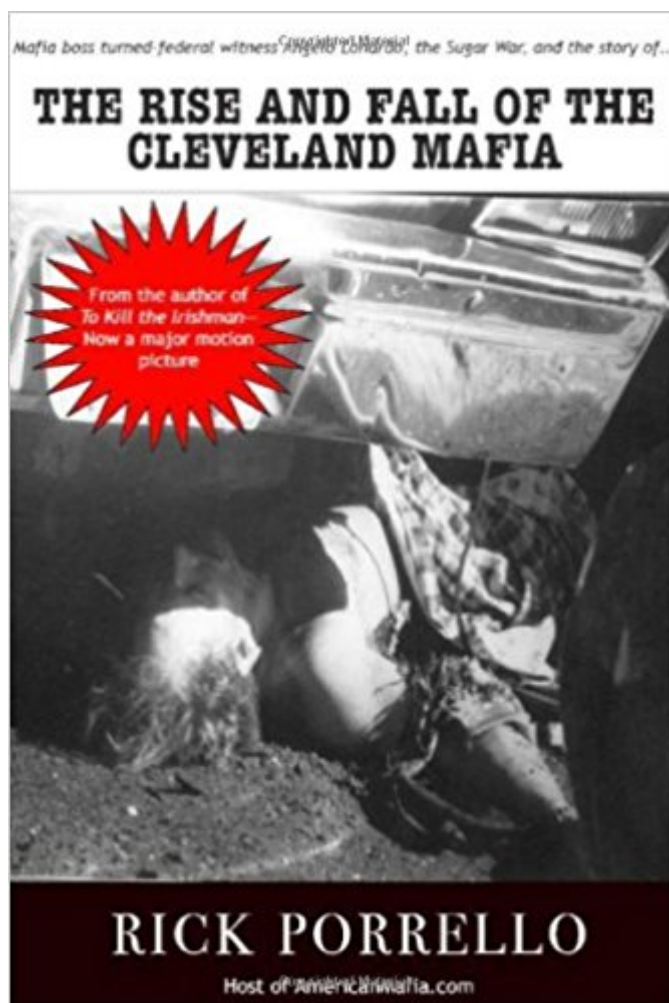


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# The Rise And Fall Of The Cleveland Mafia: Corn Sugar And Blood



## Synopsis

First published in September 2004, one of Barricade's best-selling true crime titles is coming back in print in paperback to coincide with the film release of "To Kill The Irishman". With a new Introduction by the author, *The Rise and Fall of the Cleveland Mafia* is the fascinating chronicle of a once mighty crime family's birth, rise to power, and eventual collapse. The Cleveland crime family was third in power after New York City and Chicago, had influence with mega-mobsters like Meyer Lansky, and had a hand in the development of Las Vegas. Cleveland was also the site of the first known national meeting of the Sicilian-American Mafia that was hosted in 1928 by the author's grandfather and uncles—the notorious Porrello brothers. Although Danny Greene, "The Irishman," and La Cosa Nostra on the North Coast fall prey to this crime family, the central figure to *The Rise and Fall of the Cleveland Mafia* is Angelo "Big Ange" Lonardo. "Big Ange" boldly avenged his father's death in 1929, and then rose through the ranks to become acting boss of the Cleveland crime family. He would serve two years of a life sentence before shocking family, friends, fellow mobsters, and the law enforcement community by cutting a deal with the Feds. He betrayed Omertà—the Sicilian code of silence—and his testimony helped put away mob bosses in New York City and across the country, and he provided a valuable and detailed education into the criminal society known as the Mafia.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rick Porrello is chief of a suburban Cleveland police department. He wrote *The Rise and Fall of the*

Cleveland Mafia while researching the murders of his grandfather and three uncles – all Mafia leaders. Porrello is author of *To Kill the Irishman*, now a feature film starring Ray Stevenson, Val Kilmer, and Christopher Walken. Porrello is an accomplished jazz musician who traveled worldwide with the late Sammy Davis Jr., and he is host of the venerable organized crime history site: [AmericanMafia.com](http://AmericanMafia.com).

Porrello documents the Cleveland Mob in such a way that "rounds out" the inner workings of the Mafia in the US and how each city is so interconnected. I wish someone would write a novel about the early Philly Mob in the 20's and 30's.

Grew up in Cleveland and Las Vegas. Currently working at Caesars. Been around a lot of these Mafia men. I remember growing up and my mother playing the numbers. Bring back memories

this is an important book that tells the history of how the Cleveland mob was a powerhouse in the national syndicate. it also informs the great book on the L.A./Hollywood underworld that I recently read, *Mickey Cohen* by Tere Tereba, who was apparently born in Warren, Ohio. These important players stayed hidden behind the scenes when Cleveland was one of the major cities, and their grip is now finally revealed.

This is a very good book about the history of the Cleveland mafia. As a genealogist it is important for me to have the facts and this book shows me that a family story is very true. Having this book also give me the chance to learn more about that era in Ohio.

Good book on the old school Mafia where if you made a mistake it costs you with your life. And if you were lucky enough to survive you abide by the code. Not like today's breed that will save their own skin at any cost. The Author did a good job. He made no excuses for the actions of his family but revealed it as a part of his family's history.

After watching the documentary about the subject on TV he wanted to know more about the subject. Read from cover to cover. He found it compelling and a thoroughly interesting revelation of a lesser known crime syndicate.

well written, though the jump from the early days of prohibition to the end of Angelo Lonardo's stint

in LCN was a bit sudden and i would have liked to see more of what happened in the 60's and 70's in Cleveland.

My only complaint with this text is that it leaves out a chunk of the Mob's timeline for no reason. It abruptly jumps from the Frank Milano era to Angelo Lonardo's Benedict Arnold move in the 1980s. Otherwise this is an interesting read which tells a largely unknown and uncovered story.

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