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Written by **Rev. Dr. Nancy L. Allen**  
the great great grand niece of the Peters sisters.

# Zeal to Educate Women



**Sarah Peters** 1857–1936  
Zhenjiang (ChingKiang) 1888-1891  
Nanjing (Nanking) 1891-1924




**Mary Peters** 1855–1937  
Minqing (Minchiang) 1895-1906  
Gutian (Kucheng) 1906-1924



**Alice Peters** 1852–1911  
Nanjing (Nanking) 1904-1909



Nancy (Shepherd) Allen, 1948-2011, was inspired by the story of the Peters sisters, her great great great aunts, during her own pioneering ministry in Iowa as a United Methodist clergywoman from 1974–2009. She finished writing the book manuscript in February 2011, a month before receiving a diagnosis of cancer.

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For hundreds of years Chinese mothers bound the feet of their infant daughters to make their feet small and thus more likely to find a husband for them. Engagements for marriage were most often made in the first few years of life. Even abandoning baby girls to die was not uncommon and it was a rare occurrence to meet an educated woman.

A huge change to these and other practices began to take place in the late 19th Century and accelerated in the 20th. Experience this conversion through the stories of three American sisters, trained as professional educators, who committed their careers to the women and girls of China.

Leaving the American Heartland with missionary zeal, the Peters sisters of Princeville, Illinois, sailed to the other side of the world with the intent of changing China. [www.SistersinChina.com](http://www.SistersinChina.com)



Art Allen, designer, editor and publisher of the book proudly displays one of the first copies of *Zeal to Educate Women*. Art spent 43 years as spouse and partner in ministry with the author and is leading book events and lectures to share the legacy of the work of these four remarkable women.