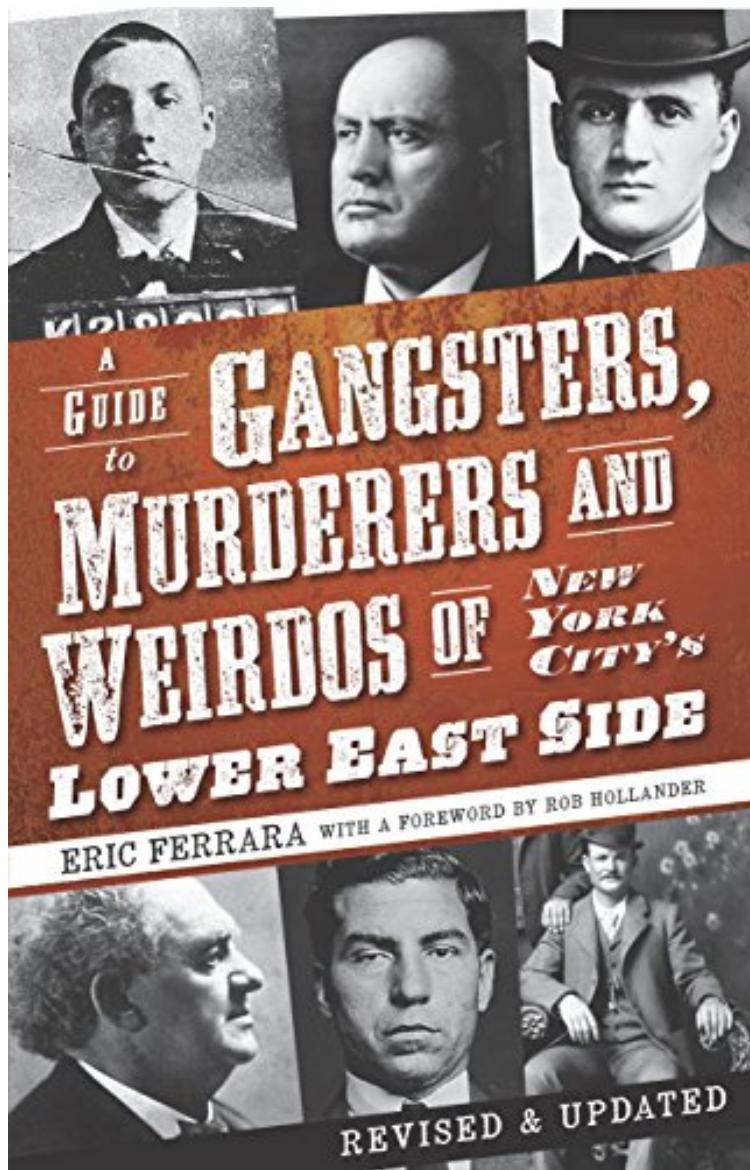


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## A Guide to Gangsters, Murderers and Weirdos of New York City's Lower East Side

Eric Ferrara

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**Eric Ferrara : A Guide to Gangsters, Murderers and Weirdos of New York City's Lower East Side** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Guide to Gangsters, Murderers and Weirdos of New York City's Lower East Side:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Lower East Side at its Best and At It's Worst!!By Joe Bruno Sr."Gangsters, Murderers and Weirdos of the Lower East Side," by Eric Ferrara is a grand tour of the Lower East Side

of Manhattan, starting with the chapter, "Worth Street to Canal Street" and ending with "East Houston to 14th Street." Ferrera takes you on a block-by-block tour of the Lower East Side, with the exact addresses of where some truly horrible things happened to some mostly despicable people. He starts off in the time period where the first street gang in New York City, a bunch of head-cracking Irishmen deftly named the Dead Rabbits, controlled the slummed streets of the Five Points Area right before the Civil War. The Five Points area was populated with people so poor and filthy, the city had to come in frequently to disinfect the streets and buildings with intense chemicals. We also meet such surly individuals like Chinese Tong Leader Mock Duck, who terrorized Chinatown at the turn of the Century. Then there's the unforgettable three Morrelo brother, Joe, Nick, and Antonio, who along with relatives Ciro Terranova and Ignazio Saitta (Lupo the Wolf), started the Black Hand Society, which extorted money from fellow Sicilians, under the threat of death, a punishment they frequently meted out. If corrupt politicians are your favorite thugs, Fatty Walsh and Big Tim Sullivan, along with the indomitable Boss Tweed are featured here too, with the exact locations where they perpetrated their evil-doings, all in the name of the law. Superstar gang leaders Charles "Lucky" Luciano, and his pal Meyer "The Little Man" Lansky are all Lower East Side boys too, along with Lansky's muscle, Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel. Lansky and Luciano first met in as school students, when Luciano's racket at the time was extorting pennies from skinny Jewish boys at a Lower East Side school, in return for him not beating them into a pulp. One day, Luciano picked on Lansky, and Lansky fought back tooth and nail, starting a lifetime friendship, also seeped in violence. The bottom line is that "Gangsters, Murderers and Weirdos of the Lower East Side" is a fast read with the who, what, when, where and how of murders and thuggery in the Lower East Side, from right before the Civil War, up to the end of the 20th Century. This book is not for the faint of heart, but if you'd like a peek at the underbelly of the Lower East Side of Manhattan, you can't do better than reading this interesting, but sometimes alarming book. [...] 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two StarsBy Howard D. WhitePoorly put together with a minimum of research of a lively place and time. Skip this one ! 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not For MeBy Bill EmblomIt is probably true that you could drop yourself anyplace on the island of Manhattan and something of a historic nature probably took place at your location at some time in history. In fact Rogers and Hart's song "Manhattan" is my favorite. However, I guess I'm in a definite minority regarding the contents of this book. The title definitely suggested what to expect, and I bit on it. To me the book got tiring with so-and-so having had their throat slit on this street and another person getting stabbed or shot on another location. We learn tidbits of Monk Eastman, Big Jack Zelig, Lucky Luciano, and other notorious characters. We are told that Arnold Rothstein and Lepke Buchalter were born on Henry Street. Just for the record, so was Irving Berlin who made major contributions to American music. This book is full of tragic characters, and I couldn't help but shudder at someone I never heard of named G.G. Allin. I don't even want to relate what the book says about him. After skimming through this book I felt as though I needed a shower.

New York's Lower East Side is the birthplace of everything from organized crime to anarchist movements. In the nineteenth century, an influx of struggling immigrants seeking opportunity met the harsh realities of industrialization. Poverty and squalor fueled a vicious battle for power and political clout. Local historian Eric Ferrara reveals the wicked history of America's most infamous neighborhood, where the abounding graffiti is a testament to the soul and spirit of the slum.

**About the Author** Eric Ferrara is the founder and executive director of the Lower East Side History project, an award-winning nonprofit research organization. He also founded the East Village Visitor Center, as well as the first museum in America dedicated to gansterism. Ferrara is a popular public speaker, sits on a number of local boards and has consulted on numerous movie and television projects. A true product of the Lower East Side melting pot, Ferrara's ancestors arrived to New York City from Sicily (1880s), Ukraine (1909), Russia (1917) and Naples (1940s.) He is a fourth-generation native New Yorker and dedicated community activist. This is his second title as an author for The History Press.