Tudor Place Manuscript Collection
Dr. Armistead Peter Papers
MS-13

Introduction

Dr. Armistead Peter Peter (1840-1902) was the son of Major George Peter (1779-1861) and his third wife Sarah Freeland Peter (1805-1846). He graduated from National Medical College in 1861. In 1867 he married his cousin, Martha Custis Kennon (1843-1886), the daughter of Britannia (Peter) Kennon (1815-1911). They had five children; their son, Armistead Peter, Jr. (1870-1950), became the third owner of Tudor Place. During their marriage the couple lived first at Tudor Place where the doctor maintained an office, and then at 3044 O Street N.W., in Georgetown, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Armistead Peter’s papers include correspondence, subject files, legal documents, financial documents, scrapbook material, and printed material. Of interest are the correspondence files containing letters from his son Armistead Peter, Jr., and daughter-in-law Anna (Williams) Peter (1872-1961), as well as the material concerning the deaths of his brother Walter Gibson Peter (1842-1863) and cousin William Orton Williams (1839-1863).

These papers were a part of the estate Armistead Peter placed under the auspices of the Carostead Foundation, Incorporated, in 1966; the name of the foundation was changed to Tudor Place Foundation, Incorporated, in 1987. Use and rights of the paper are controlled by the Foundation. The collection was processed and the register prepared by James Kaser, a project archivist hired through a National Historical Records and Publications grant in 1992. This document was reformatted by Emily Rusch and revised by Tudor Place archivist Wendy Kail in 2020.
Biographical Sketch

Dr. Armistead Peter (1840-1902) was born in Montgomery County, Maryland, on February 23, 1840, the son of Major George Peter (1799-1861) and Major George Peter’s third wife, Sarah (Freeland) Peter (1805-1846). His early education was obtained in school and under private tutors. After the death of his mother he lived in Georgetown, where he received guidance and encouragement for a medical career from Dr. Joshua Riley (1800-1875). He studied medicine at the National Medical College of Columbian University [George Washington University], Washington, D.C., graduating in February 1861. He settled in Georgetown and opened a general practice. He was a member of the American Medical Association, of the Medical Association of the District of Columbia, and vice-president of the alumni association of the National Medical College. He published articles in the American Journal of Medical Science. He was also a director of the Potomac Fire Insurance Company.

When the Civil War commenced he volunteered as a surgeon to the Confederacy, but was advised more doctors were not needed. Despite his family’s southern leaning he offered his services to the Union Army; he served as Acting Assistant Surgeon of the United States Army in service at the Seminary Hospital of the District of Columbia as Ward Surgeon, and was placed in charge of the facility. He was ordered to open a hospital at Water’s warehouse in Georgetown, but returned to the Seminary Hospital of his own accord. For several years he was a member of the Georgetown board of health, and was small-pox physician to the poor during 1866.

He married his cousin Martha Custis Kennon on April 23, 1867, and the couple resided at Tudor Place, where five children were born to them: Walter Gibson Peter (1868); Armistead Peter, Jr., (1870); Beverley Kennon Peter (1872); George Freeland Peter (1875); Agnes Norfleet Peter (1880). Their second son, Armistead Peter, Jr., would become the third owner of Tudor Place upon the death of his grandmother, Britannia (Peter) Kennon in 1911. Dr. Armistead Peter maintained an office in the East Wing of the house and saw his patients there. Eventually the couple built their own home in Georgetown on Congress Street between Stoddard and Road Streets [3044 O Street N.W., Georgetown, the corner of 31st and O Streets]; they also held property in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Dr. Peter died in 1902.
Series Description

CORRESPONDENCE
Series

CORRESPONDENCE
1861-1865
Includes a brief letter from William Orton Williams dated 1861, and four letters from Dr. Armistead Peter's sister, Sarah Agnes Peter, dealing with matters related to the retrieval of their brother Walter Gibson Peter's body and its reburial in Georgetown. Also includes one letter from Martha (Williams) Carter asking him to collect information on his trip to Franklin, Tennessee, to retrieve the bodies of her brother William Orton Williams and cousin Walter Gibson Peter. Martha (Williams) Carter's letter also discusses funeral arrangements and Sarah (Law) Williams. A letter from Major Laurence Abert Williams accompanied a check for one hundred dollars, his share of the expenses of retrieving the bodies of his brother William Orton Williams and cousin.

CORRESPONDENCE
1867-1868
Five letters, most dealing with consultations on particular patients with other physicians.

CORRESPONDENCE
1876-1879
Five letters, one from a brother containing family news, several letters concerning medical matters, and one from the editor of the Georgetown College Journal thanking him for reminiscences about Major George Peter, his father.

CORRESPONDENCE
1883-1884

CORRESPONDENCE
1886-1887
Nine letters expressing condolence upon the death of Martha (Kennon) Peter, his wife.
CORRESPONDENCE
1890-1892
Five brief letters dealing with social matters.

CORRESPONDENCE
1893-1894
Seven letters, several from patients and two from friends on long trips, one traveling in western United States after touring the Chicago World's Fair, and another traveling in England. One letter is from a health resort in Colorado and includes brochures describing the resort's services.

CORRESPONDENCE
1895
Three letters from or concerning patients.

CORRESPONDENCE
1896-1897
Includes one letter from his daughter Agnes (Peter) Mott, one from Sarah (Law) Williams, and seven letters from Mary Evon Metzradt, who was Anna (Williams) Peter's nurse, consisting of consultations on the health of Anna (Williams) Peter.

CORRESPONDENCE
1899-1901
Five letters from families of Dr. Armistead Peter's patients.

CORRESPONDENCE
ND
Four letters from families of patients.

CORRESPONDENCE: MARY S. FERGUSON
1900-1901
Consists of three lengthy letters written from Manila, the Philippines. Apparently Mary S. Ferguson was a friend who had lived in Georgetown and had instructed Dr. Armistead Peter to watch out for her sister, who was not in good health.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
March 1890
One letter written from Old Point Comfort, Virginia, discussing sightseeing trips.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
August-September 1890
Six letters written while Armistead Peter, Jr., was traveling with the Sarah (Law) Williams and her family. During this trip he saw Content Farm,
Cambridge, New York, for the first time and went aboard George Law's yacht.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
October-November 1890
Five letters, three of which deal with arrangements for Armistead Peter, Jr.'s, return to Georgetown after his summer travels and two dealing with a hunting trip in Virginia he made with his friend Frank Beall.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
1891
Includes three letters, two written while visiting the Williams family at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York City and in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. One letter was written while Armistead Peter, Jr., was apparently living at 3044 O Street, Georgetown, and discusses maintenance of the house.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
1892
Four letters, including one written while Armistead Peter, Jr., was living at 3044 O Street, Georgetown, which discusses maintenance of that property and Tudor Place. Three other letters were written from Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, and describe activities there.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
1893

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
June-July 1894
Consists of four letters written from Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, that discuss social activities and hunting.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
August-September 1894
Four letters, including three written from Content Farm, Cambridge, New York Farm, one of which mentions a visit from Walter Gibson Peter and one letter written after Armistead Peter, Jr.'s, return from a trip to the West.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
January-August 1895
Includes eleven letters. One letter describes an extended visit with Josephine (Law) May Haines. Four letters written on a trip through the West aboard Sarah (Law) Williams’ private railroad car. Six letters from Content Farm, Cambridge, New York.
CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
September-December 1895
Three letters from Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, one of which announces the wedding of Josephine (Law) May Haines to George Augustine Haines. Also includes letters written while on a trip to Atlanta, Georgia, and the Cotton States International Exposition.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
January-March 1896
Four letters, one discussing a planned trip to Georgetown, and another about the advantages of living in the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York City.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
April-June 1896
Seven letters concerning the activities of Armistead Peter, Jr., his wife and in-laws. Arrangements are made in preparation for his wife's accouchement at Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, where Dr. Armistead Peter will serve as physician.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
July-August 1896
Consists of five letters that discuss activities at Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, and Anna (Williams) Peter's postnatal condition.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
October-December 1896
Three letters describe the good health of Armistead Peter 3rd, activities at Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, baby gifts received, and an impending visit to Washington.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
January 1897
Includes seven letters and two telegrams most of which detail illnesses of Armistead Peter, Jr., and Armistead Peter 3rd. One letter included a newspaper clipping about Alga (Smith) Law, the wife of George Law, Jr. Another letter mentions an unsuccessful attempt to set a date for christening Armistead Peter 3rd.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
February-May 1897
Five letters in which Armistead Peter, Jr., expresses concern over Britannia (Peter) Kennon's illness, announces the date for Armistead Peter 3rd christening, and mentions a visit by his brothers Walter Gibson Peter and Beverley Kennon Peter.
CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
July 1897
A letter about a coin Robert Peter brought with him when he immigrated from Scotland and servant problems at Content Farm, Cambridge, New York.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
September-October 1897
Letters describe Armistead Peter, Jr.’s, ill health, recount Armistead Peter 3rd’s activities, and ask for advice about a health problem of the boy.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
November-December 1897
Consists of four letters discussing plans for trips to Washington, D.C., and New Orleans, Louisiana, attendance at theaters, and visits from George Freeland Peter and Walter Gibson Peter. One letter refers to an illness of Dr. Armistead Peter.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
January-March 1898
Five letters regarding a planned trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the convalescing Dr. Armistead Peter, news of New York City and George Freeland Peter who is in the seminary there, and a hunting trip with George Granville Wright at Porter’s Bar, in Maryland.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
May-July 1898
Includes four letters about activities in New York, a visit by George Freeland Peter, mentions of the Spanish-American War, and arrangements for a proposed trip by Dr. Armistead Peter to Content Farm, Cambridge, New York.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
September-December 1898
Nine letters including two written from Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, and seven written from the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York City. Topics covered: the weather at Content Farm, Cambridge, New York; the servant problems of Dr. Armistead Peter and Anna (Williams) Peter; the health of various family members; a cold suffered by Armistead Peter 3rd.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
January-February 1899
Seven letters mention the health of Armistead Peter 3rd, the death of Dr. Campbell, the activities of George Freeland Peter, and the weather in New York.
CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
April 1899
One letter that discusses the ill-health of Anna (Williams) Peter and Sarah (Law) Williams, and a book entitled From Reefer to Rear-Admiral: Reminiscences and Journal Jottings of Nearly Half A Century of Naval Life by Admiral Benjamin F. Sands that mentions Commodore Beverley Kennon.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
June-July 1899
Three letters, one written from the Fifth Avenue Hotel and two from Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, covering the great heat the family is suffering in New York City, the growth of Armistead Peter 3rd, and the death of Josephine (May) Haines.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
September-October 1899
Three letters including one from Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, and two from the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Armistead Peter, Jr., describes activities at the farm, recounts in detail an incident with a burglar in which one of the servants was involved, and discusses arrangements for a trip to Washington.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
December 1899
One letter notes an article that may be written about the Peter family and describes Christmas celebrations.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
1900
Includes nine letters, three written from Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, and the rest written from the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York City. The letters note: the weather in New York and at the farm; a visit by George Freeland Peter to Content Farm, Cambridge, New York; illness of Kate (Williams) Upshur; gifts sent to Dr. Armistead Peter; and the activities of Armistead Peter 3rd. Notes from Armistead Peter 3rd enclosed.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
January-March 1901
Six letters written from the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York City, concerning Armistead Peter, Jr.'s, health, George Freeland Peter's health, a visit by Agnes (Peter) Mott, the weaning of Armistead Peter 3rd, the illness of a servant, and the preparations for a visit to Washington.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
June-October 1901
Includes three letters from Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, and one from the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York City, describing the weather, the
outdoor activities of the family, the ill-health of Anna (Law) Wright, and mentions the assassination of President McKinley fulminating against the anarchists. One letter details the death of a servant.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER, JUNIOR
1902
One letter discusses the health of George Granville Wright and Anna (Law) Wright, and plans for a trip to Washington to celebrate Britannia (Peter) Kennon's birthday.

CORRESPONDENCE: ANNA (WILLIAMS) PETER
1894
Six letters including five from Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, and one from St. Paul, Minnesota. The letters are formulaic and contain little news and few descriptions; the letter from St. Paul was written during a trip through the West.

CORRESPONDENCE: ANNA (WILLIAMS) PETER
1895
Includes three letters: one asks Dr. Armistead Peter to send a prescription to cure an illness of Armistead Peter, Jr.; one thanks Dr. Armistead Peter for the prescription, and notes the pharmaceuticals effect. The third letter discusses plans for a trip to Washington.

CORRESPONDENCE: ANNA (WILLIAMS) PETER
1896
Seven letters referring to birthday gifts sent to Dr. Armistead Peter. Other letters discuss the weather, mention Armistead Peter 3rd, and health matters.

CORRESPONDENCE: ANNA (WILLIAMS) PETER
1897
Letters which deal with Armistead Peter 3rd's health and baby formula.

CORRESPONDENCE: ANNA (WILLIAMS) PETER
1898
Four letters report on Armistead Peter 3rd's health, comment on family news, and recount events on Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, and in New York City.

CORRESPONDENCE: ANNA (WILLIAMS) PETER
1899
Five letters discuss arrangements for visits by Agnes (Peter) Mott and Dr. Armistead Peter and comment on social activities with George Freeland Peter. One letter mentions Armistead 3rd's diet and another refers to the illness of Martha (Williams) Carter.
CORRESPONDENCE: ANNA (WILLIAMS) PETER.
1900
Six letters note activities at Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, and urge Dr. Armistead Peter to make a visit.

CORRESPONDENCE: ANNA (WILLIAMS) PETER
1901
Eight letters recount activities at Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, visits by George Freeland Peter, urge Dr. Armistead Peter to visit, and discuss the health of George Granville Wright.

CORRESPONDENCE: ANNA (WILLIAMS) PETER
ND
Two undated letters.

CORRESPONDENCE: MARTHA (KENNON) PETER
1868
Two letters written while Martha (Kennon) Peter was visiting relatives to attend a wedding.

CORRESPONDENCE: MARTHA (KENNON) PETER
1870; 1885
Eight letters written in 1870 and three letters written in 1885. The letters in 1870 were written while Martha (Kennon) Peter was visiting relatives at Lynwood, Maryland, as well as staying at a boarding house presumably in the mountains to improve the health of Walter Gibson Peter and Britannia (Peter) Kennon. The 1885 letters were written while Dr. Armistead Peter was traveling in Britain and describe the health of various patients and relate the activities of his family. Letters mention major work on the streets near 3044 O Street, Georgetown.

CORRESPONDENCE: SARAH (LAW) WILLIAMS
1898-1901; ND
Four letters consisting of invitations to visit Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, and thank you notes for gifts.

BEVERLEY KENNON PETER: LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
1889
Two employment recommendations written by teachers.

BEVERLEY KENNON PETER: VIRGIL TRANSLATION
1889
School translation done by Beverley Kennon Peter.
BEVERLEY KENNON PETER: SCHOOL REPORTS
1888-1889
School reports from the Preparatory School of Columbian College [George Washington University].

CHISWICK FARM
1880
Correspondence, receipts, and accounts relative to the sale of a farm near Richmond, Virginia.

CORRESPONDENCE FOUND IN POCKET
1901-1902
Includes four pieces of correspondence found on the person of Dr. Armistead Peter at his death. Two pieces are notes from his grandson Armistead Peter 3rd.

WALTER GIBSON PETER
1855-1893; ND
Consists of correspondence, notes, a military order, wills, bills and receipts, and newspaper clippings related to Dr. Armistead Peter’s brother Walter Gibson Peter. Includes letters from Walter Gibson Peter to Walter Henderson, and correspondence of George Peter and Walter Henderson.

OAK HILL CEMETERY
1867-1886
Correspondence and bills and receipts relative to the burials of Mrs. George Peter, Anna Moseley, Martha (Custis) Peter, Martha (Kennon) Peter, and the erection of a monument.

SETTLEMENT OF MAJOR GEORGE PETER’S ESTATE
1865
Correspondence, and receipts from heirs.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT COMPLETION CEREMONIES
1885
Invitations and a membership certificate in the Washington National Monument Society.

LITERARY PRODUCTIONS
Series
NOTE
ND
Translation of German phrase "Mein Genugen" on Dr. Armistead Peter's imprinted prescription form.
LEGAL DOCUMENTS
Series

INSURANCE POLICY
1876-1901
Fire insurance policy on farm buildings.

LEASE AGREEMENT: FARM
1898
Lease for a farm [Winona] in the Bethesda District of Montgomery County, Maryland.

PRESCRIPTIONS
1883
Prescriptions written by Dr. Armistead Peter.

PROMISSORY NOTES
1865-1885
Four promissory notes in favor of Dr. Armistead Peter from various parties.

SUBPOENA
1901
To appear in Orphan's Court.

WAR ZONE PASSES
1864-1865
Two issued to Dr. Armistead Peter from Fort Ethan Allen, Virginia, and one issued for safe passage to Ellicott's Mills, Maryland, in the names of Dr. Armistead Peter and Miss Martha Custis Kennon.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS
Series

LEDGERS
1862-1897
Dr. Armistead Peter's call books, which incorporate lists of patients, amounts owed, and amounts paid.

BILLS AND RECEIPTS
1864-1889; ND
Bills and receipts arranged chronologically and under the headings "Purchases from Robert Dick Estate" and "Trip to England."

CANCELED CHECKS
1868-1902
Arranged chronologically.
FINANCIAL NOTES
1886-1889
Fragmentary notes of a financial nature.

SCRAPBOOK MATERIAL
Series
GIFT CARDS
1896-1899; ND
Calling cards included with gifts.

PRINTED MATERIAL
Series
NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS
1892-1902; ND
Includes poems by Agnes Nourse, Dr. Armistead Peter's obituary, and two brief articles noting the display of drawings by one of Dr. Armistead Peter's sons at Barlow's, a gallery on Pennsylvania Avenue.

MASON'S CERTIFICATE
1863
Membership certificate from Potomac Lodge, Number 5.

RITTENHOUSE ACADEMY PROGRAM
1885, 1887
Programs for a recitation exhibition in which Dr. Armistead Peter's sons participated.

PRINTED MATERIAL
1860-1892
An admission card to National Medical College lectures, one of Dr. Armistead Peter's printed prescription forms, a memorial booklet for Mrs. Frances Randolph, and issues of the Georgetown College Journal.

ENVELOPES
Series
ENVELOPES
1886-1898
Envelopes unmatched to correspondence.
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3 Correspondence: Anna (Williams) Peter 1896
4 Correspondence: Anna (Williams) Peter 1897
5 Correspondence: Anna (Williams) Peter 1898
6 Correspondence: Anna (Williams) Peter 1899
7 Correspondence: Anna (Williams) Peter 1900
8 Correspondence: Anna (Williams) Peter 1901
9 Correspondence: Anna (Williams) Peter ND
10 Correspondence: Martha (Kennon) Peter 1866; 1868
11 Correspondence: Martha (Kennon) Peter 1870; 1885
12 Correspondence: Sarah (Law) Williams 1893; 1898-1901; ND
13 Beverley Kennon Peter: Letters of Recommendation 1889
14 Beverley Kennon Peter: Translation of Virgil 1889
15 Beverley Kennon Peter: School Reports 1888-1889
16 Chiswick Farm, Virginia 1880
17 Correspondence: Found in Pocket at Death 1901-1902
18 Walter Gibson Peter: Correspondence 1855; 1862
19 Walter Gibson Peter Correspondence: Walter Henderson 1863-1864
20 Walter Gibson Peter: Letters, Copies Jun 8/9, 1863; Sep 9, 1864
21 Walter Gibson Peter: Military Order 1862
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22 Cards: Gift Cards 1896; 1899; ND
23 Newspaper Clippings, Copies 1892; 1902; ND
24 Mason Certificate 1863; 1895
25 Rittenhouse Academy: Programs 1885-1886; 1886-1887
26 Rittenhouse Academy: Annual exhibition June 23, 1887
27 Rittenhouse Academy: Report Cards, Armistead Peter, Jr. 1886; 1887
28 Rittenhouse Academy: Foot Ball Rules ND
29 Preparatory School of the Columbian University: School Reports, Armistead Peter, Jr. 1887-1888
30 Printed Material 1860; 1880; 1892
31 Memorial Booklets: Martha (Kennon) Peter; Dr. Armistead Peter 1886; 1902
32 Card: Florist 1886
33 Memorial Booklet: Dr. Thomas Miller 1873
34 Advertisement: Ellis, John F. *Bulletin for the Months of September and October Vocal and Instrumental Music* Sep/Oct, ND
35 Memorial Booklet: Mrs. Frances Ann Randolph 1892
36 Invitations ND
37 Cards: Calling Cards, Peter Family ND
38 Cards: Calling Cards, Miscellaneous ND
39 Prescription: Dr. R.K. Stone ND
40 Envelopes: Unmatched to Correspondence 1886-1898; ND
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<td>Newspaper Clippings: Death of William Orton Williams and Walter Gibson Peter</td>
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<td>3 The National Republican [Washington, D.C.]</td>
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