



## Annie Oakley

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

### Introduction

Annie Oakley (1860-1926) was an American sharpshooter and exhibition shooter born in Darke County, Ohio, as Phoebe Ann Mosey. When she was five, her father died, and Annie learned to trap, shoot and hunt by age eight to help support her family. In 1875 (though some sources say it was in 1881), Annie met her future husband, Frank E. Butler, at the Baughman & Butler shooting act in Cincinnati, while beating him in a shooting contest. They were married a year later, and in 1885, they joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West where she was given the nickname "Little Sure Shot." Considered America's first female star, Oakley traveled all over the United States and Europe showing off her skills. Oakley set shooting records into her sixties, and also did philanthropic work for women's rights and other causes. In 1925, she died in Greenville, Ohio.

### Important Dates

- August 13, 1860: Annie Oakley is born Phoebe Ann Mosey in Darke County, Ohio.
- November 1875: Oakley defeats Frank E. Butler in a shooting contest. The pair marries a year later.
- 1885: Oakley and Butler join Buffalo Bill's Wild West show.
- 1889: Oakley travels to France to perform in the Paris Exposition.
- 1901: Oakley is injured in a train accident but recovers and returns to show business.
- 1912-1917: Oakley and Butler retire temporarily and reside in Cambridge, Maryland.
- 1917: Oakley and Butler move to North Carolina and return to public life.
- 1922: Oakley and Butler are injured in a car accident, but Oakley performs again a year or so later.
- November 3, 1926: Oakley dies from pernicious anemia in Greenville, Ohio.
- November 21, 1926: Butler dies of "senility."
- November 25, 1926: Oakley and Butler are buried in Brock Cemetery near Greenville, Ohio.

### Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: Annie Oakley, Little Sure Shot, sharpshooter, Buffalo Bill's Wild West, Frank Butler, accident, Paris.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio.

### Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[Little Sure Shot](#)" *Salt Lake Herald* (Salt Lake City, UT), January 29, 1891, Image 3, col. 2.
- "[Champion Shot of the World](#)" *Enterprise* (Wellington, OH), September 16, 1896, Image 8, col. 3.
- "[Annie Oakley Now Takes a Shot at the Newspapers](#)" *Rock Island Argus* (Rock Island, IL), February 13, 1904, Image 6, col. 2.
- "[Some Famous Shootists](#)" *Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, FL), February 22, 1908, Image 3, col. 3.
- "[Annie Oakley](#)" (ad) *Marion Daily Mirror* (Marion, OH), August 28, 1911, Image 4, col. 5-6.
- "[Crack Woman Rifle Shot](#)" *Bennington Evening Banner* (Bennington, VT), May 27, 1913, Image 1, col. 3.
- "[Local Briefs](#)" *Greenville Journal* (Greenville, OH), July 8, 1915, Image 5, col. 1.
- "[Annie Oakley Hits High Balls at Fred Stone's Society Circus](#)" *New-York Tribune* (New York, NY), July 4, 1922, Image 5, col. 2-3.
- "[Annie Oakley's Hip Broken](#)" *New-York Tribune* (New York, NY), November 13, 1922, Image 7, col. 1.