his wife Phebe and their three young children, to reestablish roots in the new state of Iowa in America.

They settled in Strawberry Point. Immigrants, Indians, prairie banditti, and chicken thieves become Dr. Wiltse's patients.

In November 1876, he has reached age fifty-four – unaware that within 5 days' time, he will be dead.

Without a physical record of his final hours for treatment of bronchial pneumonia, we are left to examine medical books from the era to fully grasp the care he likely received.

Perhaps Dr. Wiltse's day began at sunrise on the morning of November 3rd, similar to most days of the week; after dressing and eating he departs his home to speak with his hired man about farming matters. Winter was approaching...were there preparation yet to be made?

He then sets off in what has become his iconic black carriage hitched to a black mare to begin a round of sick calls that will take him to places that require crisscrossing the prairie and traversing deep into marshes only accessible by foot. The weather shifts from light snow to hail and then to rain. Late afternoon he comes home and chooses to remain in his damp attire while laboring at his desk. After dinner, he retires to bed early.

The next day brings a sore throat. Despite feeling unwell, Dr. Wiltse departs for another full day of doctoring. As the hours pass, his voice grows hoarse. In the evening, once more he retires to bed early. He awakens in terrible discomfort at around two in the morning.

On day three Dr. Wiltse experiences greater difficulty breathing. Phebe summons Dr. Albert Boomer, a trusted friend and physician of thirty years. He bleeds his patient to reduce inflammation, extracting a half-pint of blood.

Late afternoon Dr. Boomer returns and gives Dr. Wiltse a mixture of molasses, butter, and vinegar to soothe his throat. The mixture is difficult to swallow, causing the patient to convulse and nearly suffocate.

On the fourth day, Dr. Boomer produces a blister on Dr. Wiltse's throat in an attempt to balance the fluids in his body.

Early morning on November 7th Dr. Boomer returns and administers an enema. When Dr. Wiltse does not improve, he is bled again. Dr. Boomer records in his notebook that a total of thirty-two ounces of blood was extracted during this bleeding.

An hour later, seeing no improvement, an emetic is administered to induce vomiting. Dr. Wiltse's condition worsens, and at eight at night more blisters and cataplasms are applied, this time to his feet and legs. From his bedside, Dr. Boomer — and Dr. Wiltse's family — look on as Dr. Wiltse's labored breathing diminishes, until finally he dies. The approach of Christmas surely made the loss feel even more tragic.



## Author Events

### FALL 2022

— **Sat/Sun, Nov. 26-27** (10-6, 10-4), Booksigning, 20th Annual GSR Fine Arts Festival, Mayo Clinic Health Center Event Ctr., 1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, MN

### 2023

— **Jan/Feb, time TBD**, "Writing a Memoir," Oakdale Library, 1010 Heron Ave North, Oakdale, MN

— **Date/Time TBD**, "The Legacy of an Iowa Pioneer Physician," United Methodist Church, 202 W Mission St, Strawberry Point

— **Date, time TBD**, Elkader Public Library, 130 N Main St, Elkader, IA


— **Date, time TBD**, "Writing a Memoir," Minneapolis Public Library, Minneapolis, MN

— **Mar. 8, 5:30 pm**, "Beginning Again," WVHS Honor Society induction dinner, Grumpy's Bar & Event Center, 209 Main St., Readlyn, IA

## This 'n That...

### Sales in Germany!

I find it's a good thing to visit Google.com periodically, type in my name and ISBN numbers, and search...just to see what pops up on the screen.

Who is  Schweitzer? I said outloud to myself recently.

Turned out, this company is affiliated with the e-book aggregator in Germany affiliated with IngramSpark— so **Gangster in Our Midst** (e-book) is newly available in Germany through Schweitzer.



### Sterling Lord Writers and Readers Festival

**Sterling Lord  
Readers & Writers  
Festival**  
Betty Brandt Passick  
2022 Author

**Book sales, Writing tips &  
Experiences.**

**Sat., November 19  
10AM-2PM**

**Burlington Public Library**  
210 Court St.  
Burlington, IA  
(319) 753-1647  
[www.burlington.lib.ia.us](http://www.burlington.lib.ia.us)



The annual Sterling Lord Writers and Readers Festival was a teaching event this year (held on Saturdays in November). Those who stopped by my table were provided a handout: What inspired a Gangster Series? If you would like a copy, contact me!

Fellow authors included: **Gary Chapman, Russ Fry, Beth Howard, Misty Urban, and Mike Bayles.**

### Minnesota Author's Book Club

I'm looking forward to joining the Minnesota Author's Book Club for their final group meeting after reading book two in the Gangster Series, **The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse, Murder on the Prairie.**

Typically, I'm asked to provide background to the story involving characters, plots and subplots — plus, to answer any other lingering questions.

**NOTE: 15% discount on books sold to book clubs.**



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