



Annette “Nettie” Cronise Lutes

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

Introduction

Annette “Nettie” Cronise Lutes (1843-1923) was the first female admitted to the Ohio State Bar. Born in Tiffin, Ohio, she attended Heidelberg College and the State Normal School (in Bloomington, Indiana) before studying law at the office of Warren P. Noble. In 1873, Cronise went before a panel of judges to make her case for admission to the Ohio State Bar and succeeded. Later that year, Cronise set up her own law firm with her sister, Florence, who had also been admitted to the bar, called N. & F. Cronise, Attorneys at Law. Cronise married fellow lawyer Nelson B. Lutes in 1874 and left her firm in 1880 to practice law with Lutes after he began going deaf. In 1923, Cronise Lutes died and was buried in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Today, her accomplishments as a pioneering female lawyer are honored through an annual Nettie Cronise Lutes Award given by the Ohio State Bar. An Ohio Historic Marker in Tiffin also recognizes her and her sister, and the city’s Court Street between Washington and Jefferson Streets has been made the honorary N. & F. Cronise Way.

Important Dates

- 1843: Annette Cronise is born in Tiffin, Ohio.
- April 1873: Cronise becomes the first woman admitted to the Ohio State Bar.
- September 1873: Nettie’s sister Florence is admitted to the Ohio State Bar, and the sisters set up their own law firm in Tiffin.
- 1874: Cronise marries Nelson B. Lutes, a fellow lawyer she met while doing her studies.
- 1880: Cronise Lutes leaves the family firm to work with her husband.
- 1900: Nelson dies, and Cronise Lutes continues practicing law alone.
- 1905: Cronise Lutes’s daughter Evelyn Latta Lutes is admitted to the bar and begins practicing with her mother.
- 1923: Nettie Cronise Lutes dies. She is buried by the Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an “all” word search), proximity or as phrases: Annette Cronise, Nettie Cronise, Nettie Lutes, Nettie Cronise Lutes, Florence Cronise.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio. The Lutes also practiced law in Indiana and Michigan.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- [“Women Lawyers in Ohio”](#) *Tiffin Tribune* (Tiffin, OH), September 19, 1878, Image 4, col. 1.
- [“For the Fair Sex”](#) *Forest Republican* (Tionesa, PA), May 21, 1879, Image 4, col. 2.
- [“A Woman Lawyer”](#) *Tiffin Tribune* (Tiffin, OH), April 10, 1873, Image 3, col. 3.
- [“Admitted to Practice in the U.S. Court”](#) *Tiffin Tribune* (Tiffin, OH), March 13, 1879, Image 3, col. 4.
- [“New Law or Matrimonial Firm”](#) *Tiffin Tribune* (Tiffin, OH), August 27, 1874, Image 3, col. 3.