

Fonds: St. Peters Bay collection

Reference code: C 17

Dates of creation:

1905 [copied ca. 2000]-2002 ; predominant 1969-2002

Physical description:

3 centimetres of textual records

1 photograph : black and white print

Scope and content:

Collection consists of records accumulated concerning the community of St. Peters Bay, PEI.

Textual records include correspondence, programs, reports, and bulletins created by or concerning the St. Peters Bay Roman Catholic Church, St. Peters Bay Co-op, St. Peters Bay Consolidated School, St. Peters Annual Fundraising Dinner, Lewis family genealogy, and the retirement of St. Peters Bay Consolidated teachers.

The photograph is an image of the pupils who attended St. Peters Bay School in 1905.

Biographical sketch:

St. Peters Bay lies within the traditional, unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

Poogoosumkek Boktaba, the Mi'kmaq name for St. Peters Bay, means "the place of clam digging."

During the French period of settlement on PEI (then known as Île St-Jean), the French population settled in Havre-Saint-Pierre, present-day St. Peters Harbour. Some families also lived in nearby Greenwich (known as Dunes à l'est du dit Havre, or "dunes to the east of the harbour"). Beginning in 1719, fisherman François Douville was the first settler to live in the area. All settlers of Havre-Saint-Pierre were removed from this area in the deportation of 1758.

The earliest documented British settlers in St. Peters Bay arrived in 1772 from Scotland aboard the *Alexander*. In 1791, Scottish-Catholic settlers arrived on the *Queen* from Greenock, including the families of Angus McIntyre, Hugh McKinnon, Neil McCormack, John McDonald, John MacKenzie, Angus McIsaac and Dougald O'Hanley. Today, the majority of the population in St. Peters Bay is descended from these early Scottish immigrants.

In the early 1800s, Jonathan Worrell, a wealthy Barbados planter, began establishing a family estate for his son Charles. By 1814, the Worrell family owned most of the land in the St. Peters Bay area. In 1854, William Henry Pope, a prominent PEI resident, purchased the Worrell family's land for £14,000. Within the year, Pope resold the land to the colonial government for £24,100.

Shipbuilding was the first major industry in St. Peters Bay. Throughout the 1830s, the production of schooners dominated, and St. Peters Bay became an important shipbuilding location on the Island. Many of the completed vessels from St. Peters were outfitted for the coastal trade and seal fishery in Newfoundland. By 1846, a market had opened to provide vessels to transport lumber to Great Britain and the industry flourished until the 1870s.

Like the rest of PEI, from 1830 to 1880 the economy in St. Peters Bay was based around small family farms. The Royal Agricultural Society established a branch in St. Peters Bay in 1850, which helped turn the extraction of mussel mud into an industry in the 1860s. St. Peters Bay was a popular site for digging mussel mud. Other early agricultural organizations established in the St. Peters Bay area included the St. Peter's Farmers' Institute (1901), Banner Calf Club (1936), and Junior Farming (1948). During the same period, small industry in St. Peters Bay included a starch factory (1880), cheese factory (1893), lobster factories (circa 1900) and fox farming (1914). For the majority of the last century, many residents were employed within either the fishing or farming industries.

Restrictions on Access:

No restrictions on access.

Terms Governing Use:

There are no restrictions on reproduction for research and private study.

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

The records were donated by Dean Lewis in August of 2026.

Associated Material:

- Burge, Mary, et al., They Chose to Serve (1989).
- Cameron, John. and Loue Daley, [*Jimmie MacAulay: The Man Who Got Things Done!*](#) (2024)
- Ledwell, Mrs. Anna et al., [*St. Peter's Bay Remembers, St. Peter's Bay Remembered*](#) (1996).
- MacKinnon, Mary et al., [*History of St. Peter's Bay*](#) (1972).
- Peterson, Michael, [*Scared by the Bay: Folk History From the St. Peters Area*](#) (Charlottetown: UPEI (Thesis - B.A. Honours 2003).
- Pratt, C.C., [*A Brief History of St. Peter's Bay*](#) (1971).
- Rossiter, Juanita, *Gone to The Bay: A History of the St. Peters Fire District Area* (Summerside: Williams & Crue Limited, 2000).

Related Material:

Public Archives and Records of PEI (PARO):

- Fonds Acc3478 - [St. Peter's Bay Women's Institute fonds](#)
- Collection Acc4725 - [Gone to the Bay: A History of the St. Peters Fire District Area / by Juanita Rossiter](#)

- Fonds Acc3502 - [Mt. Stewart/St. Peters Bay Pastoral Charge of the United Church fonds : \[1871-1983\]](#)
- Fonds Acc3235 - [Peter MacCallum fonds : \[1826-1838\]](#)
- Collection Acc5161 - [St. Peters North School Class Photograph : ca. 1945-1955](#)

Accruals:

Further accruals may be expected.

Former codes:

UASC2026-013

How to order:

Consult the online list to identify the records that you require. Order using reference code and container number.

Finding Aid:

File list available.