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Peterson, Wayne, Collection, MS 120

Wayne Peterson Collection

Collection Number	MS 120
Title	The Wayne Peterson Collection
Name and Location of Repository	Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas
Dates	1894 – 1978
Collection Size	1.5 linear foot
Creator	Wayne Peterson; donated by Mark Dulek in October of 2012

Scope and Content Wayne Gordon Peterson was an historian for the Naval Air Corps. His personal library is at the Pittsburg Public Library, and his papers on the Naval Air Corps are located at the University of Kansas. This collection consists of clippings, correspondence, contracts, publications, photographs, and personal family materials.

Access Restrictions This collection is open for access

Languages English

Biographical Note Wayne Gordon Peterson was born to Ralph Oliver Peterson and Haysie Cowan on April 11, 1917 in Pittsburg, Kansas. Peterson received a bachelor's degree in history, and a master's degree in English from Kansas State Teacher's College (now Pittsburg State University) in 1939. He taught in Cherokee, Kansas for a year before becoming a naval officer. After World War II, he worked as an accountant for McNally Pittsburg, and in 1955 became the official historian for the Naval Air Corps. He lived in Okinawa, Japan for seventeen years, and Hawaii for seven years. After this, he returned to Pittsburg and continued to research military and local history. He died on August 29, 1978.

Series The materials in the Wayne Peterson Collection are arranged in six series: **Biographical**, **Correspondence**, **Military**, **Family**, **Photographs**, and **Miscellaneous**. There is one oversized box in this collection.

The **Biographical** includes an article about his time in Okinawa and a newspaper clipping concerning his personal library and papers. This series is organized chronologically.

The **Correspondence** series consists of two letters and several postcards to his parents during World War II. This series is organized thematically and chronologically.

The **Military** series contains Peterson's contract to be in the Navy and several publications about the military.

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The **Family** series contains a biography of Ralph Peterson, the teaching certificates for Haysie Peterson, a list of teachers in Cherokee County, Kansas, and school books from Idell Cowan, Haysie Peterson's sister.

The **Photograph** series contains photographs from the Peterson and Cowan families, and friends of Peterson. This series is arranged chronologically.

The **Miscellaneous** series consists of Kansas State Teacher's College Alumni Directory and a Pamphlet for the Vicksburg National Military Park. This series is arranged chronologically.

The **Oversized Box** contains the newspapers and clippings. These clippings are mainly about the Waugh and Peterson families. This series is arranged chronologically.

Folder List

Biographical

- f. 1 Article and clipping (1970-1978)

Correspondence

- f. 2 Letters (1904-1959)
Postcards (1907-1948; Undated in back)

Military

- f. 3 Contract from the Navy to Peterson (1949)
- f. 4 Publications from the Navy
- f. 5 Publication from the Air Force
Publications about the military from a civilian author

Family

- f. 6 Biography of Ralph Oliver Peterson
Teaching Certificates from Haysie (Cowan) Peterson (1897-1900)
List of teachers from Cherokee County, Kansas (1902-03)
School Books from Idell Cowan

Photographs

- f. 7 1917-1972; Undated at the back

Miscellaneous

- f. 8 Kansas State Teacher's College Alumni Directory (1939)
Pamphlet for the Vicksburg National Military Park

Oversized Box

- Clippings (1894- 1938; Undated in the back)