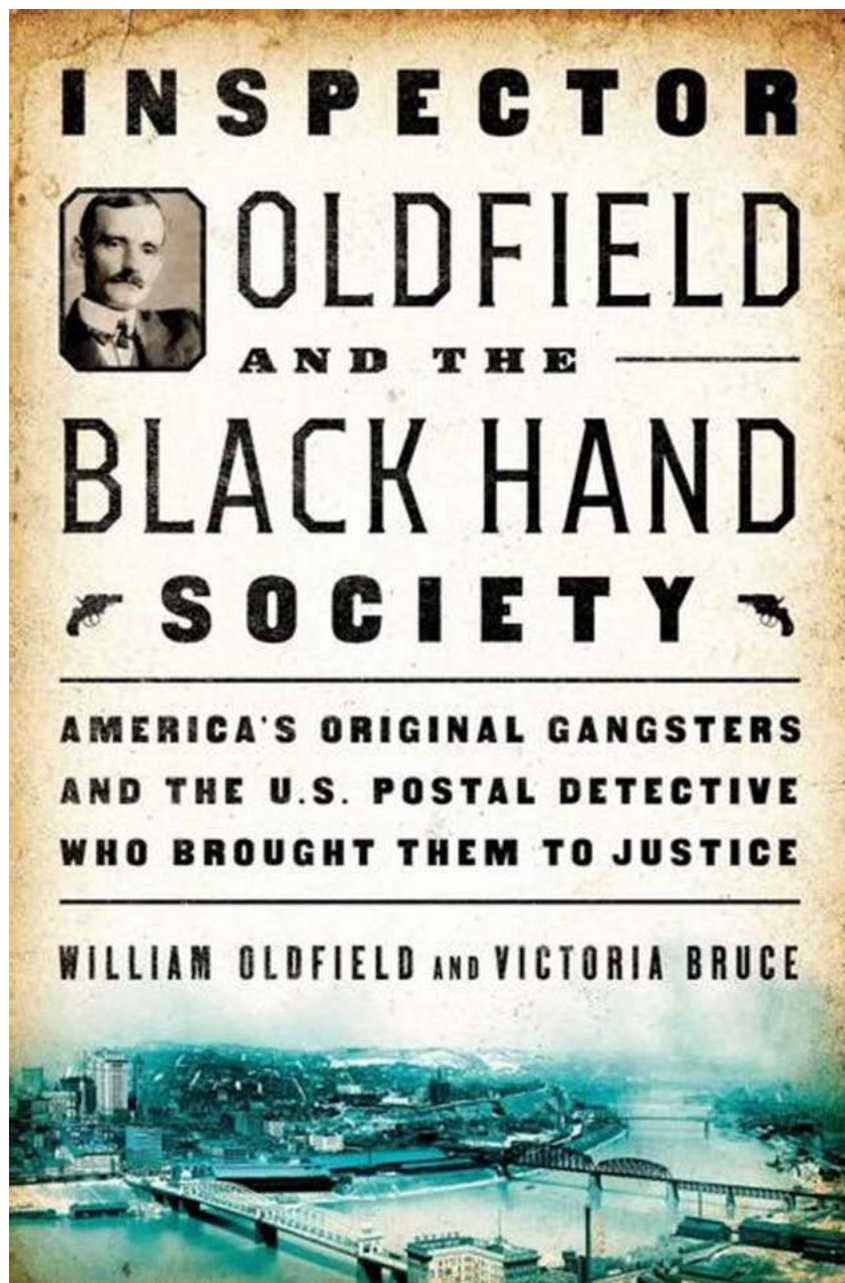


# Inspector Oldfield And The Black Hand Society - Unveiling the Dark Underworld of Crime

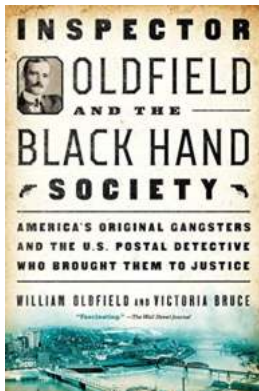


When we think of crime syndicates, our minds are often filled with images from movies and TV shows. However, the reality of these criminal organizations was

far more terrifying and dangerous, especially during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. One such infamous society that struck fear into the hearts of many was the Black Hand Society, and their encounters with the relentless Inspector Oldfield are the stuff of legend.

## The Birth of the Black Hand Society

The Black Hand Society, also known as "La Mano Nera," was an Italian-American criminal organization that operated primarily in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The society was notorious for its use of violence, extortion, kidnapping, and murder to control and intimidate its victims.



### Inspector Oldfield and the Black Hand Society: America's Original Gangsters and the U.S. Postal Detective Who Brought Them to Justice

by William Oldfield (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

- Language : English
- File size : 46171 KB
- Text-to-Speech : Enabled
- Screen Reader : Supported
- Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
- X-Ray : Enabled
- Word Wise : Enabled
- Print length : 337 pages



Members of the Black Hand Society targeted Italian immigrants who were considered to be wealthy or prosperous, with the aim of extorting money from them. The victims would typically receive a threatening letter decorated with the

black hand symbol, hence the name of the society. Failure to comply with their demands often resulted in severe consequences for the victims and their families.

## **Enter Inspector Frank Oldfield**

Inspector Frank Oldfield, an accomplished detective from the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, was assigned to investigate the activities of the Black Hand Society. Armed with sharp intellect, determination, and an unwavering commitment to justice, Inspector Oldfield delved deep into the dark underworld of crime to bring down this notorious criminal organization.

Oldfield's investigations took him on a thrilling rollercoaster ride as he gathered intelligence, tracked down leads, and infiltrated the inner workings of the Black Hand Society. His cat-and-mouse game with the members of the society kept the nation on edge and showcased his unparalleled courage and resourcefulness.

## **Unveiling the Dark Secrets**

Inspector Oldfield's relentless pursuit of justice resulted in numerous breakthroughs in the fight against the Black Hand Society. Through his investigations, he discovered hidden caches of weapons and illicit funds, cracked secret codes used by the society, and obtained invaluable testimonies from former members turned informants.

One of the most significant breakthroughs in Inspector Oldfield's quest for justice was the identification and capture of the notorious Black Hand leader, Antonio "Tony" Esposito. Esposito, known for his brutality and cunning, had evaded authorities for years. However, Inspector Oldfield's tireless efforts eventually led to Esposito's arrest, striking a blow to the heart of the Black Hand Society.

## **The Legacy of Inspector Oldfield**

Inspector Frank Oldfield's relentless pursuit of justice earned him a reputation as one of the finest detectives of his time. His groundbreaking investigations into the Black Hand Society not only dismantled the organization but also paved the way for future efforts in combating organized crime.

Oldfield's work shed light on the inner workings of criminal organizations and highlighted the need for stronger legislation and law enforcement agencies to tackle these threats to society. His dedication to justice and unwavering pursuit of those who sought to exploit and terrorize communities left a lasting impact on the fight against organized crime in the United States.

## **The End of an Era**

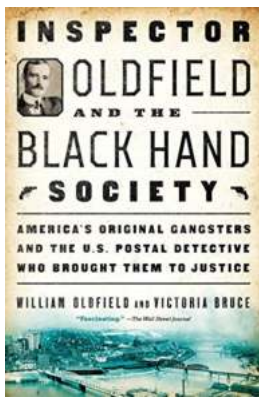
The heyday of the Black Hand Society eventually came to an end as the forces of justice closed in on its members. Thanks to the efforts of Inspector Oldfield and his counterparts, the society's grip on the Italian-American community loosened, eventually leading to its demise.

However, the haunting legacy of the Black Hand Society serves as a chilling reminder of the dark underbelly of society and the ever-present need for vigilance against organized crime. Inspector Oldfield's relentless pursuit of justice stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of those who fight to uphold the law and protect the innocent.

Inspector Frank Oldfield's relentless pursuit of the Black Hand Society and his unrivaled commitment to justice have left an indelible mark on the history of crimefighting. His adventures and triumphs inspire and entertain, unravelling the mysteries of the dark underworld of crime.

As we reflect on the courage and resilience displayed by Inspector Oldfield, we must remember that the fight against organized crime is an ongoing battle. His

tireless efforts remind us that there are heroes among us, dedicated to protecting our communities and ensuring a safer future for all.



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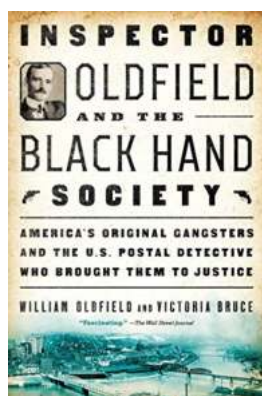
The “fascinating...great-grandson’s account” (The Wall Street Journal) of the US postal inspector who brought to justice the deadly Black Hand is “unputdownable” (Library Journal, starred review).

Before the emergence of prohibition-era gangsters like Al Capone and Lucky Luciano, there was the Black Hand: an early twentieth-century Sicilian-American crime ring that preyed on immigrants from the old country. In those days, the FBI was in its infancy, and local law enforcement were clueless against the dangers. Terrorized victims rarely spoke out, and the criminals ruled with terror—until Inspector Frank Oldfield came along.

In 1899, Oldfield became America’s 156th Post Office Inspector—joining the ranks of the most powerful federal law enforcement agents in the country. Based

in Columbus, Ohio, the unconventional Oldfield brilliantly took down train robbers, murderers, and embezzlers from Ohio to New York to Maryland. Oldfield was finally able to penetrate the dreaded Black Hand when a tip-off put him onto the most epic investigation of his career, culminating in the 1909 capture of sixteen mafiosos in a case that spanned four states, two continents—and ended in the first international organized crime conviction in the country.

Hidden away by the Oldfield family for one hundred years and covered-up by rival factions in the early 20th century Post Office Department, this incredible true story out of America's turn-of-the-century heartland will captivate all lovers of history and true crime. "I tip my hat to Inspector Oldfield. He was way ahead of his time and his efforts are magnificently relived in this book" (Daniel L. Mihalko, former Postal Inspector in Charge, Congressional & Public Affairs).



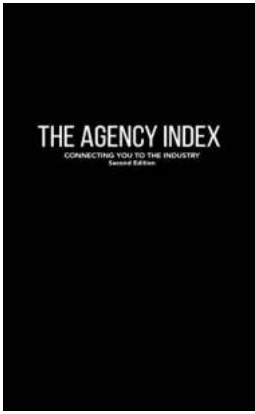
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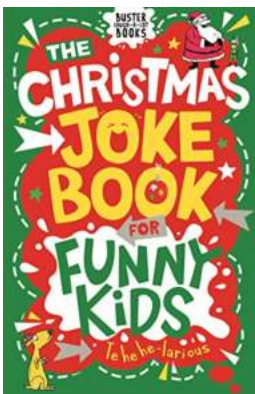
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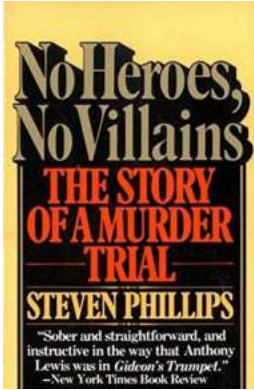
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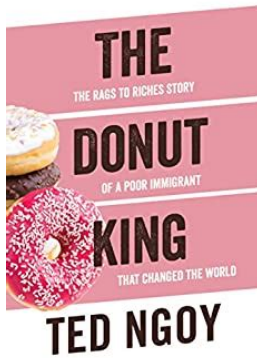
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