



## **Helen L. Foster**

### **1919–2025**

Helen Foster earned her PhD from the University of Michigan in 1946. After 18 months teaching, she joined the U.S. Geological Survey and was posted to Japan. In 1959 she transferred to the Alaska Terrain and Permafrost Section, and transferred again in 1965 to the Branch of Alaskan Geology. Helen is highly regarded for her detailed mapping that helped unravel the complex metamorphic, igneous, structural, and metallogenic evolution of east-central Alaska, which she synthesized in the 1994 DNAG<sup>1</sup> Alaska volume. Helen published 173 maps and reports, including four 1:250,000 quadrangle maps, which provided the foundation of the current understanding of east-central Alaska. She was a role model and mentor for many women during their early geoscience careers.

<sup>1</sup> *Decade of North American Geology, published by the Geological Society of America*