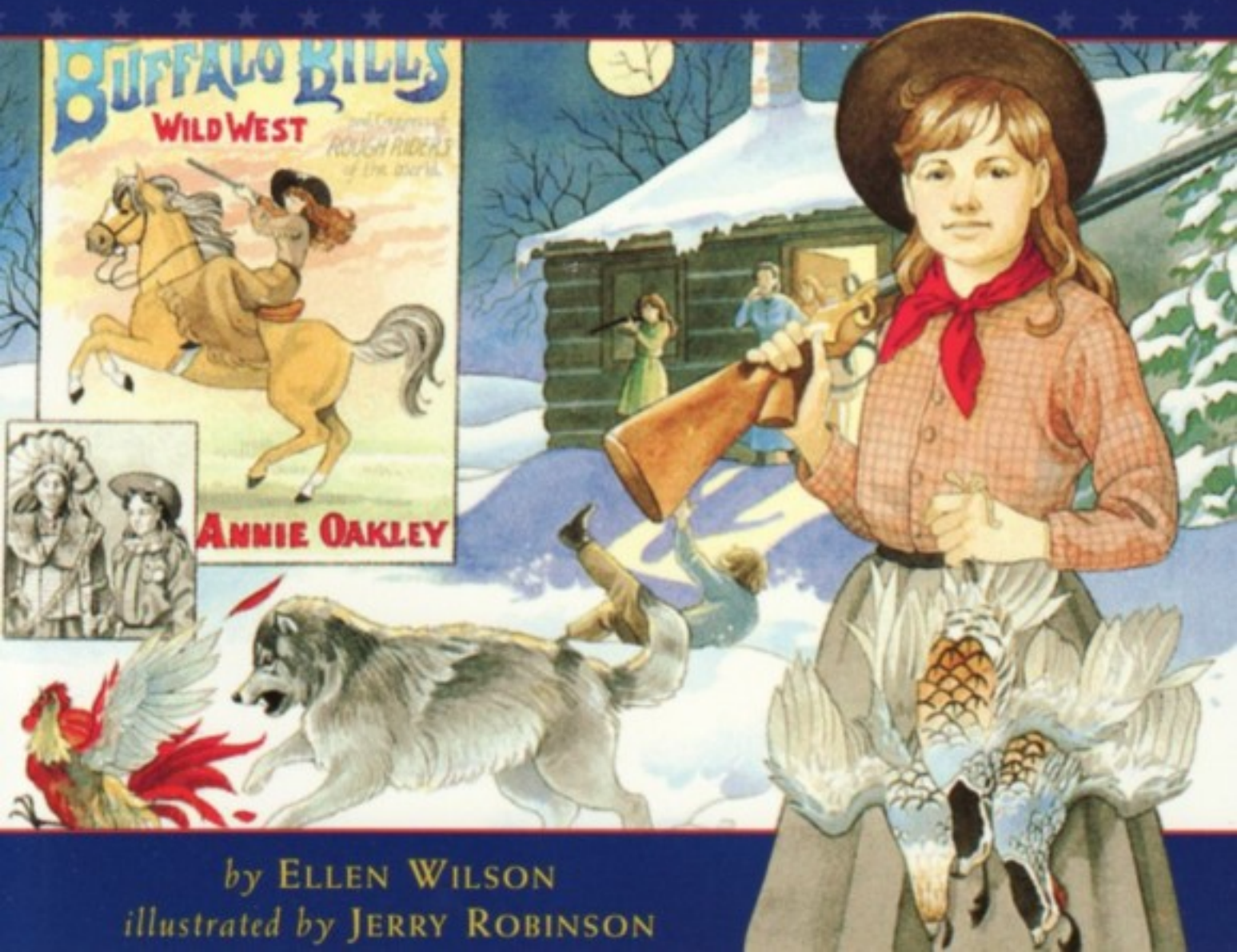


Childhood of Famous Americans



# ANNIE OAKLEY

Young Markswoman



by ELLEN WILSON  
illustrated by JERRY ROBINSON

# Girls Don't Go Hunting

ANNIE PUT DOWN the scissors and a piece of newspaper. "Here's a string of paper dolls for you, Hulda," she said as she unfolded a long row of little paper figures. She held them out to her three-year-old sister. "See," she chanted. "They're going hunting to get a little rabbit skin to wrap the baby Hulda in."

Hulda gave a cry of delight. She ran across the rough cabin floor to take the paper dolls in her chubby hands.

The string of ten cutouts was joined together by hands holding tiny rifles. From each paper head two little pigtails hung down. There was

a paper hair ribbon on each one, and the skirts looked as if they were blowing in a breeze.

Elizabeth, an older sister, looked at the dolls admiringly. "My, you're quick with scissors, Annie. Nobody else in all of Ohio could make such good cutouts so fast. And the guns are best of all—they're just like Father's rifle."

"Do you really think so?" Annie asked eagerly. She looked at the long rifle hanging over the fireplace.

Sarah Ellen, another older sister, looked up from her work. She was tying sassafras roots into bundles for her mother. Mother was away taking care of a sick neighbor. "Yes, the guns are good," Sarah Ellen said. "But why did you make girl dolls? If they're holding guns they ought to be boys. Girls don't go hunting. They don't even go to shooting matches."

"Why don't they?" Annie asked. "I think it would be fun. I'd like to go to a shooting match

someday, too. Lyda's friend Joe Stein says it's really good sport."

Lyda, the oldest sister, spoke quickly. "Yes, it's good sport for men—and boys, too. But Joe says girls don't know how to handle guns. That's why men don't want women at their shoots. Or girls, either." Lyda's needle wove in and out of the stocking she was mending. "Girls are supposed to stay home and sew and keep house and do useful things like that."

Annie made a comical face. "I guess keeping house and sewing are useful, but there are lots of times when I'd rather be outdoors. I'd be out right now if the rain would stop."

"Me, too," her brother Johnny chimed in.

"Hunting is useful, too," Annie went on. "Remember those rabbits that steal food from our garden? The squirrels take our black walnuts, too. Someone ought to go after them with a gun." Annie grabbed the hearth broom and aimed at an