

Emily Helen Butterfield

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Abstract

Emily Helen Butterfield was a leader in several aspects of women's history. She was a well-respected artist, a founder of Alpha Gamma Delta International Women's Fraternity, Michigan's first female architect, an author, a founder of the Detroit Business Woman's Club, and an inductee of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. Butterfield has left a legacy of leadership, poise, and high ideals for young women to follow for years to come. In this paper, I will talk about Emily's life, including both her successes and pitfalls, attributes, accomplishments, and my process of researching Emily in an effort to showcase the inspiring woman that she was.

Introduction

Emily Helen Butterfield is a name not many think of when considering Michigan's history. Being that history is predominantly represented through a male lens, this is not surprising. Aside from the women in Alpha Gamma Delta, not many individuals even know of her at all. She was a fun, energetic yet tranquil, interesting and kind woman who loved nature and had several unique hobbies. Foremost, Emily was a Methodist, a founder, an architect, an artist, and an author; most importantly, she was a trailblazer, an inspiration, and a fundamental feminist icon. Ms. Butterfield chose to pursue what she desired and refused to be held back by the societal beliefs and social constructs of the early 20th century. Her passion and drive was hereditary; Emily's ancestors and parents were pioneers in their times. Her parents encouraged her to follow her own path and create her own happiness starting as a child. She allowed her legacy to continue through the churches she designed, the organizations she founded, the artwork she created, and the words she wrote. This paper is an effort to record a comprehensive account of her entire life and showcase the remarkable and resilient woman she was.

Parents and Childhood

Emily was born on August 4, 1884 in Algonac, Michigan to Wells Duane Butterfield and Helen Hossie Butterfield. Her mother, Helen, was born on February 15, 1856 in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada. Interestingly, her grandfather was a settler of Sarnia. Both of Helen's parents were born in Scotland. There is little documented about Helen, other than mention of her being a school teacher in Algonac.¹ Naturally, Emily inherited her mother's selflessness and desire to teach and work with children. Per her death certificate, Helen passed away September 9, 1918 of a cerebral

¹ Butterfield, Emily Helen, and Deborah Eleson. "Stories From Stone "Emily Helen Butterfield; Michigan's First Lady of Architecture"." *The Thumb Chronicle*, January/February 2005.

hemorrhage.² Her father, Wells, was a prolific architect. He was born on June 10, 1859 in Algonac, Michigan. Like his wife, his great grandfather had a hand in founding their home of Algonac.³ He began his art career early and attended art school at a young age. Throughout his architecture career, he was accredited with designing 60 churches, invented the design element of folding and sliding partitions to make churches more communal spaces, and was a leading architect in Detroit.⁴⁵ When Helen passed away, he married Ida Ripley in 1921.⁶ After moving to Farmington, he became the city's first mayor when the village became a city in 1926.⁷ Wells passed away on July 15, 1936 of a culmination of heat stroke and chronic myocarditis, or inflammation of the heart muscle.⁸

Emily grew up in Algonac with her parents and two younger brothers, Duane and Clayton. The Butterfield family moved to Detroit in 1890, and Emily consequentially attended Detroit Public Schools.⁹ She was exposed to her father's love for art and architecture early on, and she grew to love it herself. At only seven-years-old, she attended art school under the direction of the talented painter John Ward Dunsmore.¹⁰ In her teen years, Emily's parents allowed her to go on sketching trips with her father's friends William B. Conely, Percy Ives, and Robert Hopkins. All three men were prevalent in Detroit's art scene at the time. They kindly

² Helen Butterfield Certificate of Death. Digital image. Ancestry.com.

³ Butterfield, Emily Helen, and Deborah Eleson.

⁴ Author unknown. "60 Churches His Monument." *The Windsor Star*, July 16, 1936.

⁵ Author unknown. "Michigan Inventors." *The Daily Herald* (Port Huron), December 11, 1901.

⁶ Author unknown. "65 Churches His Monument." *The Windsor Star*, July 16, 1936

⁷ Author unknown. "Butterfield Is First Mayor of Farmington." *Lansing State Journal*, February 22, 1926.

⁸ Wells D. Butterfield Certificate of Death. Digital image. Ancestry.com.

⁹ Butterfield, Emily Helen, and Deborah Eleson.

¹⁰ Author unknown. "Emily H. Butterfield - the Painter." *Alpha Gamma Delta Quarterly*, January 1955, 14-15. Algonac Clay Historical Society, Algonac, Michigan.

allowed her to participate in her first exhibition and showcase three of her watercolor paintings in one of their exhibits. Additionally, Emily and her brothers would aid their father, Wells, in his architectural work by serving as his draftsmen. Presumably, they helped him sketch his designs.¹¹

Detroit Central High School

Emily attended Central High School until January of 1903 and graduated from the Classical Course.¹² Emily shared her passion for art and impeccable skills by teaching art classes at her home in her later high school years.¹³ Unfortunately, her time in high school was a time when school groups and organizations were typically only available to the male students. As a result, researching Emily's high school involvement came up short. The only mention of any positions she held while at Central High School was Secretary of her senior class, as listed in the *1903 Stylus* [yearbook].¹⁴ One can assume the opportunities to be involved were not available to her, thus her skills were not used to their full potential while in high school.

¹¹ Butterfield, Emily Helen, and Deborah Eleson.

¹² Author unknown. "School Graduates - Central High School." *Detroit Free Press*, January 17, 1903.

¹³ Butterfield, Emily Helen, and Deborah Eleson.

¹⁴ *Central High School Class of January, 1903*. Central High School Records, Walter P Reuther Library, Detroit.



Central High School Class of January, 1903.. Emily can be seen in the second row from top, just off center to the right.¹⁵

Syracuse University and Alpha Gamma Delta

After graduating from Central High School, Emily went on to college at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York where she pursued her interest in studying architecture. To be admitted to a university as a female was a feat in itself; not many schools allowed women to be admitted, which made Syracuse very progressive for its time. Emily's decision to go to Syracuse University to further her architectural education highlights her determined personality. Her career at Syracuse University consisted of involvement of several clubs. Her senior record lists her as being involved in the Young Women's Christian Association, Crouse College French Club, Fine Arts Fakirs, and Class Executive Committee.¹⁶

While at Syracuse, Emily joined forces with ten other women to establish their very own women's fraternity. Naturally, being at a progressive university that admitted women allowed the same opportunities for women that men had been given long before. Specifically, fraternal

¹⁵ *Central High School Class of January, 1903.* Central High School Records, Walter P Reuther Library, Detroit.

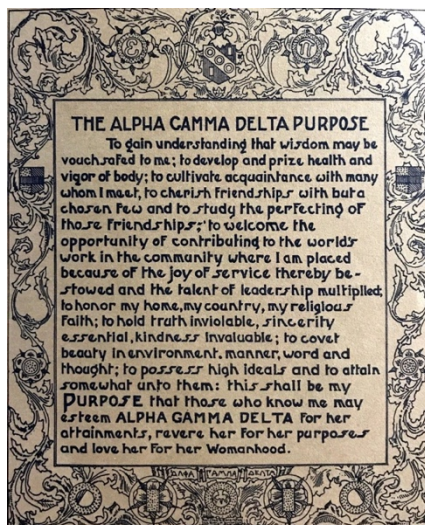
¹⁶ Emily Helen Butterfield Senior Biography. 1908 Folder, Onondagans Collection. University Archives at Syracuse University Libraries, Syracuse University. Syracuse, New York.

organizations were formed as secret societies where men could freely have discussions and express themselves outside of the classroom setting while kindling meaningful friendships. In 1904, eleven women at Syracuse University saw the opportunity to take advantage of both increasing organization of fraternities and student populations on university campuses. Each woman contributed her own ideals, creativity and talents to create an organization where women could gather with other women who held the same ideals, contribute to their community, and mature academically and socially. Thus, Alpha Gamma Delta (ΑΓΔ) was founded on May 30, 1904. ΑΓΔ was founded as a Christian women's fraternity, as several of the founders, including Emily, were very religious. ΑΓΔ was part of the Syracuse Triad, which consisted of Alpha Phi, Gamma Phi Beta, and Alpha Gamma Delta. They were the three sororities founded at Syracuse University and therefore hold similar ideals.

Emily is attributed with writing the fraternity's purpose and designing the heraldic Armorial Bearings, which is another field she was well known in. The Purpose is something thousands of Alpha Gams live by; it is a reminder to possess the highest of ideals and live the best lives we possibly can. Moreover, she became extremely well known for her heraldry skills and designed Armorial Bearings for several other fraternal organizations. After her collegiate years, she designed two Alpha Gamma Delta chapter houses and the lodges at the Alpha Gamma Delta Summer Camp in Jackson, Michigan, was manager of the camp in the 1930s, and served as editor of the *Quarterly* for seven years.¹⁷ Emily was bestowed the highest honor a member can receive for her continued devotion and service to the fraternity.

¹⁷ Butterfield, Emily Helen, and Deborah Eleson.

Today, Alpha Gamma Delta holds the status of an International Women's Fraternity and has 198 collegiate chapters and hundreds of thousands of members.¹⁸



*The Alpha Gamma Delta Purpose ordained with a border also designed by Emily.*¹⁹

Emily graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in Architecture in June of 1907. She was named Ivy Orator upon graduation by the Department of Architecture. A 1907 article from the *Detroit Free Press* writes "The office of Ivy Orator is an honor which the class of 1907 of the department of architecture, Syracuse university, has bestowed upon Miss Emily Helen Butterfield."²⁰ Emily then returned to Michigan to pursue her career in architecture.

¹⁸ "About Alpha Gamma Delta." Alpha Gamma Delta.

¹⁹ Alpha Gamma Delta Purpose. Personal photograph by author.

²⁰ Author unknown. "Detroit Young Woman Will Take Architect's Degree at Syracuse." *Detroit Free Press*, May 1, 1907.



Emily Helen Butterfield senior photo from 1907 Onondagan.²¹



"Emily's 1907 Graduation Photograph."²²

Architecture Career

Emily is perhaps most well-known for becoming Michigan's first female architect. After becoming the first woman in the state of Michigan to receive a degree in architecture, she joined her father, Wells, in his architecture firm as an apprentice. The two later became partners in their own firm by the name of Butterfield & Butterfield in 1915. They had an office in Detroit's David

²¹ SU Clipping Files. Entire Folder, Emily Helen Butterfield. University Archives at Syracuse University Libraries, Syracuse University. Syracuse, New York.

²² Klemmer, Ken. "Emily." Oakwood Cottage - 1925.

Whitney Building and eventually expanded to an office in Pontiac as well. Together, the pair designed churches, schools, homes, stores, and factories.²³

Being the strong Methodists Emily and Wells were, they specialized in the design of Methodist churches. Arguably, their biggest impact on society was transforming churches from a single-room building used strictly for worship on Sundays to an epicenter where a community could gather seven days a week. The churches they designed had offices, kitchens, classrooms, conference rooms, gymnasiums, dining rooms, and recreation areas like we know them to have today. When describing their reasoning behind this shift in the design of churches, Wells Butterfield stated “The trend in churches now is more to religion and less to the institutional idea, and this can be expected to work changes in church design.”²⁴ The two churches Emily was most impressed with were the Methodist Episcopal Church in Farmington and the Baptist Church in Pontiac.²⁵ Furthermore, Butterfield & Butterfield notably also designed Trinity Methodist Church in Highland Park, Christ Methodist Church in Inkster, the First Church of Christ in Algonac, and Highland Park High School.²⁶ Emily herself was responsible for designing twenty-six churches, several schools, and many homes throughout her career.²⁷ In the homes she designed, she incorporated her signature unique storage and cabinets.²⁸

Both Emily and her father Wells moved to Farmington in the mid-1920s. One of the village’s churches, First United Methodist Church, had burned down in 1920, and Wells was

²³ Author Unknown. “Emily Helen Butterfield (1884-1958).” Algonac Clay Historical Society, Algonac, Michigan. Accessed April 8, 2019.

²⁴ “New Trend in Architecture of Churches Is Predicted.” *Detroit Free Press*, April 23, 1933.

²⁵ “65 Churches His Monument.” *The Windsor Star*, July 16, 1936

²⁶ Graf, Jane A. “Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame Candidate Nomination Form: Emily Helen Butterfield.” March 9, 1990. Algonac Clay Historical Society, Algonac, Michigan.

²⁷ Graf, Jane A.

²⁸ Klemmer, Ken. “Emily Butterfield: Artist, Architect and Activist.” Lecture, Park Restaurant Hall, Lincoln Park, March 20, 2019.

given the land where the church stood in exchange for rebuilding the church in a new location.²⁹ He sold Emily the lot next to his for \$1.00, and they both built homes on the site.³⁰ Interestingly, Emily designed her home to have the front door facing Wells' home.³¹

Another prolific project of Butterfield & Butterfield was the Oaklands Subdivision in Farmington, Michigan. The subdivision sits at Thirteen Mile and Orchard Lake Road in Farmington and was established in 1925 by Edward E. Beals. The pair designed seven homes in the subdivision, each unique and elegant and comprised of historic features.³² Unfortunately, the Great Depression brought an end to the development of the subdivision at the time. The homes that were completed still stand today and several are showcased for their historical significance.

Wells retired from architecture in the 1920s to focus on politics, and Emily took on sole leadership of the firm.³³ Unfortunately, the success of her firm only lasted until the Great Depression took its toll and led to less work and financial trouble. She walked away from her career in architecture at that point and focused instead on writing.

Detroit Business Woman's Club

Emily was establishing herself in her career by the second decade of the 20th century, but she was one of the few. Not many women pursued business in the early 20th century like Emily did. Starting in 1912, she began to meet with other prominent Detroit business women, including Dr. Rhoda Farquharson, Emma Spoor and Grace Wright, on their lunch hour and use the lunches to network.³⁴ Their lunches evolved into an organized luncheon club like those that existed for

²⁹ Harrison, Mike and Joan Harrison. "The House on Piety Hill." Algonac Clay Historical Society, Algonac, Michigan.

³⁰ Land transfer from Wells D. Butterfield to Emily H. Butterfield for \$1.00. Digital image.

³¹ Harrison, Mike and Joan Harrison.

³² "Farmington Hills Historic District." Farmington Hills Michigan. March 2016.

³³ Butterfield, Emily Helen, and Deborah Eleson.

³⁴ Butterfield, Emily Helen, and Deborah Eleson.

men at the time. Thus, Emily, Grace, and Emma became the founding members of the Detroit Business Woman's Club. Supposedly, Emily's inspiration for creating such a club came from her father, Wells, who was active in a social luncheon club that allowed men to become their best selves, and he thought women should have the same opportunity.³⁵ As the organization grew, they made lists of potential members very selectively.³⁶ The group of ambitious women wanted others with similar ideals and high attainments and only allowed a couple from each profession, including a "bank teller, implement saleswoman, lumber company secretary, dentist, and advertising manager."³⁷ The Detroit Business Woman's Club is recognized as the first organization of its kind in the United States, which is not surprising for a city as innovative as 20th century Detroit; it is also said to be the oldest in the world.

Emily was appointed the club's first president and served for quite some time. The group met regularly for luncheons and meetings where they would network, exchange ideas, hear talks by members and guest speakers, converse about social and economic issues, and discuss how to improve representation of women in business.³⁸ The club also created a scholarship to assist women in furthering education, assisted younger women in business, and openly advocated for equal pay for women.^{39 40}

The success of the club led to it becoming a catalyst for several similar groups to follow. Women's business clubs that were modeled after the structure of the Detroit Business Woman's

³⁵ "How Detroit Changed from 1911 to 1961." *Detroit Free Press*, June 5, 1997. Remarks from Dr. Rhoda P. Farquharson's address to the Detroit Business Woman's Club on the 50th anniversary.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ "Detroit Business Women Hold Exhibit." *The Daily Chronicle* (De Kalb), November 6, 1915.

³⁸ "Club Women and Escorts Invited to Show Which Takes Place on October 28." *Detroit Free Press*, October 17, 1915.

³⁹ Butterfield, Emily Helen, and Deborah Eleson.

⁴⁰ "Emily Butterfield Heads Business Women." *Detroit Free Press*, June 2, 1929.

Club began popping up throughout the state and the country. The Detroit Business Woman's Club became the basis of the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs in 1919 when it merged with the other clubs in the area. Out of Detroit came five branches of national and international business and professional women's organizations: Zonta, Soroptimist, Altrusa, Quota, and Pilot. Emily was also active in the Zonta Club, one of the international groups that formed.⁴¹

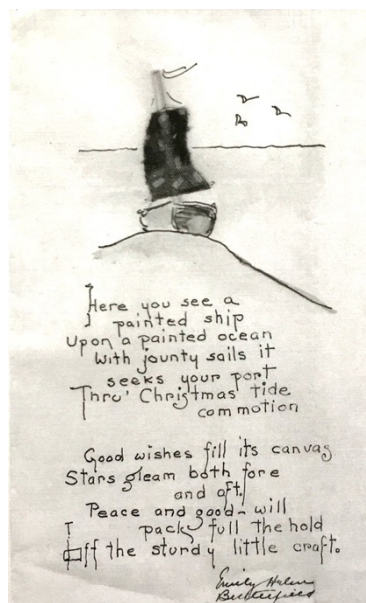
These clubs were vital in the movement for women's rights because they allowed women to make connections, grow as individuals, and be successful business women in male-dominated fields. They helped women to grow socially, economically, and professionally. Additionally, the clubs exposed them to community service opportunities and encouraged members to hold themselves to higher standards and ideals. In Detroit, the groups lead women to become leaders within the city of Detroit. Unsurprisingly, being involved in a club of this sort was similar to being a member of a fraternity or sorority. The same fundamental ideals were applied in both organizations; Emily lived by these principles and naturally founded several groups based on them.

Writing, Art and Life After Architecture

Emily had always been skilled in several fields; along with her architectural talents, she excelled in writing and painting. Emily's writing talents were evident in the diversity of her writing. She wrote the Alpha Gamma Delta Purpose, poetry, articles, church publications, was editor of the AΓΔ *Quarterly*, and even published books. As previously mentioned, she was such a talented writer that she was able to rely on it to make a living after she left her career in architecture. Using both her writing skills and vast knowledge of architecture and design, Emily

⁴¹ Crathern, Alice Tarbell. "In Detroit Courage Was the Fashion." *HathiTrust*, October 19, 2016.

submitted her articles to magazines such as *House and Garden*, *Town and Country*, and *American Home* and was featured regularly.⁴² She published two books in her time, both of which are recognized as valued classics. Her first book, written in 1931, was *College Fraternity Heraldry*, in which she combined her talents of fraternity heraldry and writing. Her second book, *The Young People's Story of Architecture*, written in 1933. It was successfully written for children to be able to follow. Emily reached a young audience by including 180 of her sketches she had made while on various sketching trips and other stories to help readers better comprehend the subject. An article written when the book was published praised Emily's clarity, simplicity, and ability to write about a complex topic in a way which children can easily understand.⁴³



*Poem and illustration by Emily Helen Butterfield.*⁴⁴

⁴² Alumni Record. SU Clipping Files. Entire Folder, Emily Helen Butterfield. University Archives at Syracuse University Libraries, Syracuse University. Syracuse, New York.

⁴³ Swan, Addie May. "Book Reviews." *The Daily Times*(Davenport), November 11, 1933.

⁴⁴ *Poem and Illustration by Emily Helen Butterfield*. Algonac Clay Historical Society, Algonac, Michigan.

As stated previously, Emily got involved in art at a young age and had a strong love for it. Emily was introduced to the art of watercolors as a child by her father. Wells was active in several different art associations and encouraged her to pursue her growing passion for it. She continued to express her love for art throughout her entire life, and her admiration of nature certainly translated into the inspiration for her pieces. She painted scenes of Michigan's bountiful views and landscapes, as well as other nature-inspired scenes, and became known for her "meticulous draftsmanship and subtle color schemes."⁴⁵ Starting with her first exhibit of three watercolors, Emily's paintings were featured in several art exhibitions including exhibits at J.L. Hudson Gallery, Toledo Artist Club, Scarab Club, Algonac, and Sault Ste. Marie. One of her exhibits in Toledo was her very own one-woman show where she displayed 40 of her watercolors.⁴⁶ She continued to go on sketching trips as well, which took her to Europe in 1914, Canada, and the U.S. including Alaska.⁴⁷ Additionally, Emily combined her interest in children with her love of art and often taught art classes to kids in her older years. Emily illustrated post cards, Christmas cards, images to complement her poems, and often gifted her work to her friends and family. She often included sketches of squirrels as a nod to her fondness of nature's littlest creatures. Emily's paintings and love for teaching others are among the handful of ways Emily graciously left her legacy behind for future generations to enjoy.

⁴⁵ "Miss Butterfield's Water Colors to Be Shown at Algonac." *The Times Herald* (Port Huron), June 11, 1952.

⁴⁶ SU Clipping Files. Entire Folder, Emily Helen Butterfield. University Archives at Syracuse University Libraries, Syracuse University. Syracuse, New York.

⁴⁷ Ibid.



Emily teaching an art class to children in Algonac.⁴⁸



Emily Helen Butterfield painting.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ *Emily Teaching an Art Class to Children in Algonac.* Algonac Clay Historical Society, Algonac, Michigan.

⁴⁹ *Emily Helen Butterfield Painting.* Algonac Clay Historical Society, Algonac, Michigan.



*Emily Helen Butterfield painting.*⁵⁰

Throughout her life, Emily had many unique hobbies and was heavily involved in several different groups, clubs, her church, and organizations other than the handful that she had a hand in starting. Along with heraldry and painting, Emily's love of nature was also reflected in her hobby of bird banding for the U.S. Biological Survey. She would put numbered bands on the birds that flew into her yard to aid in research of migratory birds.⁵¹ Per her Syracuse University Alumni Record, she was active in church groups and young people's groups. Furthermore, she belonged to the Daughters of the American Revolution and Sigma Alpha Iota (ΣAI) International Music Fraternity at the Detroit Conservatory of Music.⁵² During her time as an architect, Emily held membership in both the American Institute of Architects (A.I.A.) and the Michigan Society of Architects.⁵³ Because of the increasing financial trouble Emily faced, her membership was revoked but eventually reinstated.⁵⁴ Her nurturing personality lead her to becoming a Girl Scout

⁵⁰ *Emily Helen Butterfield Painting*. Algonac Clay Historical Society, Algonac, Michigan.

⁵¹ Butterfield, Emily Helen, and Deborah Eleson.

⁵² Alumni Record. SU Clipping Files. Entire Folder, Emily Helen Butterfield. University Archives at Syracuse University Libraries, Syracuse University. Syracuse, New York.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Klemmer, Ken. "Emily Butterfield: Artist, Architect and Activist." Lecture, Park Restaurant Hall, Lincoln Park, March 20, 2019.

Leader and a Sunday school teacher for younger women.⁵⁵ Most of her endeavors and the legacy she strived to leave behind, it seems, she did selflessly to encourage young women to excel and live up to their highest ideals. Joan Bulley, the great niece of Emily's close friend Josephine Townsend and member of the Algonac Clay Historical Society, knew Emily personally and described her as fun, energetic and a great teacher who was exceptional with kids. On one occasion, Emily had Joan speak in one of the church programs Emily had planned, and although Joan didn't want to, she obliged and claims it helped her grow as a public speaker tremendously.⁵⁶

From the time Emily was born until 1940, she lived in Algonac, Highland Park, Detroit, and Farmington. She eventually returned to her beloved home of Algonac in 1940 where she lived for 18 years until she passed away. It was during those later years when she focused her life on art and teaching. She owned a cottage on Neebish Island near Sault Ste. Marie, and spent her remaining summers there finding inspiration in the northern Michigan landscape for paintings. Moreover, she served as the Neebish Island postmaster during the years of World War II.⁵⁷

⁵⁵ Butterfield, Emily Helen, and Deborah Eleson.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.



*Portrait of Emily in her later years.*⁵⁸



*Photo of Emily in her later years.*⁵⁹

Conclusion

Emily passed away in her hometown of Algonac, Michigan on March 22, 1958 at the age of 73. Despite everything Emily had accomplished throughout her life, she fell on hard times in her older years. She experienced financial troubles and struggled with accepting her physical appearance.⁶⁰ Although it has been said that she died alone and penniless, she lived an extremely

⁵⁸ Emily Helen Butterfield Photograph. Box 4, SU Student Photographs. University Archives at Syracuse University Libraries, Syracuse University. Syracuse, New York.

⁵⁹ *Photo of Emily in Her Later Years*. Algonac Clay Historical Society, Algonac, Michigan.

⁶⁰ Butterfield, Emily Helen, and Deborah Eleson.

fulfilling life full of service, leadership, and beauty that goes well beyond her time on Earth. Emily recognized this and even said of herself: “I guess the best way to describe me is I am a person who makes my own path or avenue to travel down. I did not follow the conventional avenues of my time. I did things my way! At an early age, I decided to build my life entirely after my own ideals of happiness and service. To some this may sound selfish, yet I am truly content with my life.”⁶¹ She truly was a pioneer in a time where society regarded women as existing for the sole purpose of aiding and supporting their male counterparts instead of fulfilling their own ventures. Emily did the exact opposite of what was expected of women, and she chose to pursue things that made her happy. Rightly so, she is remembered by those who know of her as an initiator, a pioneer, and a remarkable woman that saw beauty in all of life’s opportunities and created her own happiness. Emily was posthumously nominated to the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame in 1990 by Jane Graff, an Alpha Gamma Delta sister who was dedicated to early research and preservation of Emily’s life story.⁶² She was inducted the same year in recognition of her success in the early days of the women’s movement in the Michigan.

Emily Helen Butterfield built a foundation for young, aspirational women to follow for years to come. She saw inequality between genders and created exclusive spaces and opportunities for women to excel like their male counterparts. She was an innovator, a leader, and an impetus for societal change. She saw beauty in everything around her and documented it for us to enjoy as well. Thousands of women, young and old, live with the same ideals that Emily had when founding an organization that hundreds of thousands of women are now a part of. Alpha Gamma Delta is close to the hearts of so many of those women; therefore, Emily is

⁶¹ Butterfield, Emily Helen, and Deborah Eleson.

⁶² Graf, Jane A.

too. Although she passed away long before I was born, I feel a special bond with Emily that one can only understand as the bond of sisterhood. Emily has come to be my inspiration; she was the embodiment of living with purpose. Her legacy lives on in each Alpha Gamma Delta sister wearing her letters and reciting the purpose she wrote, and I am extremely honored to be one of them.

“This shall be my Purpose that those who know me may esteem Alpha Gamma Delta for her attainments, revere her for her purposes and love her for her womanhood.”

Emily Helen Butterfield

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