



The Milwaukee Mafia: Mobsters in the Heartland

By Gavin Schmitt

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Milwaukee's Sicilian underworld is something few people speak about in polite company, and even fewer people speak about with any authority. Everyone in Milwaukee has a friend of a friend who knows something, but they only have one piece of a giant puzzle. The secret society known as the Milwaukee Mafia has done an excellent job of keeping its murders, members and mishaps out of books. Until now.

From the time Vito Guardalabene arrived from Italy in the early 1900s, until the days the Mob controlled the Teamsters union, Milwaukee was a city of murder and mayhem. Gavin Schmitt relies on previously unseen police reports, FBI investigative notes, coroner's records, newspaper articles, family lore and more to bring to light an era of Milwaukee's history that has been largely undocumented and shrouded in myth. No stone is left unturned, no body is left buried.

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Editorial Review

Review

Milwaukee has kept its murders and mishaps out of books. Until now.

From Vito Guardalabene's arrival from Italy until the days of controlling the Teamsters union and paying off public officials, Milwaukee was a city of Bullets, Blood and Beer. *The Milwaukee Mafia* relies on previously unseen police reports, FBI investigative notes, coroner's records, newspaper articles, family lore and more to bring to light an era of Milwaukee's history that has been largely undocumented and shrouded in myth. This is not only a story of organized crime. It is also about immigration, the American Dream, urban planning, law enforcement, and politics, and how all these elements come together to form a solid narrative.

About the Author

Gavin Schmitt has been interviewed on radio, newspaper and the Internet for his expertise on organized crime. He has researched Wisconsin's darker history for decades and has been published in a variety of magazines including "Informer" and "HorrorHound". Mr. Schmitt lives in Neenah, Wisconsin.

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