

Upcoming mystery novel set in Galena

by David Reda

GALENA—A killer roams at large in Galena. Fear not though, the crime takes place only on the pages of an upcoming historical murder mystery, "Anything but Civil," by Anna Loan-Wilsey.

Set entirely in 1890s Galena, the novel takes place during Christmas time when a variety of characters converge in Galena for the holiday season.

Among those arriving is Hattie Davish, at once a secretary to an English nobleman and the novel's protagonist.

Hattie and her employer are drawn to Galena to research Ulysses Grant, as well as other actual and fictional historical figures connected with Galena's Civil War era history.

However, before they can dig out much information, tensions dating back to the Civil War escalate and a dead body turns up in town.

Like her novel's heroine, Loan-Wilsey became interested in Galena due to its rich Civil War history, and the fact it has remained largely intact.

"This made it easier to research and to make the book more authentic," says Loan-Wilsey, adding that the benefits of setting the novel in Galena extend to the readers as well. "Not that much has changed in

Galena since 1890s, therefore if someone reads the novel and visits Galena, they can make more out of the experience."

Although she had already been familiar with Galena from past visits, Loan-Wilsey made two research trips to the town.

On these trips, the author spent hours in the public library's research room, going through historical books, city directories, archives, newspaper advertisements, old photographs and the Gazette issues.

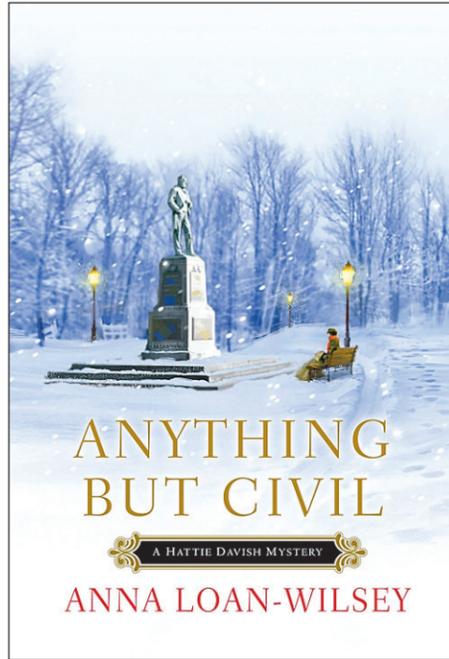
Additionally, she did a good deal of walking around town, taking note of, for example, the time it takes to walk down one of the staircases to Main Street.

In the end, Loan-Wilsey, a resident of Nevada, Iowa, found the writing process a rewarding experience.

"I had so much fun writing the book," she notes. "Galena is a fabulous place. I hope I did it justice."

Loan-Wilsey is currently finishing up her next Hattie Davish novel, "A Sense of Entitlement," set in Newport, R. I.

"Anything but Civil" will be published in late September by Kensington.



The front cover of the new murder mystery set in Galena.



Anna Loan-Wilsey, the author of Anything but Civil. Contributed photos

Wildman show at Stone House

GALENA—Stone House Pottery & Gallery, 418 Spring St., Galena, will host the opening of a show by Jon Wildman, a painter from Dixon. His paintings are oil on venetian plaster. There will be an opening reception to meet the artist on Friday, Aug. 9, at the gallery from 6-8 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

The show will continue until Sunday, Dec. 15. Gallery hours are Thursday-Monday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Wildman was born in 1963 in Sterling. Because of his childhood speech problems, he latched onto art as a means of self-expression. His parents recognized his abilities, nurtured his art interest in school, took him to shows on the weekends, and registered him for private art lessons. As he matured, the speech problems disappeared, and his interest in school and learning grew. Once he entered high school, an inspirational art teacher, Mrs. Helen, challenged and encouraged him to study art in college.

Wildman graduated from Northern Illinois

University in 1989 with a bachelor of fine arts in ceramics, while experimenting with two-dimensional arts. After graduation, he worked with ceramics and also developed a photograph portfolio.

Meanwhile, the road of life took an unexpected turn, and he found himself working for the well-known Midwest sculptor, Jeff Adams. Drawing from his experience with clay sculpture, high temperature ceramic processes/equipment, painting and welding, Jon gained experience with figurative sculpture. He recognized how the smallest gesture, line and form can trigger subtle responses. Applying patinas to textured sculptures, he developed a sense of how the surface interacts with color and experimented with different application techniques.

Since 2009, Wildman has been combining his unique experiences with photography, sculpture, and painting to explore how the figure interacts with textured surfaces using alternative application techniques. His recent work is regularly displayed at Baker Street Café in Dixon. His work can be viewed at jonwildman.daportfolio.com.

Market House Square Art Festival Aug. 10-11

GALENA—A juried show of art and fine crafts is coming to the Old Market House State Historic Site in downtown Galena. The lawn between the Old Market House and the Hello Galena! Artist Co-op, at 121-123 N. Commerce St., will come alive with artists and artisans during the eighth annual Market House Square Art Festival. The festival hours are Saturday, Aug. 10 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The festival offers outdoor art displays with a variety of distinctive pieces that will adorn any home, garden or individual.

Artists who create pottery, paintings, baskets, bowls, mittens, jackets, jewelry, toys and more will

be on site. Hear stories that inspire the art, and watch many of the artists demonstrate their talents and skills during the festival.

This event is sponsored by Hello Galena!, under the auspices of the Galena Cultural Arts Alliance (GCAA), whose mission is to foster development of local artists and to promote the appreciation of local art and culture. GCAA is a 501(c)(3) umbrella organization for member arts and cultural groups in the Galena area.

Hello Galena! is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization made up of more than 65 local artists. Their artwork and signature gift items are displayed at 121 N. Commerce St.

Food, wine festival Sept. 6

GALENA—Committee members of the Galena Wine Lovers' Weekend and Galena Art & Recreation Center (ARC) Taste of Galena have come together to plan a new event slated for Friday, Sept. 6 from 7-10 p.m. at the Galena Event Center, 900 Galena Square Dr. The Galena Food and Wine Festival aspires to be a culinary dream featuring the talents of Galena area restaurants as well wine tasting—showcasing approximately 150 varieties—sponsored by Family Beer & Liquor.

Tickets for the Galena Food and Wine Festival are \$50 per person and available online at galenafoodandwinefestival.com.

lenafoodandwinefestival.com.

"We highly recommend purchasing tickets early as our sister events—Galena Wine Lovers' Weekend and ARC Taste of Galena—have quickly sold out in advance," said Fred Bonnet, of Fried Green Tomatoes Restaurant, representing Galena Wine Lovers' Weekend.

The event—with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the Galena Art and Recreation Center—will also include live music, a raffle and silent auction.

To purchase tickets or learn more, visit galenafoodandwinefestival.com.

THE GALENA ARTISTS' GUILD PRESENTS

Pictures at An Exhibition

Tuesday Sept. 24, a Bus Day Trip to The Art Institute of Chicago.



Images courtesy of the Art Institute.



Gustave Caillebotte, Paris Street Rainy Day (detail 1877) The Art Institute of Chicago Charles H. and Mary F.S. Worcester Collection

The Galena Artists' Guild is offering our members and friends an opportunity to take a day trip to Chicago to view the **Impressionism, Fashion, and Modernity** exhibit and well as other current exhibits at the Chicago Art Institute. Members will enjoy the camaraderie of fellow artists and art lovers along the way.

Admission (group rate):

Illinois Residents:	Out of State Residents:
\$12 for seniors (65)	\$15 for seniors (65)
\$18 for adults	\$21 for adults

(additional \$6 for audio headsets ordered in advance)

Transportation Costs: Guild Members: \$30

Non-members: \$40

Your reservation and **full payment is needed** by August 24, to guarantee your spot. Please make checks payable to *The Galena Artists' Guild* and send to Galena Artists' Guild Box 23 Galena, IL 61036

For information and downloadable flyer:

Jacquie Dyrke: 815-777-3103 • e-mail: jandwstudio@hotmail.com
Dwight Wallis: 815-492-2380 • e-mail: d.wallis@jcwif.com

GALENA ARTISTS' GUILD INC.
Box 23 • Galena, IL 61036

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City State, Zip _____
Telephone _____ E-mail _____

BUS: Please reserve a spot for me: I am: member of GAG \$30 Non-member \$40
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