

**Title Proper:** Dr. T.A. (Thomas Aimers) Bertram Fonds [textual records, graphic material and other material]

**Dates of Creation:** 1884 - 1951

**Physical Description:** 0.2 m textual records  
1 daybook  
1 award book  
1 vellum/parchment diploma  
3 paper diplomas  
51 photographs [46 prints, 5 negatives; b&w]  
1 badge

### **Biographical Sketch:**

Thomas Aimers Bertram, also known as T.A., was born on January 16, 1864, the fifth child of John and Elizabeth Bertram. Thomas Aimers married Jean Bertram Knowles on November 2, 1888. They had one son James Knowles Bertram born December 6, 1889. Thomas Aimers Bertram died June 7, 1951 and Jean Bertram Knowles died January 12, 1954. Thomas Aimers Bertram was born in Dundas, Ontario and lived there for most of his life. He lived a short time in Kingston when he was attending Queen's University. Thomas Aimers also had a cottage on Canoe Lake that he often visited.

T.A. Bertram is thought to have attended public school in Dundas and in Dr. Tasie's school in Galt before being accepted into Queen's University. After graduating with honours from Queen's University, T.A. spent time in England and Scotland working in hospitals before attending the College of Surgeons at the University of Dublin.

In his professional career, Dr. Bertram established a medical practice in Dundas after his return from Ireland. Through his medical service in Dundas, he helped to establish a health service that would eventually develop into the Board of Health and placing him in the position of Medical Officer of Health. His practice was located at 6 Main Street in Dundas.

In his private life, T.A. was very active in several hobbies. Starting in Queen's University he took an interest in track and field. However, his true interest appears to have been shooting where he was noted as an expert marksman. His membership in the 77<sup>th</sup> Wentworth Regiment as a Surgeon Lieutenant meant that he was invited to participate in the Bisley Tournament in 1899 as part of the Canadian team. At Bisley, T.A. won the Gold Cross in the

Bisley Grand Aggregate. He also competed in and won the Match Rifle Competitions in King's/Queen's Hundred and the Volunteer Aggregate in 1899. As a result of his winnings, Thomas Aimers Bertram was the first and only Canadian to bring to Canada the Strathcona Cup, the Hops Bitters Company Cup, the Dominion of Canada Challenge Shield and Gold Metal for the Grand Aggregate. Thomas Aimers was also instrumental in forming the first club of lawn bowlers in Dundas and was strongly involved in local curling clubs.

### **Custodial History:**

The custodial history of this fonds is not clear. It appears to have been in the hands of one or more members of the Bertram family, probably H. Graham Bertram, before being donated to the Dundas Historical Society Museum. It is possible that the records were in the care of Jean Bertram Knowles before Graham Bertram but there is no clear evidence of this.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The fonds consists of the personal records of Thomas Aimers Bertram, being primarily composed of awards/diplomas, records relating to Bisley, correspondence (primarily with his son with a few other singular letters), photographs, newspaper clippings, poetry and some records from his son's military service and death. The records begin around 1884 and continue to the year of his death in 1951. They are focused on Dundas with the Bisley material being the exception. There are extensive records relating to his son, James Knowles Bertram. The correspondence with his son are copies of the original letters made at an unknown later date.

The fonds is composed of the following types of document: awards, diplomas, certificates, notebooks, correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, poems, tickets, cards (memorial), a published book (Bisley), and one badge.

The series in the fonds are arranged in a chronological order and were placed in this arrangement by the archivist after finding that the records were in disarray. Only Series 6 - [Newspaper Clippings](#) 1896 – 1951 contains materials added after the death of Thomas Aimers Bertram with the only addition being a copy of his obituary.

Fonds consists of the following series:

Series 1 - [Awards, Diplomas, and Certificates](#) 1884 - 1948

- Sub - series 1 - [Medical Diplomas](#) 1884 - 1887
- Sub - series 2 - [Military Appointment Certificate](#) 1896
- Sub - series 3 - [Dundas City Council Award](#) 1899
- Sub - series 4 - [Medicine and Lodge Awards](#) 1941 - 1948
- Series 2 - [Notebooks](#) 1884 - 1899
- Series 3 - [Bisley and Curling records](#) 1886 - 1950
  - Sub - series 1 [Bisley Prize Book](#) 1899
- Series 4 - [Photographs](#) 1891 - 1951
- Series 5 - [Correspondence](#) 1893 - 1944
  - Sub - series 1 [James Knowles Bertram](#) copies after 1916 (originals 1915 - 1916)
    - Sub - series 2 [Miscellaneous](#) 1893 -1944
- Series 6 - [Newspaper Clippings](#) 1896 - 1951
- Series 7 - [Poetry](#) 1908 - 1941
- Series 8 - [James Knowles Bertram Documents](#) 1915 - 1918
  - Sub - series 1 - [James Knowles Bertram Military Badge](#) [1914]

**Box 1**

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	1	<p><b>Series 1 - Awards, Diplomas, and Certificates 1884 – 1948: Sub - series 4 - Medicine and Lodge Awards 1941 – 1948</b></p> <p>Includes: Hamilton Academy of Medicine certificate of life membership; certificate of life membership in the Valley Lodge No. 100; letter from Valley Lodge No. 100 A.F. &amp; A.M. about life membership; envelope for Valley Lodge certificate.</p>	1941 - 1948
1	2	<p><b>Series 3 - Bisley and Curling records 1886 – 1950</b></p> <p>Includes: Janet Bertram Brown inventory; train ticket stub for 1894 Bisley meet; In Memoriam card for William Walter Petherick; Anchor Line track chart of the Atlantic Ocean; hand written notes on Bisley by T.A. Bertram; Bisley score record 1899; letter from T.A. Bertram to Henry Bertram; newspaper clipping of prizes won at Bisley 1899; The Canadian Gazette July 20, 1899; copy of telegraph sent to Mrs. T.A. Bertram; invitation cards to reception and presentation to Surgeon Lieut. Thomas A. Bertram; images of winning curling teams; image of winning curling teams from Dundas; hand written notes on rifle shooting and curling by T.A. Bertram [1950].</p>	1886- 1950
1	3	<p><b>Series 7 - Poetry 1908 – 1941</b></p> <p>Includes: The Dandeloin [sic]; Stevenson's Prayer Night Before Death; Gloria in Excelsis; A Psalm of Praise; To those who have ate, slept, laughed and grown fat under the same roof; Pinedaric Ode; A Canadian; Qelle est ca vie; I Respect The Dandelion; Thanksgiving Day; Soleil; Our Suzanne; Suzannes Soliloquy; Until Another Summer Day; I Want My Mommy; Hobbies; A Bowl of Prunes; Christmas Day; My Sisters; Now almost fifty years have passed; William Welles Knowles, M.S.A.; To Mary and Ed; Mother; Father; To Bert and Tom On Their Golden Wedding Anniversary; The Channel; A Prayer; Youth; A Cavalryman; copy of letter sent to the Poetry Review by William W. Knowles.</p>	1908-1941
1	4	<p><b>Series 6 - Newspaper Clippings 1896 – 1951</b></p> <p>Rifle shooting, opening of rifle ranges, curling.</p>	1896-

1	5	<b>Series 6 - Newspaper Clippings 1896 – 1951</b> James Knowles (Jamie) Bertram.	1910-1918
1	6	<b>Series 6 - Newspaper Clippings 1896 – 1951</b> Bisley, T.A. Bertram hit by train, 60 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, death of T.A. Bertram.	1899-1951
1	7	<b>Series 4 - Photographs 1891 – 1951</b> James Knowles Bertram; Janet Bertram Brown inventory.	1891-1915
1	8	<b>Series 4 - Photographs 1891 – 1951</b> T.A. Bertram home and office.	n.d.
1	9	<b>Series 4 - Photographs 1891 – 1951</b> T.A. Bertram; Janet Bertram Brown inventory.	1895-1951
1	10	<b>Series 5 - Correspondence 1893 – 1944: Sub - series 1 James Knowles Bertram copies after 1916 (originals 1915 -1916)</b> Copies of letters from James Knowles Bertram.	Copy n.d. (Original 1915-1916)
1	11	<b>Series 5 - Correspondence 1893 – 1944: Sub - series 2 Miscellaneous 1893 -1944</b> Includes: wood invitation card; letter to the ladies of the Shakespeare Society; letter from M.F. Moore; letter from the American Mission to Lepers Inc - letter written on back to [Bert – Jean Knowles Bertram].	1893-1944

**Box 2**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
2	1	<b>Series 2 - Notebooks 1884 – 1899</b>	1884-1899

		Physician's Day-Book & Journal – contains Bisley newspaper clippings and miscellaneous newspaper clippings.	
2	2	<b>Series 3 - Bisley and Curling records 1886 – 1950:      Sub - series 1 Bisley Prize Book 1899</b>  1899 Dr. T.A. Bertram Bisley Prizes Official Record.	1899
2	3	<b>Series 8 - James Knowles Bertram Documents 1915 – 1918</b>  Includes: Janet Bertram Brown inventory; Capt. J.K. Bertram notebook; letter to Alexander Bertram; In Memoriam of J.K.B.; letter from the department of Militia and Defense – regarding death of James Bertram; Director of Graves Registration & Enquiries – The Grave of J.K. Bertram; letter from the department of Militia and Defense; Death Certificate – James Knowles Bertram; temporary certificate of appointment to the rank of captain.	1915-1918
2	4	<b>Series 8 - James Knowles Bertram Documents 1915 – 1918</b>  Includes: Janet Bertram Brown inventory; Sunday School story book; letter from the Department of Militia and Defense; Burial report; The War Graves of The British Empire; letter from Jamie to his mother and father; letter from Jamie to his mother; letter from Jamie to his uncle Alexander; Jamie Knowles Bertram Communion Token; 102 <sup>nd</sup> Wentworth Field Battery R.C.A. card for Henry Bertram; memorial poster for Capt. James Knowles Bertram; page from Canadian Railway and Marine Word; The Twentieth Gazette; photocopy of the nominal roll of officers who served with the 20 <sup>th</sup> Canadian infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.	1892-1918

**Box 3**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
3	1	<b>Series 1 - Awards, Diplomas, and Certificates 1884 – 1948: Sub - series 3 - Dundas City Council Award 1899</b> Award - To Sur-Lient. Thomas A. Bertram (G.C.) From The Council of Dundas 1899	1899
3	2	<b>Series 8 - James Knowles Bertram Documents 1915 – 1918: Sub - series 1 - James Knowles Bertram Military Badge [1914]</b> J.K Bertram military Badge	[1914]
3	3	<b>Series 1 - Awards, Diplomas, and Certificates 1884 – 1948: Sub - series 1 - Medical Diplomas 1884 – 1887</b> Nos, universitatis collegii regimae-doctoris medicinae Thomas Amers [sic] Bertram	1884
3	4	<b>Series 1 - Awards, Diplomas, and Certificates 1884 – 1948: Sub - series 2 - Military Appointment Certificate 1896</b> Certificate of appointment to the rank of Surgeon Lieutenant of the 77 <sup>th</sup> Wentworth Regiment	1896
3	5	<b>Series 1 - Awards, Diplomas, and Certificates 1884 – 1948: Sub - series 1 - Medical Diplomas 1884 – 1887</b> College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario – Thomas Aimers Bertram registered as a member of the college of physicians and surgeons of Ontario.	1887

3	6	<b>Series 1 - Awards, Diplomas, and Certificates 1884 – 1948: Sub - series 1 - Medical Diplomas 1884 – 1887</b> Nos, universitatis collegii regimae-doctoris medicinae Thomas Amers [sic] Bertram	1884
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