

Harriet Jane "Hattie" Briggs Bousquet

b. Oct. 10, 1849 in Troy, IA d. June 22, 1877 in Pella, IA at age 28

Hattie was blonde with unusual deep blue eyes and known as the best hearted girl that ever lived. Her classmates called her "Mother Superior" or "Patron Saint," as friends approached her with all their troubles and they always received help. Her father was a minister. She married Henri L. Bousquet (Boos-kit), from Amsterdam, who was a mill manager.

She attended the Preparatory Department at IA Wesleyan before enrolling in college then graduated from IA Wesleyan in 1869 along with Alice Bird, Franc Roads, Mary Allen and Alice Coffin. She received a BS after 3 years. In 1872, she received an honorary MS degree for teaching music 3 years following graduation. She taught in Ottumwa, then Knoxville, IA where she met her husband, Henri. Hattie's father married them on a Sunday after services. They moved to Pella, IA where he became assistant cashier of Pella National Bank and eventually became the clerk of the Supreme Court of IA.

Hattie suggested the name of P.E.O. rather than Greek letters other sororities used. She was the one who said to Franc Roads, "Let's have a society of our own, then we can stay together," after some of their friends were not invited to join the first sorority on campus. She was selected as the first treasurer of Chapter A.

She only wore the star for seven years, but one of her friends said of her, "It was hers to give to our Sisterhood a note of joy that has grown sweeter and stronger as the years have come and gone."

Hattie is best remembered for her radiant smile. Her wedding ring was eventually used by her son Cutts Duddock when he married Clara Degenaar in 1916. Their daughter, Geraldine inherited the ring and wore it when initiated into Chapter M in Knoxville years later. She donated it in 1962 to the PEO Executive Office. Hattie had another son, Lyman, who died at age 6. She was a trained musician. The five virtues of faith, love, purity, justice and truth embodied Hattie's personality.

Her bio begins on p. 14 in Out of the Heart.