

A Guide to the

**Dr. E.S. Peters *fonds***

COLL - 077

Arranged & Described by

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Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive  
Health Sciences Library  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
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**Title:** Dr. E.S. Peters *fonds*  
**Dates:** 1930's to 1970's  
**Extent:** textual records and 21 black and white photographs

**Biographical sketch:**

Edward Smith Peters "E.S. Peters" (1909-1990), Chief Diagnostician and physician, was born in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador on March 26, 1909 to Joseph Peters and Fanny Elizabeth Smith. He was the youngest son. E.S. Peters married Ruth Katharine Story (1914-2000) in 1939. Edward and Ruth had three children: Helen Ruth Katharine "Helen R.K." (March 19, 1942- ), Edward Bruce (February 10, 1945- ) and Janet Isabel Story Steer (September 22, 1952 – December 3, 2013). His daughter Helen is a retired English professor at Memorial University as well as a published author. His daughter, Janet was the Director of Nursing at the General Hospital in St. John's and she played an integral role in the establishment of the former Lillian Stevenson Nursing Archives/Museum.

Peters received his early education at the Methodist College in St. John's, NL. He attended Memorial University College in St. John's before moving to Montreal, Quebec to study medicine at McGill Medical School. He graduated from the McGill Medical School on March 10, 1933. Dr. Peters then interned for two years at the Ste. Agathe Sanatorium in Quebec, focusing on tuberculosis. Upon graduating, in 1933, he accepted a job as Medical Director on the S.S. Kyle. He then returned to Montreal in the fall of 1933.

Dr. Peters returned to his native St. John's in 1935, working as Assistant Superintendent of the St. John's Sanatorium. He remained in this role until 1938 when the Avalon Health Unit was formed and established in Harbour Grace, NL. Dr. James McGrath was Director of the Avalon Health Unit and Dr. E.S. Peters was Chief Diagnostician. In 1942, Dr. Peters became Director of the Avalon Health Unit after Dr. McGrath was appointed Deputy Minister of Health. Dr. Peters accepted the Directorship of the new Tuberculosis Dispensary in 1947, in St. John's. The Avalon Health Unit in Harbour Grace was dissolved upon this move to the St. John's dispensary.

In 1948, Dr. Peters received a Fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation. He pursued post-graduate studies at the University of Toronto until 1949. Dr. Peters was appointed Medical Superintendent of the new West Coast Sanatorium in Corner Brook, NL, in 1950. Dr. Peters supervised the construction of this new health facility. Dr. Peters then spent some time on the M.V. Christmas Seal, a boat traveling around Newfoundland and Labrador providing care for tuberculosis.

Dr. Peters learned of a new treatment to prevent tuberculosis (TB) from Dr. Armande Frappier of Montreal, Quebec. Dr. Peters started using this treatment, which came to be known as the BCG Vaccine (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin). Since prevention and drugs to prevent tuberculosis were

being used and discovered, the Sanatorium outlived its purpose and closed down as a TB hospital in 1964.

Following the closure of the Sanatorium, Dr. Peters became a member of the Board of Directors of the Provincial Tuberculosis Association. He held the position of Director of Tuberculosis Control in Newfoundland and Labrador until his retirement in 1974. He was also the President of the Newfoundland Thoracic Society from 1966 to 1968. Dr. Peters also acted as the Director of the St. John's General Hospital and on the board of the Janeway Children's Hospital upon its opening in St. John's.

Dr. E.S. Peters was awarded an honorary membership in the Canadian Lung Association in 1981. He passed away on October 9, 1990. He is remembered for his knowledge of and treatment of tuberculosis patients across Newfoundland and Labrador. He played a vital role in implementing successful procedures to treat and prevent TB.

**Custodial history:**

The records of Dr. E.S. Peters were held in the custody of his daughter, Helen R.K. Peters until being donated to the Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive in 2015.

**Scope and content:**

*Fonds* consist of one folder containing 21 photographs and textual material relating to Dr. E.S. Peters' medical career.

**Source of title:**

Title based on the contents of the *fonds*.

**Acquisition:**

The records of Dr. E.S. Peters were acquired from his daughter, Helen R.K. Peters in 2015.

**Arrangement:**

Materials are arranged into one series consisting of 21 photographs as well as textual material relating to the medical career of Dr. E.S. Peters. *Fonds* is arranged in the following series:

- 1.0 Photographs, 1940's & 1950's
- 2.0 Correspondence and related material, 1938-1976

**Restrictions:**

There are no restrictions on access to or use of the materials in this collection. Users should be aware that all materials in this collection are protected by copyright and should act accordingly. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain copyright clearance from the copyright holder(s).

**Accruals:**

Further accruals are not expected.

**Location:**

**Finding Aid:**

Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive finding aid #077. File level control

**Series and sub-series list:**

**1. Photographs, 1940's & 1950's**

**1.01 Dr. E.S. Peters Photographs, 1940's & 1950's**

- 1.01.01 Dr. E.S. Peters, c. 1940 in his medical office in Harbour Grace, Newfoundland [black and white]
- 1.01.02 Unidentified person with unidentified children, date unknown [black and white]
- 1.01.03 Father O'Brien with unidentified person, date unknown [black and white]
- 1.01.04 Father O'Brien with unidentified people and children, c.1950 [black and white]
- 1.01.05 Unidentified, date unknown [black and white]
- 1.01.06 Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador, date unknown [black and white]
- 1.01.07 Dr. E.S. Peters in his private residence in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador (residence torn down after Peters family vacated residence), date unknown [black and white]
- 1.01.08 Official opening of West Coast Sanatorium, Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador with speakers, The Hon. J.R. Chalker & Dr. E.S. Peters, June 4, 1952, D. Parsons Photographer [black and white]
- 1.01.09 Official opening of West Coast Sanatorium, Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador with the Hon. E.S. Spencer passing the key to Sir Leonard Outerbridge, June 4, 1952, D. Parsons Photographer [black and white]
- 1.01.10 Official opening of the West Coast Sanatorium, Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador with Sir Leonard Outerbridge officially declaring the Sanatorium open, June 4, 1952, D. Parsons Photography [black and white]
- 1.01.11 Official opening of the West Coast Sanatorium, Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador with speaker Dr. E.S. Peters, June 4, 1952, D. Parsons Photographer [black and white]
- 1.01.12 Unidentified people, date unknown [black and white]
- 1.01.13 Unidentified person, date unknown [black and white]
- 1.01.14 Captain Peter Troake on the M.V. Christmas Seal, date unknown [black and white]
- 1.01.15 Captain Peter Troake on the M.V. Christmas Seal, date unknown [black and white]
- 1.01.16 Captain Peter Troake on the M.V. Christmas Seal with unidentified person, date unknown [black and white]
- 1.01.17 Town of Makkovik, Labrador, date unknown [black and white]
- 1.01.18 Unidentified nurse with unidentified person and unidentified children in a boat, date unknown [black and white]
- 1.01.19 Unidentified people in a boat, date unknown [black and white]

- 1.01.20 Unidentified people in a boat with two other boats containing unidentified people in boats, in partial view, date unknown [black and white]
- 1.01.21 Unidentified people in a boat called Angele, date unknown [black and white]

## **2. Correspondence and related material, 1938-1976**

### **2.01 Correspondence, 1938-1976**

- 2.01.01 Correspondence between Hon. J.C. Puddester, Commissioner, Public Health and Welfare, City and Assistant Superintendent, Dr. E.S. Peters, April 19, 1938
- 2.01.02 Telegram from Hon. J.C. Puddester to Dr. E.S. Peters, April 22, 1938
- 2.01.03 Correspondence between H.M. Mosdell and Dr. E.S. Peters, November 29, 1938
- 2.01.04 Correspondence between H.M. Mosdell and Dr. E.S. Peters, December 1, 1938
- 2.01.05 Correspondence between H.M. Mosdell and Dr. E.S. Peters, December 2, 1938
- 2.01.06 Correspondence between H.M. Mosdell and Dr. E.S. Peters, June 3, 1938
- 2.01.07 Correspondence between H.M. Mosdell and Dr. E.S. Peters, June 7, 1938
- 2.01.08 Correspondence between H.M. Mosdell and Dr. E.S. Peters, June 11, 1938
- 2.01.09 Correspondence between H.M. Mosdell and Dr. E.S. Peters, January 5, 1943
- 2.01.10 Telegram from H.M. Mosdell to Dr. E.S. Peters, January 11, 1943
- 2.01.11 Correspondence between Colonel Courtenay and Dr. E.S. Peters, January 12, 1943
- 2.01.12 Correspondence between H.M. Mosdell and Dr. E.S. Peters, January 13, 1943
- 2.01.13 Telegram from H.M. Mosdell to Dr. E.S. Peters, January 14, 1943
- 2.01.14 Telegram from Dr. H.M. Mosdell to Dr. E.S. Peters, January 16, 1943
- 2.01.15 Correspondence from Hon. John C. Puddester, Commissioner for Public Health and Welfare, St. John's, April 3, 1943
- 2.01.16 Correspondence signed J.C. Puddester, Commissioner for Public Health and Welfare, June 21, 1943. Copy for Dr. Bennett, Dr. Miller, Dr. Josephson, Dr. McGrath and Dr. Peters
- 2.01.17 Telegram from SGD. J.C. Puddester, Commissioner for Public Health and Welfare, July 22, 1943, acknowledging receipt of a memorandum from June 23, 1943
- 2.01.18 Correspondence from The Hon. J.C. Puddester, K.B.K., L.L.D., Commissioner of Public Health and Welfare, June 26, 1943, acknowledging receipt of a letter from June 21, 1943
- 2.01.19 Telegram from Dr. E.S. Peters, M.H.O. to H.M. Mosdell, M.D., August 5 1943
- 2.01.20 Secretary for Public Health & Welfare for Doctors McGrath, Josephson, Miller & Peters, August 5, 1943
- 2.01.21 Correspondence to Hon. J.C. Puddester, Commissioner for Public Health & Welfare, thanking him for his communication on August 5
- 2.01.22 Correspondence from J. Burt, Director of Pensions & Payroll to Dr. E.S. Peters re. Pension, April 25, 1974
- 2.01.23 Correspondence from A.T. Rowe, M.R.C.S. Minister to Dr. E.S. Peters, April 17, 1974
- 2.01.24 Correspondence from E.S. Peters, M.D.C.M., D.P.H. F.R.C.P. (C) c/c Premier Hon. W. Doody, to Hon. Harold A. Collins, Minister of Health, December 29, 1976
- 2.01.25 Correspondence from E.S. Peters to Hon. Harold A. Collins, January 7, 1977

- 2.01.26 Correspondence from E.S. Peters to Hon. Harold A. Collins, Minister of Health, January 7, 1977 with handwritten annotations
- 2.01.27 Correspondence from Harold A. Collins, Minister of Health, c/c Premier Hon W. Doody to Dr. E.S. Peters, December 1, 1976
- 2.01.28 Correspondence from C. William Doody, President of Treasury Board to Dr. E.S. Peters, January 31, 1977
- 2.01.29 Correspondence from Dr. E.S. Peters to Hon. Dr. A.T. Rowe, Minister of Health re. annual X-rays of miners, May 29, 1973
- 2.01.30 Correspondence from A.B. Colohan, M.D., Assistant Deputy Minister to Dr. E.S. Peters, Director, Tuberculosis Control, September 24, 1973 with attached copy of a newspaper report re. Buchans Mine
- 2.01.31 Correspondence from Dr. E.S. Peters, M.D., C.M. F.R.C.P. (C), Director of Tuberculosis Control to Dr. D. Cant, Deputy Minister of Health, October 1, 1973
- 2.01.32 Correspondence to Dr. McGrath re. Sanatorium
- 2.01.33 Correspondence from J.M. McGrath, Minister of Health regarding the appointment of Dr. E.S. Peters as Director of Tuberculosis Control for Newfoundland and Labrador in November 1964
- 2.01.34 Correspondence from E.S. Peters, M.D., C.M. F.R.C.P. (C) to The Honourable Mr. Harold Collins, Minister of Health, copied to Premier F.D. Moores and Hon. W. Doody, November 8, 1976

## **2.02 Press Release**

- 2.02.01 Press Release from Dr. A.T. Rowe, Department of Health, April 15, 1974

## **2.03 Memorandums**

- 2.03.01 Memorandum for Sir John C. Puddester, Commissioner for Public Health and Welfare, July 27, 1943

## **2.04 Poetry**

- 2.04.01 "Light at last" by Edgar G. House

## **2.05 Survey of Tuberculosis in the Training Schools for Nurses, 1948 by Dr. E.S. Peters, M.D.C.M., D.P.H., F.R.C.P. (C)**

- 2.05.01 Survey of Tuberculosis in the Training Schools for Nurses, 1948 by Dr. E.S. Peters, M.D.C.M., D.P.H., F.R.C.P. (C)

## **2.06 The History of Carbonear General Hospital**

- 2.06.01 The History of Carbonear General Hospital