

Mar. 15, 2024



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

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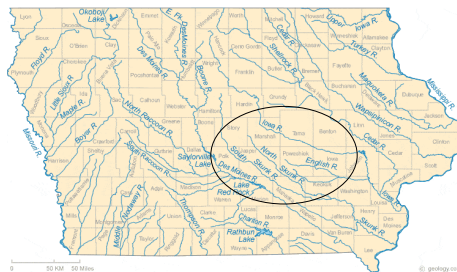
## Gangster Blog

### English Valleys (SE Iowa) —Book Tour

Plans are underway for a “**Gangster(s) in Our Midst: The Untold Story**” book tour of southeastern Iowa around the North, South and Middle English Rivers.

Scheduled thus far:

- **Thurs, Apr. 18, 5:30 pm**, Muscatine Art Center, Muscatine
- **Sun, April 21, 2 pm**, English Valleys History Center, North English.



### Mother's Day 2024:

#### “The Life of Mrs. Dr. Alexander Wiltse”

The general public is invited to attend a sixty-minutes Mother's Day program, “**The Life of Mrs. Dr. Alexander Wiltse**,” at three Iowa venues. Attendees are encouraged to dress in period piece costume from the pioneer era and/or bring a family heirloom or artifact to share. Refreshments follow the presentation. Reservations requested.

Phebe Wiltse, wife of Dr. Alexander Wiltse, faced harrowing challenges during the long days her husband was away caring for the medical needs of hordes of immigrants arriving weekly in northeast Iowa. The talk is based on the historical crime novel, *The Black Bag* of Dr.

Wiltse, *Murder on the Prairie* (2021). The 245 page book won a 2022 Notable Indie Book Award.

- Mon, May 6, 2 pm, Fairbank Public Library, 212 E Main St, RSVN: Angela Berg, 319-635-2487
- Mon, May 6, 7 pm, Delhi Public Library, 311 Franklin St, RSVN: Susan Button, 563-922-2037
- Tues, May 7, 11:15 am, Strawberry Point Public Library/Wilder Museum, 401 Commercial, RSVN: Patty Lincoln, 563-933-4340.



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### Gangster Series



2021

2017

**Book #3: 2024!**

## Back Story: Dr. C. C. Sharp (Obituary)



Dr. Christopher C. Sharp  
(1821-1898)

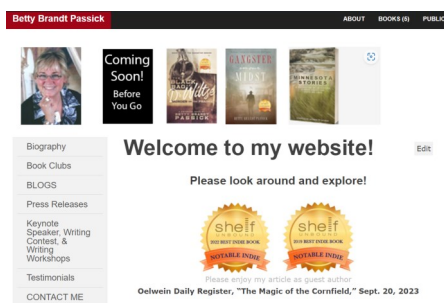
On the 10th of March 1856, murder flashed its red hand in Delhi. It was the result of professional jealousy between physicians and the ungovernable passions growing out of it. Drs. C. C. Sharp and Joshua F. Stout were practicing physicians of Delhi. A condition of acrimonious bitterness existed between them, especially on the part of Sharp, who apparently cherished a vindictive animosity against his professional rival, which culminated in a fatal assault on the 10th. Dr. Sharp entered the store of Edmund Davis, where Dr. Stout was sitting quietly, and, after some very abusive language addressed to his rival, stabbed him twice in the chest with a dirk knife. Stout died on the 16th from the effects of his wounds.

**Q.** Does the obituary of Dr. C. C. Sharp (The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse) mention that he was the convicted murderer of Dr. Joshua Stout in Delhi, Iowa in 1856?

**A.** Dr. Sharp's obituary appeared in multiple newspapers, i.e., the Indianapolis Journal, Kansas City Journal, New York Times, and the Times Washington — all without mention of the murder. After being sentenced to ten years of hard labor at the Iowa State territorial penitentiary at Fort Madison, he managed to escape to Tennessee. Officials caught and sent him back to Iowa; his sentence was eventually commuted by Iowa Governor James W. Grimes. Thereafter, he seemingly turned his life around for the good of society.

(New York Times) *Dr. Christopher C. Sharp, an old physician of the Western States, died on Saturday at his residence, 412 Amsterdam Avenue. Dr. Sharp was seventy-seven years old, and was born in Albany. He studied medicine in Cincinnati and paid special attention to electric therapeutics. He lived several years in Lexington, KY., and was physician to the eldest son of Henry Clay, who presented him his father's portfolio. Dr. Sharp fitted up a home for invalids in Indianapolis and was a member of the Hendricks Club in that city. He also invented several electric appliances, some of which bear his name. Five years ago his health failed, and he came to live in New York, where his son lives. Death was caused by bronchial pneumonia. The funeral will take place at 2 o'clock this afternoon at the residence of his stepdaughter, Mrs. Fabius M. Clarke, 154 West Eighty-second*

## Website (Update)



I am pleased to announce that my novels can now be purchased directly through my website,  
[www.BettyBrandtPassick.com](http://www.BettyBrandtPassick.com).

**Check out the new look!**

## Author Events

### 2024

#### — **Deadline: March 15, 2nd Annual Wapsie Writing Contest**

— **Thurs, Apr. 18, 5:30 pm**, Muscatine Art Center, 1314 Mulberry Ave. Muscatine, IA

— **Sat, Apr. 20, 10- 3 pm**, Mystery and Crime Book Fair, St. Michael City Hall, 1800 Town Center Dr, St., Michaels, MN

— **Sun, April 21, 2 pm**, English Valleys History Center, 108 N Main St., North English, IA

— **Thurs, May 16, 4 pm**, Wells Public Library, 36 Main St N, Wells, MN

— **Thurs, May 16, 6:30 pm**, Muir Public Library, 36 Main St N, Winnebago, MN

— **Thurs-Sat, June 13-15**, Wild Deadwood Reads Book Fair, Lodge at Deadwood, Deadwood, SD

— **Sat, June 22, 9-3**, Dorset Books & Candy Shack Festival, 20471 State 226, Dorset, MN

— **Mon-Fri, Aug. 28-Sept. 1**, Bouchercon Nashville 2024, Gaylord Opryland Resort, Nashville, TN

— **Thurs, Sept/Oct, 6:30 pm**, Rosemount Area Arts Council/Robert Trail Library, 14395 S. Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN

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