

Frances Roads Elliott – known as Franc...she shortened it herself as a young girl

b. Feb. 10, 1852

d. Aug. 9, 1924 at age 72

Franc was a brunette with curly hair and kind dark eyes and was strong in mind and body. She was of stock form & broad headed. She married Simon Elliott and moved to Lincoln where she established the art department at the University of Nebraska and taught there, as did her two children.

Franc's father had supported her academic pursuits. She was only 19 when she graduated after 3 years from IA Wesleyan with a BS, then taught high school art and 3 years later earned an honorary MS degree. She was a painter and a teacher. As a teacher, she called attention to how ugly and unsanitary schoolrooms were by establishing a model school room with hard wood floors and tinted walls on which were hung pictures of merit, and the rooms were properly lighted and ventilated. She also studied art in Cincinnati, Chicago Art Institute, University of Chicago, Stanford University, Columbia University and in Europe. She was the first woman to become the commissioner of art at the New Orleans Expo in 1884. Franc was supported in her academic pursuits by her father-in-law, who believed in the education of women, despite the objections of men in high church authority, who said, "Women hadn't the brain to study mathematics, and if they studied Greek and Latin it would surely harm them for housekeeping and the care of families." Our Founders were quite the pioneers in that they were educated women, pursued careers, and raised families.

She was one of three special friends, often called the Triamese Twins, along with Mary Allen and Hattie Briggs. Living in the years in the aftermath of the Civil War, she spoke and used her influence in favor of the constructive policy of arbitration. She and Hattie Briggs suggested starting their own secret society but didn't want it called a sorority and didn't want to use the Greek letters as others were doing. After suggesting names for their society, all the founders gathered at Franc's home to make the bibbed percale aprons to wear at initiation which her mother helped design. The left side was longer than the right to pin the emblem to. Other Wesleyan students called them the seven the Pleiades, meaning seven daughters. Franc became known as the girl with the far vision; she was so progressive that she was years ahead of her time.

Franc was instrumental in formation of Chapter A in Salt Lake City, UT. The advancement of women was a lifelong challenge. She counted among her activist friends, Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, Frances Willard, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Julia Ward Howe.

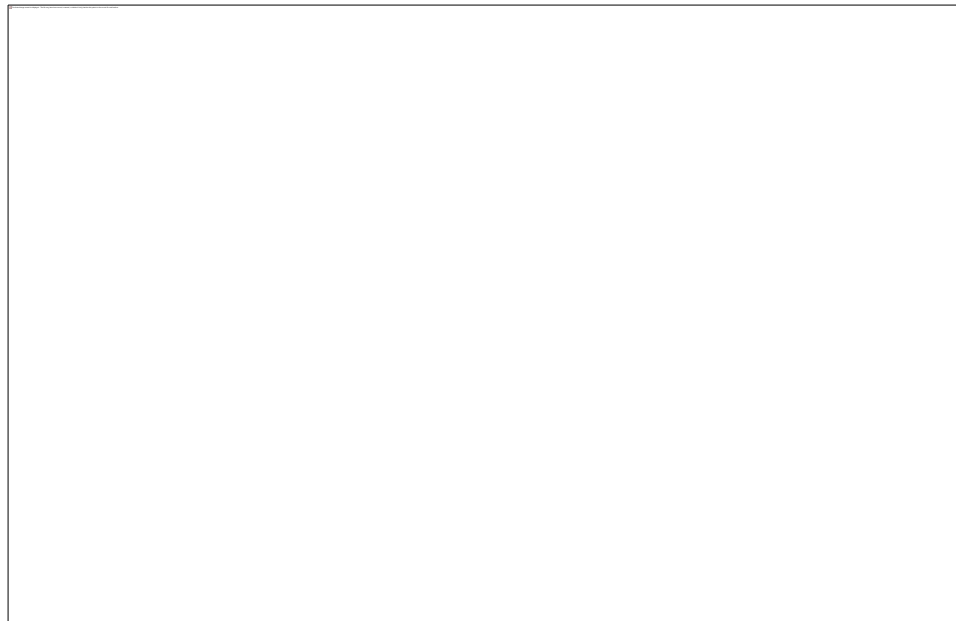
Franc was especially interested in ELF and thought it was the most important work of PEO. The CA State Chapter honored her 50 years after founding PEO.

She was the youngest of the Founders, yet Franc was considered the most progressive Founder with the greatest vision.

*Franc wrote: "When I think of the past and look at the present and dream of the future, I am filled with hope and great expectations lure me onward. I trust that our little effort, like the ripples on the lake, will widen and extend."*

Franc's bio begins on p. 20 in Out of the Heart.

Franc  
Elliott is  
third  
left at



Roads  
shown  
from  
the

1923 Wisconsin State P.E.O. Convention.