



Emily Kimbrough

Muncie, Delaware County

October 23, 1899 – February 10, 1989

Emily Kimbrough was born in Muncie, Indiana on October 23, 1899. After graduating from Bryn Mawr College in 1921, Kimbrough worked as an advertising copywriter and later as an editor for *Fashions of the Hours*, a Marshall Field and Company publication. In 1926, she became fashion editor of *Ladies' Home Journal* in New York City, later rising to managing editor. Kimbrough also wrote articles for *Country Life*, *House & Garden*, *Travel*, *Reader's Digest*, *Saturday Review of Literature*, and *Parents* magazines.

Her career as an author made her a household name in the 1940s. In 1942, Kimbrough and her friend, Cornelia Otis Skinner published *Our Hearts Were Young and Gay*, recounting their European travels they had taken after graduating from college. The book became a *New York Times* best seller and was developed into a movie in 1944. Most of her works have a humorous and lighthearted tone in which she reminisces about her early childhood in Muncie. In her autobiographical memoir, *How Dear to My Heart* (1944), she writes, "A childhood that was happy, in great part, I think, because it was spent in a little town, where I was not a stranger to anyone."

Publishing sixteen books and countless articles, Kimbrough remained active until her death in 1989. Much of her writing reflects her hometown of Muncie's past, with reminiscences of the "East End." The East End was the preferred neighborhood of Muncie's socially elite and prosperous citizens during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. The city honored her by naming a section of her old neighborhood the Emily Kimbrough Historic District in 1976. In 1978, the local historical district was placed on the national registry. Today, it is part of the East Central Neighborhood District.

For information about Emily Kimbrough, go to: <http://www.muncie-ecna.org/kimbrough.html>.

For information about *Writing Her Story*, go to: <http://www.in.gov/icw/2440.htm>.

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