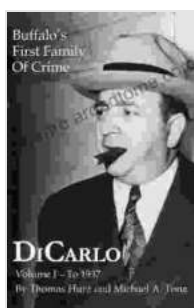


# The Notorious Buffalo Family of Crime: A Gripping Tale of Power, Corruption, and Violence

In the annals of American organized crime, few families have cast as long a shadow as the Buffalo Crime Family. Operating for over a century in the heart of Western New York, this notorious organization has been a breeding ground for some of the most ruthless and influential mobsters in the country. From its humble beginnings as a street gang to its reign as a powerful force in gambling, racketeering, and drug trafficking, the Buffalo Family of Crime has left an enduring mark on the city's history.



## DiCarlo: Buffalo's First Family of Crime - Vol. I

by Thomas Hunt

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3794 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 486 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## Origins: The Street Gang Era

The roots of the Buffalo Crime Family can be traced back to the early 1900s, when Italian immigrants began to settle in the city's Lower West

Side neighborhood. As these new arrivals struggled to make a living, some turned to petty crime and gang activity. One such gang was the Black Hand, led by a young man named Stefano Magaddino.

Magaddino's Black Hand was known for its use of extortion and violence, terrorizing local businesses and residents. However, it was not until the 1920s that the organization began to rise to prominence. With the advent of Prohibition, the Black Hand saw an opportunity to profit from the illegal liquor trade, establishing itself as a major player in the city's burgeoning bootlegging industry.

### **The Bellanca and Genovese Era**

In 1928, Magaddino was sent to prison, leaving a vacuum in the leadership of the Black Hand. This vacuum was quickly filled by Frank Bellanca, a ruthless and ambitious gangster who had previously worked with the New York City-based Morello Crime Family. Under Bellanca's leadership, the Black Hand expanded its operations into new territories, including loansharking and gambling.

Bellanca's reign did not last long, however. In 1931, he was murdered by his own brother-in-law, Vito Genovese. Genovese, a rising star in the New York City underworld, saw an opportunity to take over the Buffalo organization and use it as a base of operations for his own expanding criminal empire. Genovese quickly consolidated his power, eliminating any potential rivals and establishing a strict code of silence among his followers.

### **The Magaddino Era**

In 1957, Genovese was arrested and convicted of murder, leaving the Buffalo Family without a leader once again. This time, it was Stefano Magaddino who stepped up to fill the void. Released from prison after serving a reduced sentence, Magaddino had been quietly waiting for his chance to regain control of the organization he had helped to create.

Magaddino's return marked a new era for the Buffalo Family. Under his leadership, the organization expanded its influence into legitimate businesses, such as waste disposal and construction, and established close ties with powerful political figures. Magaddino also implemented a strict hierarchical structure, with various "crews" operating under the direct control of the family leadership.

### **The Ruso and Ciminelli Era**

Magaddino died of natural causes in 1974, leaving behind a legacy of fear and respect. His death sparked a brief power struggle, but it was ultimately Joseph Ruso who emerged as the new boss of the Buffalo Family. Ruso, known for his cautious and conservative approach, maintained the organization's status quo and avoided unnecessary conflicts.

In 1988, Ruso was convicted of racketeering and sentenced to 15 years in prison. With Ruso behind bars, Samuel Ciminelli became the acting boss of the family. Ciminelli, a longtime associate of Magaddino, had previously served as the underboss of the organization. He continued Ruso's policy of maintaining a low profile and avoided any major disruptions to the family's operations.

### **The FBI Investigation and Decline**

Throughout the 1990s, the FBI intensified its investigation into the Buffalo Crime Family. The organization's activities were documented through wiretaps, surveillance, and informants. In 1998, a major indictment was handed down, charging Ciminelli and several other high-ranking members of the family with racketeering, extortion, and drug trafficking.

Ciminelli and his co-defendants were convicted and sentenced to lengthy prison terms. The FBI investigation had dealt a significant blow to the Buffalo Crime Family, and the organization has never fully recovered. Today, it remains a shadow of its former self, operating on a much smaller scale and with far less influence than in its heyday.

## **Legacy**

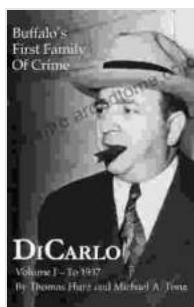
The Buffalo Crime Family has left an enduring mark on the city of Buffalo. Its members have been involved in some of the most notorious crimes in the city's history, including murders, kidnappings, and bombings. The organization has also had a corrupting influence on local politics and businesses, leaving a legacy of fear and mistrust.

However, the Buffalo Crime Family has also been a part of the fabric of the city. Its members have provided employment and protection to some residents, and they have been known to give back to the community through charitable donations. This duality has made the family a complex and controversial subject in Buffalo's history.

## **Book Recommendation**

For those interested in delving deeper into the fascinating and often chilling history of the Buffalo Crime Family, I highly recommend the book "Buffalo

First Family of Crime" by James M.J. Sweeney. This comprehensive and well-researched work provides an in-depth look at the organization's origins, operations, and key figures. Sweeney's vivid storytelling and meticulous attention to detail bring the world of the Buffalo Family to life, offering a gripping tale of power, corruption, and violence.



## DiCarlo: Buffalo's First Family of Crime - Vol. I

by Thomas Hunt

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3794 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 486 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## QuickBooks 2024 In Depth: Your Essential Guide to Accounting Mastery

About the Book Are you ready to elevate your accounting skills and unlock the full potential of QuickBooks 2024? Look no further than "QuickBooks 2024 In Depth," the...



## Unlocking the Mysteries of Primitive Economies: A Journey into 'Economics in Primitive Communities'

Prepare to embark on an extraordinary intellectual adventure as we delve into the captivating realm of primitive economics with 'Economics in Primitive...