

Historically Speaking.....

Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity

March 2002



EMMA HARPER TURNER – A Salute to Panhellenism

Emma Harper Turner is listed as a prominent former officer of Pi Beta Phi, a former Grand President and the first president of its Alumnae Association. A building is named in her honor at Arrowmont in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. However, before Emma attained recognition as an outstanding member of Pi Beta Phi, she was an active member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. The following is an account of Emma Harper Turner's history with both fraternities, excerpted from an Officers' Workshop presented by Pi Beta Phi National Historian Barbara Sands Olsen in 1990 and from the historical files of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

“About Emma, Pi Phi can honestly say to Kappa, ‘Thank you for your interpretation of the facts, and for your bowing to militant personalities, without fear of reprisal.’” Nu Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma was installed at Franklin College in Indiana, January 31, 1879, with the initiation of six charter members. The chapter adhered to business with literary programs, declamations, debates and social functions for faculty and students. But during the college years of 1883-84, a series of misunderstandings arose between the chapter and certain members of Kappa's Grand Council.

The details are buried somewhere in memory, but when Nu did not send a delegate to the Kappa Kappa Gamma Convention in Canton, New York, in 1884, the members were first fined \$10 and then the same Convention, as provided in the Constitution, voted to revoke the charter. The charges were: “negligence in paying taxes, negligence in sending a delegate or excuse to the Convention, general disregard of the Constitutional requirements, and the low standard of Franklin College.” The chapter protested, of course, and called a meeting of all Indiana chapters, but none attended, believing that the meeting was unconstitutional. All letters and appeals were ignored, but the Nu women continued to meet and initiate others. The next Kappa Convention was held in Akron, Ohio, and Emma Harper Turner attended, asking for the privilege of the floor for appeal to the Committee on Chapters. A motion for re-establishment of Nu Chapter was made before the Convention body, but failed. At this point in time, the feeling against small colleges had grown fairly strong, and the stress of disapproval was placed on the college itself. It is likely that the Kappa Grand Council believed that Franklin College would not survive. That proved to be untrue, although the college remained small and static over the next few years. Nu Chapter alumnae continued to participate in Kappa Kappa Gamma activities and remained loyal to the Fraternity – a tribute to the strength of their ties.

Emma and Martha Louise Noble, who had been leaders in the struggle for Nu's survival, sought and obtained honorable dismissal from Kappa Kappa Gamma. The chapter resolved itself into a local society, Alpha Zeta Theta, and it was this group which became I. C. Sorosis – later Pi Beta Phi - in January 1888.

I. C. Sorosis/Pi Beta Phi Grand President, Raine Adamson Small, installed the new chapter. She and Emma formed a close association and nine months later, Emma attended her first Pi Phi convention and was elected Grand Secretary for the convention! The 1976 edition of *The History of Kappa Kappa Gamma* states: “If Nu Chapter had been allowed to live, the philanthropic history of Kappa might have been changed, for the Nu member who proved to be the liveliest, Emma Harper Turner, became a Pi Phi and the originator of that fraternity's famous settlement work among the southern Mountaineers. “

It was during Emma's first convention that I. C. Sorosis officially became Pi Beta Phi. Pi Phi incorporated in the state of Illinois for the grand sum of \$4.00. Emma's new official title was Grand Vice President, and she subsequently became Grand President.

Emma was a “mover and shaker.” During her tenure, and with her recommendation, a new initiation ceremony and a new ritual for Pi Beta Phi Fraternity were approved. Provinces were formed and the carnation was chosen as Pi Phi's official flower because the preferred lily was too expensive. A fraternity whistle was approved, as was the selection of the Greek goddess Pallas Athena as Pi Phi's official patron.

Emma believed in growth, and it was through her constant urging that Pi Phi extended to a number of colleges and universities. When she moved to Washington, D.C., she instigated the formation of a chapter at George Washington University, and thus became a charter member of two of Pi Phi's chapters. She is quoted as saying, "*We ought to have splendid chapters in every good western university. If there were but five girls to begin with, I would form a chapter and enlist all influential women of the town and get everybody on my side before other people knew what I was about. Don't you see? This is the way others did and the way we should do.*" Emma was always investigating extension policies of other women's fraternities...and commenting on their successes and failures. She also felt that it paid to build strong chapters in growing institutions where Pi Phi would be "*first on the field, rather than waste vitality in attempting to edge onto fields already taken.*" Remember, the numbers of college women were small, and the competition great.

In 1893, Emma Harper Turner retired as Grand President of Pi Beta Phi in order to become president of the newly organized Alumnae Department. Emma said, "*I love the fraternity dearly. Nothing I do could possibly compensate for the beautiful friendships it has brought me, the helpful people it has enabled me to know. I cannot understand how anyone can grow lukewarm in their devotion to it.*" She worked hard to organize the alumnae and keep them involved, sending out circulars and making certain that all fraternity work was announced to the graduate members. Emma was responsible for the first fraternity exams given by Pi Beta Phi. Under her leadership a founders' day was decreed, and the fraternity yell was adopted: *Ring ching ching, ho hippy hi, ra ro arrow, Pi Beta Phi!* She was Pi Phi's delegate to the first Panhellenic Conference in 1891 and served that body as secretary and as the chairman of its first standing committee.

Miss Turner had other interests, too – the College Women's Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, and women's suffrage. She was the prime instigator of Pi Phi's renowned settlement work in the Great Smokey Mountains, and it was she who outlined a plan to meet the needs of a people still living as had their ancestors who first came to the region some one-hundred years prior to Emma's work. These descendents of the Anglo-Saxons still retained the culture, heritage and mores of a much earlier England. Gatlinburg was chosen as the most isolated and needy place...there were six houses, one church and three general stores. An American flag was not flown there until 1913, a year after Pi Phi volunteers came into the area as a group of "fearsome furrin' wimmin from outside, set to convert them to some devilish religion," as it was thought. Pi Phi's successful Settlement House, now Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, remains that fraternity's philanthropic focus for its active chapters and alumnae organizations.

Emma Harper Turner's commitment to the concept of the Greek system for women, rooted in Nu Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma and fulfilled in Pi Beta Phi, is best stated in her own words: "*Fraternity means...a generous sympathy, a kindly helpfulness. Fraternity means cooperation. Fraternity stands for scholarship and culture. Fraternity means friendship.*"

THE HISTORY OF BURR, PATTERSON & AULD – Fraternity Jeweler for Kappa Kappa Gamma

Burr, Patterson & Auld is one of the oldest jewelry companies in the country, founded as Auld, Inc. in 1870 in Columbus, Ohio. Its initial product specialty was emblematic jewelry for fraternal organizations. Two leading jewelry-manufacturing companies found their origin in "Burr-Patt." Lloyd G. Balfour came to the company in 1906 as a salesman and left in 1913 to found the L. G. Balfour Company. In 1920, Harry J. Herff and R. L. Jones left Burr-Patt to found the Herff-Jones Company in Indianapolis. In 1926, the fraternity division of Auld, Inc. was sold and merged with Burr, Patterson and Company of Detroit, renamed the Burr, Patterson & Auld Company. In the late 1930s the company was purchased by L. G. Balfour Company, a clandestine merger which effectively controlled the major portion of the Greek fraternity market. An unfair trade practice suit was filed with the Federal Trade Commission in 1961 by a group of smaller manufacturers. After 10 years of unsuccessful legal defense to the suit, the Balfour Company was ordered to close or dispose of the Burr, Patterson & Auld Company. In 1975, the firm moved to Elwood, Indiana, where the manufacture of badges for Kappa Kappa Gamma is exclusively handled by Burr, Patterson & Auld under contract with the Fraternity.

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