

## Anna Marie Hahn

*“Arsenic Annie”*

*‘The Blonde Borgia’*

*the German housemaid, the Poison Angel,  
the Angel of Mercy*



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Date	Age	Life Event
July 7, 1906	0	Born in the town of Fuessen in Bavaria, Germany to Georg and Katharina Filser. She was the last of 12 children, 9 of them being boys. At the time of Anna Marie’s birth her parents had lost 3 children and 2 of their boys were killed in action during WWI.
		As a young girl she spent 5 months in the hospital due to blood poisoning. She thought she was going to die several times.
		Underwent a goiter operation soon after her sickness. (removal of the thyroid gland)
		Being the youngest girl, she was her mother’s favorite.
		During her teenage years she strayed from her parents and was used to getting her way. She was known to sneak out of the house windows late at night and go to parties.
		Anna never completed high school but will later claim to have along with graduating from “teaching school”.
		Parents shipped her off to her sister, Katti’s house in Holland to help straighten out her disciplinary problems.
May 31, 1925	18	Anna Marie gives birth to her son, Oscar, out of wedlock. The identity of the father is unknown.
		She embarrasses her family and the community shuns her; she leaves for America.
		Oscar stays in the care of Anna Marie’s mother in Germany for the first 3 years of his life.
		Anna Marie waits 2 years for her visa
February 11, 1929	22	Boards the 2 <sup>nd</sup> class cabin on the SS Munchen and arrives in New York. She stays with her step-uncle, Max, age 74.
End of February 1929	22	Anna Marie falls ill with the Scarlet Fever for 3 weeks
1929	23	Lies about becoming a nurse in Germany and moves in with Charles Osswald, a retired banker, age 71, to work for him in his home.

		He starts to fancy her and she tells him that one day she will marry him. She has no intention to actually follow through with the marriage. She begins to steal his money from him.
		Starts to gamble- 1 <sup>st</sup> was a \$2.00 bet winning her \$260.00 in Latonia, KY.
Spring 1929	23	Gets a job as a chambermaid at 500 room Hotel Alms
Summer 1929	23	Meets future husband, Philip J. Hahn, a telegrapher for Western Union
May 5, 1930	24	Married Philip in Buffalo, NY.
Summer 1930	24	Son, Oscar, finally comes to America and the family moves into a construction home in Cincinnati.
July 7, 1930	25	Received 27 shares of Union Gas and Electric from Osswald which he denies giving to her along with \$700 transfer into her bank account from his.
January 31- March 26, 1931	25	Sells all of the stocks she got from Osswald.
February 3, 1931	25	Anna Marie's uncle makes a new will leaving her everything, stating: "to my beloved niece, Anna Filser Hahn".
1932	25	Sells their family business and buys a bakery/deli.
Fall 1932	26	The Hahn's rent rooms from Ernest Kohler, a 62 year-old man. She begins to steal prescription pads from the sick man.
April 29- May 4, 1933	26	Started getting illegal morphine by forging a doctor's signature on Mr. Kohler's prescription pads.
May 6, 1933	26	Kohler dies under the suspicion he may have been poisoned. He was ruled to have had throat cancer. He was cremated and his ashes were given to Anna Marie where she placed them on her mantel. Kohler leaves Anna Marie everything in his will. -In her final letter Anna Marie denies any involvement in Kohler's death.
1935	27	Sells bakery/deli. Failure to make mortgage payments results in the lost of their home.
No Specific Date		Albert Parker, age 72, died soon after she started caring for him. She borrowed money from him and never paid him back.
No Specific Date	27	1 <sup>st</sup> Residence fire on Coleran Ave. Collects \$300 from insurance company.
June 2, 1935	27	2 <sup>nd</sup> Residence fire
August 14, 1935	28	Osswald dies at age 77 and left all his assets to Anna Marie... The attorney for his will said there were no assets left in the estate. (Anna Marie had already taken it all when he was alive).
No Specific Dates		Philip becomes ill with a stiff leg, drop foot.
No Specific Dates		Philip's mother, Maggie, becomes ill after Anna Marie had given her a box of chocolates.
December 1935	28	Anna Marie tries to insure her husband's life for \$10,000. It was denied
1936	28	Anna Marie tries to insure her husband's life for \$5,000. It was approved
May 20, 1936	28	3 <sup>rd</sup> Residence fire. Collects \$2000.00 from insurance for the past 2 fires.
June 1936	28	Meets George Heis when buying coal. They become friends and he begins to call her "his girl".
July 15, 1936	29	Meets Stina Cable in the ladies room and they go get a beer together. She steals \$800.00 from her. Cable is poisoned and sick for a year.
July 20, 1936	29	Anna Marie purchases Croton Oil
October 1936	29	Heis falls ill after his feedings from Anna Marie. He suspects he is being poisoned and kicks her out. He becomes paralyzed.
March 26, 1937	29	Albert Parker (WM, 72) dies of arsenic poisoning.
June 3, 1937	29	Jacob Wagner (WM, 78) dies. Autopsy showed 4 times lethal amount of arsenic in his body. Anna Marie poisoned his orange juice and made up a fake will in his name.
July 1937	29	Loses life insurance when she misses payments.

July 6, 1937	30	George Gsellman (WM, 67) dies from metallic poison: Croton Oil
August 1 1937	31	George Obendoerfer dies of Arsenic Poisoning on train to Colorado. Anna Marie steals jewelry and money from the hotel she was staying at with George. Pawn shop owners later describe her and a young boy trying to sell the jewelry.
August 10, 1937	31	Arrested for the murder of Jacob Wagner.
October 11, 1937	31	Trial begins
October 29, 1937	31	Prosecution rested its case. Heis had testified and the organs of Palmer and Wagner were presented as evidence.
November 1, 1937	31	Defense began its presentation. Hahn testified as being innocent.
November 4, 1937	31	Defense rested
November 10, 1937	31	Sentenced to death/electric chair
December 1, 1937	31	Transferred to Ohio State Penitentiary
March 10, 1938	31	Originally the set date of execution. Continuing appeals pushed the execution to a later date.
December 6, 1938	32	Ohio governor made formal statement refusing to interfere with the court's decision.
Wednesday, December 7, 1938	32	Anna Marie dies at 8:13 p.m. She is the first woman to die in the electric chair in the state of Ohio.
December 8, 1938	32	Laid to rest in unsanctified ground at the Holy Cross Catholic cemetery in Columbus, Ohio.

### General Information

Sex	Female
Race	White
Number of victims	5 suspected, 1 convicted
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Ohio and Colorado
Cities where killing occurred	Cincinnati, Colorado Springs
Type of killer	Lethal Caretaker-Profit
Height	?

### Childhood Information

Date of birth	July 7, 1906
Location	Town of Fussen in Bavaria, Germany
Birth order	12 of 12
Number of siblings	11; 9 boys, 2 girls
XYY?	?
Raised by	Mother and Father: Georg and Katharina Filser
Birth category	Youngest
Parent's marital status	Married
Family event	Became pregnant at young age 18
Age of family event	18
Problems in school?	Never completed high school
Teased while in school?	?
Physically attractive?	Short blonde hair, hazel eyes
Physical defect?	No
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	Bike and ice skating accidents led to unconsciousness
Physically abused?	?
Psychologically abused?	?
Sexually abused?	?
Father's occupation	Craftsman- a cabin maker and furniture manufacturer
Age of first sexual experience	?

Age when first had intercourse	At age 18, gives birth to her son, Oscar in 1925.
Mother's occupation	?
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
<b>Cognitive Ability</b>	
Highest grade in school	?
Highest degree	Never completed high school
Grades in school	Was a struggling student
IQ	No record of an IQ test
Source of IQ information	n/a
<b>Work History</b>	
Served in the military?	No
Branch	
Type of discharge	
Saw combat duty	
Killed enemy during service?	
Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	Yes
Types of jobs worked	Owned a deli/bakery and practiced untrained nursing
Employment status during series	Employed as a nurse for the elderly
<b>Relationships</b>	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married to Philip Hahn, became estranged
Number of children	1
Lives with her children	Yes, after she settled into the United States
Living with	Her husband, Philip, and son, Oscar
<b>Triad</b>	
Animal torture	?
Fire setting	?
Bed wetting	?
<b>Killer Psychological Information</b>	
Abused drugs?	Yes, morphine.
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist?	No
Time in forensic hospital?	No
Diagnosis	n/a
<b>Killer Criminal History</b>	
Committed previous crimes?	Supposed theft
Spend time in jail?	No
Spend time in prison?	n/a
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
<b>Serial Killing</b>	
Number of victims	Estimated 5 victims
Victim type	Often elderly men
Killer age at start of series	26
Date of first kill in series	May 6, 1933
Date of final kill in series	August 1, 1937
Gender of victims	Males
Race of victims	White

Age of victims	Over the age of 60
Type of victim	Elderly who are ill and in need of assistance
Method of killing	Poisoning, arsenic, Croton Oil
Weapon	Arsenic
Was gun used?	No
Type	n/a
Did killer have a partner?	No, although rumored son Oscar may have helped
Name of partner	n/a
Sex of partner	n/a
Type of serial killer	Lethal Caretaker
How close did killer live?	Close by if not living in same home
Location of first contact	Cincinnati, OH
Location of killing	Victim's home
Killing occurred in home of victim?	Yes
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Sometimes
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	Killed over time during contact
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	No
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	No
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	No
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	No
Robbed victim or location	Yes
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	Yes
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, to home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	August 10, 1937
Date convicted	October 29, 1937
Sentence	On November 10, 1937 sentenced to the electric chair, Sparky, for December 7, 1938.
Killer executed?	Yes
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	n/a
Name and state of prison	Ohio State Penitentiary
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	December 7, 1938 at 8:13 p.m.

## References

Franklin, Diana (2006). *The Good Bye Door*. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press.

Streub, Victor L (2006). *The Fairer Death: Executing Women in Ohio*. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press.

[www.crimelibrary.com/notorious\\_murders/women/anna\\_hahn/index.html](http://www.crimelibrary.com/notorious_murders/women/anna_hahn/index.html)

[www.ohiohistory.org/dindex](http://www.ohiohistory.org/dindex)