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Gangster Series—available through: [Amazon](#),
[Indie Book Stores](#)

Customer Reviews: [Amazon Author](#), [Goodreads](#)

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Gangster Blog

Christmas Fan Letter (to YOU)

I hope this blog finds you in good health and spirits! Reflecting on the past year, I find I'm overcome with gratitude. I believe I have perhaps **the BEST FANS of any author anywhere**. This past year, you've shown up at 45 book events! You've asked questions at author talks and writing workshops, purchased books, played a role in picking one of my novels to read at a book club, sent me encouraging words...and a few of you even provided me with a roof over my head during book tours (Priscilla & Verla, a heartfelt "thank you" to you). I'm grateful for bookstore managers and library directors too, who worked with me to bundle multiple stops for tours. **Thank you — one and all.**

My second novel in the gangster series, *The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse*, *Murder on the Prairie* (2021), won a **2022 Top Notable Indie Book Award** from *Shelf Unbound* magazine, published in Waukesha, WI. Entries are limited to independently (indie) published books, including those from small presses, e-book publishers, and self-published authors. The editors received over 500 entries from across the United States, Canada, and England. I invite you to read the list of winners ([link](#)), and I hope it warms you knowing the important role you've played in support of this author. **Thank you.**

I am a member of several mystery crime writers' organizations, and a highlight in September was receiving an invitation to participate as a panel member in the **Bouchercon World Mystery Convention** in Minneapolis, MN. Annually (for over 50 years) readers, writers, publishers, editors, agents, booksellers and other lovers of crime fiction have gathered for a 4-day weekend of education, entertainment, and fun. The 2022 event was sponsored by the national organization **Sisters in Crime** and **Once Upon a Crime** bookstore in Minneapolis. What a fabulous opportunity to rub shoulders with world renowned authors, and readers alike. Your ongoing support helped bring me to this moment in my writing career. **Thank you!**



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The Rigors of a Marriage (behind the scenes)

When I looked for places to encompass secondary mystery and intrigue in writing *The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse, Murder on the Prairie* (2021), organic situations seemed to be in the relationship between Dr. Alexander Wiltse and his wife Phebe.

Wiltse family history is well documented. From church records I learned that Alex Wiltse and Phebe Wiltse shared the same surname when they married in 1844 in Johnstown, Canada West. They likely grew up in Wiltsetown, named after a shared ancestor who founded the village. At the time of their nuptials, Alex was twenty years old and Phebe about sixteen. Though marrying at such a young age was commonplace in the era, the practice carried certain built-in stresses and strains for a young couple.

Their first child Vidella arrived in 1849. Charles was born in 1850, and Edwin in 1851. The family of five immigrated from Canada to Colesburg, Iowa around 1854. Making such an arduous journey by sea and by land with three children under the age of five?

Dr. Wiltse quickly set about establishing himself as a physician; his clients were fellow immigrants, Indians, and prairie banditti. He spent long days attending to the sick and injured, crisscrossing the Iowa prairies and back slews of the Turkey River. In 1856 he found himself in the center of a heinous murder, then authorities seek him out to help solve mysterious deaths in the region. A couple years later the family relocated to Strawberry Point, where Phebe largely became the architect of building their future in America. Does she covertly resent that her husband is absent from home so much of the time?

In 1860 Phebe gave birth to her fourth child, Lucetta. Civil War in America broke out in 1861 — the same year twin daughters were born, Sophia and Annetta; Annetta died a day later. Any couple who has lost a child knows the agony of such a loss, even without the secret Alex carries.

The war lasts four long years. Alex is plagued with doubts about his dream of coming to America to make a better life for himself and his family. Phebe distrusts some of her decisions, as well.

Book Three—Gangster Series (Beta Readers)

I'll begin writing book three in the Gangster Series in January 2023. Looking for Beta Readers! Send me a note if interested.



Writing Book 3
Gangster Series
(winter 2022-23)



Interested in being a Beta Reader?

- ☒ **Job Description:** Beta Readers are the first to read chapters of a new manuscript as they are written, for the purpose of providing feedback to the author (details provided).
- ☒ **Qualifications:** Love to read books.
- ☒ **Compensation:** One (1) copy of the published book.

Contact: bbpassick@comcast.net

Author Events

2023

More are coming!

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

— **Date/Time TBD**, “The
Legacy of an Iowa Pioneer Phy-
sician,” United Methodist
Church, 202 W Mission St,
Strawberry Point

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

— **Feb. 1-28**, Virtual Book
Festival, Pages Promotions
Indie Reads & Book Festivals

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

— **Fri./Sat, June 16-17**,
Booksigning, “Winthrop Days,”
Winthrop, IA