

Dundas Museum and Archives

Finding Aid - Bertram Family Collection (C.0002)

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<http://www.archeion.ca/index.php/bertram-family-collection-2>

Bertram Family Collection

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Summary information

Repository:	Dundas Museum and Archives
Title:	Bertram Family Collection
ID:	C.0002
Date:	1870-2002, predominant 1915-1999 (date of creation)
Physical description:	0.5 m textual records 144 Photographs 3 Technical Drawing 130 Ribbons The ribbons are fragile and are deteriorating.
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	
Note [generalNote]:	The photographs include 1 tintype and 11 negatives. The majority of the photographs are black and white with a few colour ones being present.
Note [generalNote]:	No conservation actions have been taken on this Collection.
Note [generalNote]:	Dundas Museum and Archives

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Bertram family was established in Canada by John Bertram (1829 - 1906) and his wife Elizabeth Bennet (1831 - 1904). Together they had six children: Alexander (1853 - 1926), Henry (1856 - 1945), Jessie (1861 - 1913), George (1858 - 1863), Thomas Aimers (1864 - 1951), and James Bennet (1868 - 1947). Alexander Bertram (Sir. Alexander Bertram, Alex) married Eliza Millichamp Smith (1859 - 1934) on May 16, 1877. Together they had four children: John Hugh (1878 - ?), Florence (Flossie) Millie (1879 - ?), Harry Alexander (1881 - ?), and Thomas Stirling (1883 - ?). John Hugh Bertram married Ruby Delphine Smith on November 3, 1904. Together they had four children: Alexander John (1906), George Donald Bertram (1911), Alexander John (1911 - ?), and Richard Edgar Bertram (1912 - 1942). Florence Millie Bertram married Frederick James Sharp on October 23, 1912. Harry Alexander Bertram was married and had two children but little is known of this family. Thomas Stirling Bertram is known to have been married but not have had any children. Henry Bertram married Jennie Graham (1858 - 1939) on October 26, 1881. Together they had seven children: Louise Winifred (1882 - 1891), Jennie Kirkhope (1884 - 1965), Henry Graham (1886 - 1956), Stirling Aimers (1888 - 1917), Lennard (Leonard) Halliday (1893 - 1964), Elizabeth (Bessie) Bennet (1894 - 1975), and Andrew Alexander (Tim) (1900 - 1958). Jennie Kirkhope Bertram married Alexander Fraser Pirie on February 6, 1907. Together they had five children: Jean Margaret Pirie (1908 - 1987), Alexander Bertram (Bert) Pirie (1909 - 1946), Mary Isobel Pirie (1910 - 1972), Marion Lennard Pirie (1915 - 1990), and Aimers Alexander (Alex)

(1917 - 1962). Henry Graham (Graham) Bertram married Mabel Ford Richardson (1890 - 1952) on April 14, 1921. Together Henry Graham and Mabel had four children: Alice Winifred (1922 - 1975), Barbra (1925 - 1937), Eva Richardson (1928 -), and Jean Elizabeth (1930 - 1967). Alice Winifred married Walter Mar Riemann on October 4, 1971. Eva Richardson Bertram married Robert Cole (1926 - 1953) on September 15, 1953. Together they had five children: Barbra Janice (1954 -), Christine Anne (1956 -), Susan Elizabeth (1957 -), Richard Norman (1961 -), and Michael James (1965 -). Jean Elizabeth Bertram married John Eldred Chester (1929 - 1976) on December 4, 1949. Together they had four children Paul Graham (1956 -), David Allen (1959 -), Kathleen (1961 -), and Jenny Elizabeth (1962 - 1982). Elizabeth (Bessie) Bennet Bertram married Clive Harcourt Carruthers (1891 - 1980) on September 18, 1920. Together they had four children: John Radcliffe (1921 - 1998), Graham Robertson (1926 -), Kenneth David Bertram (1928 -). Andrew Alexander (Tim) Bertram married Jessie Margaret McEligott (1900 - 1990) on November 18, 1936. Together Andrew Alexander and Jessie Margaret had four children: Patricia (1929 - 1998), Barbra Jane (1938 -), Elizabeth Alexander (1941 -), and Margaret Graham (1943 -). Lennard Halliday Bertram married Edith Sims (1892 - 1984) on December 4, 1916. Together Lennard and Edith had three children: Mary Winnifred Bertram (1919 - 1997), John Henry Bertram (1921 -), and Elizabeth Janet (1931 -). Mary Winnifred married Thomas Dale Brydon (1919 - 1961) on March 6, 1948, together they had four children: Mary Jane (Jane) (1949), Thomas Bertram (1950 -), William Lennard (Len) (1952), and Edith Anne (Anne) (1956). John Henry Bertram married Mildred Helga (1921 -) on July 7, 1945, together they had four children: Andrew John (1946 -), James Richard (1947 -), Christine Elizabeth (1949 -), and Christine Janet (1955 -). Elizabeth Janet (Janet) married Warren Stewart Brown (1931 -) on My 28, 1955, together they had two children: Nancy Elizabeth (1958 -) and Carolyn Janet (1961 -). Jessie Bertram married James Alexander Stirling (1856 - 1919) on March 1, 1888. Together they had two children John Bertram Stirling (1888 - 1988) and Robert Mar Stirling (1890 - 1917). John Bertram Stirling married Edith Carey Goodwin (1920) and had two children together Edith Bertram Stirling (1918 - 1934-37) and Jessie Mar Stirling (1920 -). Edith Carey Goodwin died in 1920 and John Bertram Stirling Married Emily (Emmy) Parker Sturdee (died 1987) in 1928. Thomas Aimers Bertram (T.A.) married Jean Bertram Knowles (Bert) on November 2, 1888. Together they had one son James Knowles Bertram (1889 - 1916) who was killed in the battle of the Somme. James Bennet Bertram married Mary Bain (1875 - 1964) on February 20, 1907; they had no children. George Bertram died at the age of five on Christmas Day 1863. The Bertram family established itself in Canada when John Bertram (1829 - 1906) and his wife Elizabeth Bennet (1831 - 1904) moved from Peeblesshire, Scotland to Canada in 1852. Research into the Bertram family history has shown that the family originated in what is modern day France and entered into England at the time of William the Conquer, through one of his knights known as Sir. Richard Bertram. The family then remained in Northumberland and southern Scotland until John Bertram moving to Canada. Arriving in Canada, John and Elizabeth were to stay in Montreal but due to fires that year were forced to move on to Toronto. During the voyage to Toronto, John made a chance acquaintance who suggested John find employment in Dundas. Following a downturn in the economy, John Bertram moved his family to Kent County for five years during which time they lived on a hundred acre bush farm. In 1862, the Bertram family moved back to Dundas and after several successful years in the engineering business was able to construct a family home known as Glenholme. This was the prime residence for John Bertram and his family. The Bertram family lived primarily in Dundas until the mid twentieth century when the family moved across the country and with several members of the family living in the United States, Costa Rica, and Australia. The Bertram family was primarily tied to the business established by John Bertram in Dundas. The John Bertram & Sons Company employed several members of the Bertram family including John's sons Alexander, Henry, and James Bennet. Henry Bertram's son Graham would also eventually serve as the last president of John Bertram & Sons Co. before its sale to Russell Industries. Several of the Bertram family members have had other prominent

roles including: Alexander Bertram became a Brigadier General in the Canadian military and head of the Shell Committee of 1915 -1916; T.A. Bertram who was a physician and the Medical Health Officer for Dundas; Alexander's son Richard Edgar Bertram would become a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air force; Jessie Bertram's son John Bertram Stirling became Chancellor of Queen's University in 1960.

Custodial history

The administrative history of the records in this collection is not clear, the provenance of most of the documents has been lost giving no indication who created or used a number of the records. The result is that this collection is comprised of the Bertram records that do not clearly fit into any of the establish Bertram fonds. This includes a large selection of records created by Janet Bertram Brown during her research into the family history.

Scope and content

The collection is comprised of a wide range of records that originate from a number of activities. These include correspondence between family members about the family history and other topics. There are also records relating to Richard Edgar Bertram's flight training for the RCAF and his death. There are copies of documents relating to memorial services for the first and second world wars. There is a large collection of Canadian Tool Works picnic ribbons and other miscellaneous ribbons from groups and events around Dundas. The largest coherent collection of records in this collection are those belonging to Janet Bertram and her genealogical research. These documents are primary copies of birth, death, baptism records along with the military service records of several family members. There are extensive handwritten notes and inventories created by Janet Bertram, including a finding aid for the records of the Dundas Historical Society Museum. A small group of newspaper articles is also included in this collection, focusing primarily on the Bertram family and their business. The collection also includes a large number of photographs that relate to the family but do not have a clear provenance or place in other fonds. The collection is comprised of the following types of documents: correspondence, a flight log book, memorial programmes, ribbons, pins, newspaper and journal articles, cemetery records, copies of: birth certificates, death certificates, baptism records, military enlistment forms, hospital records, medal award lists, genealogy notes, wedding announcements, and photographs. The collection is comprised of a number of series that have been identified by the archivist. These series were not found in any logical order and there is no sign that they were in their original order and as such have been arranged in a chronological order by the archivist. In particular, Series 8 - Janet Bertram Genealogy Research 19- - 2002: Sub - series 3 - Establishment of Dundas Historical Museum Records 1953 - 2002 has been arranged in a chronological order by mail recipient as this was the way that they were arranged, imperfectly, when they came into his care. This series of records is also closely related to the records in the Henry Graham Bertram fonds, in that many of the records in this series are copies of the originals in the Henry Graham Bertram fonds. Fonds is comprised of the following series: Series 1 - Publications 1977 - 1983 Series 2 - Correspondence 1915 - 1996 Series 3 - Richard Edgar Bertram Records ca.1940 - 1947 Series 4 - James B. Bertram Records 1906 - 1965 Series 5 - Memorial Records 1914 - 1947 Series 6 - Ribbons and Pins 1885 - 1915 Series 7 - Miscellaneous Records 1888 - 2000 Series 8 - Janet Bertram Genealogy Research 19- - 2002 Series 9 - Newspapers 1896 - 1992 Series 10 - Wedding Announcements 1953 - 1982 Series 11 - Photographs 1870 - 2000

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

The collection was aquired from the Bertram family.

Alternative form available

The Wheels of Progress: a brief history of the Bertram family in Dundas online exhibit is here:
<http://bertramfamilydundas.wordpress.com/>

Restrictions on access

There are no restrictions on accessing the Collection.

Conditions governing use

There are some restrictions on the reproduction of materials in this fonds.

Finding aids

A detailed inventory is available here:
<http://dundasmuseum.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Bertram-family-collection-inventory-for-website.pdf>

Accruals

Further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status**: published