



The

Four Drive

A Genealogy Newsletter



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Whole No. 36

Robert Bannister Bannister Park

And now a Health Center for Sauble Beach Ontario

He was a son, husband, father, grandfather and even a great-grandfather. He was also a farmer and a grave digger. One of his finest assets was his love for his family and neighbours, his love for community and the care and compassion that he showed for others throughout his lifetime.

My grandfather Robert Bannister came by this very honestly. His mother Naomi (Gates) Bannister lived her life with a care and compassion for others, passing those values onto her children. Although I was only seven when she passed on in 1960, I will always remember her strength, her morals and her generosity.

Throughout the years, I have been told stories of Naomi's kindness. When my grandfather was a young boy, he would go with his father Samuel by horse and sleigh to the north end of Sauble. Naomi would send loaves of homemade bread to trade with the native people for fish. During World War I, Naomi spent countless hours knitting socks and mittens to send to the troops who were stationed overseas. When Hepworth was booming with stores, a factory and so on, salesmen who were visiting the local businesses would go to Samuel and Naomi's farm for a meal and often a place to stay for the night. There was always a place at the table or a place to bed down.

Robert, fondly known as Bob continued the tradition. There was always a place at the table for an unexpected visitor and always an empty bed for someone to stay. When he was younger Bob and his brother Emerson spent many nights at the homes of neighbours when there was an illness. They would sit up with the ill neighbour, to give that persons' family time to rest. Grandpa dug the graves and maintained Zion Cemetery. I am sure that he dug many graves that he was never paid for.

In the early 1950's Robert donated a parcel of land at Sauble Beach to the local Women's Institute. This land was made into a park with a picnic area and camping facilities. I have many fond memories of family picnics at that park. At the time of the donation, there was a clause that the property would be kept as an area that would be of benefit to the community, a place for the community to enjoy.

Sauble Beach is in dire need of a medical clinic and the ideal location is the vacant field that is part of the park land donated in the 1950's. Knowing my grandfather and his passion for his neighbours and the community, I know that he would give his blessings to the building of a facility such as this. There will still be park area, memorial gardens and a child's play area. What an asset to Sauble Beach!

Today as I talked to a friend who spent a summer at Sauble as priest at St Peter's By -The- Lake, I told him the story about the proposed Medical Centre. His response was, "what a wonderful legacy in honour of your grandfather." I must say, I do agree with him!

Nancy Loucks-McSloy¹

Bannister Park



Apparently when Grandpa Bannister "Bob" gave this land to the Women's Institute for a park, either he or the Women's Institute put a clause on the deed that it was to always be used for recreational purposes. There was a small camp ground and playground on one part of the property. The playground and picnic area is still there, but they don't have a campground there anymore. (This property is on the edge of property grandpa sold to the township. There is a Community Centre, Library, nature walkway to a small lake at the back, baseball diamond, lawn bowling greens, etc. In the winter there is a toboggan run and, if the weather cooperates, an outdoor skating rink.) One area along the highway has been left as just an open field. It is right on the main road from Hepworth to Sauble beach and a perfect location for a Medical Clinic. However, in order for the Clinic to be built there, the family had to sign off on the 'clause' that it remain for recreational use.

¹ Nancy Loucks McSloy, (Dorothy Bannister⁵, Robert Bannister⁴, Agnes Naomi Gates³, Agnes Naomi Lano², Richard Lano¹); lineage shown back to Richard Lano for benefit of our readers.

However, with help from the Physician Recruitment Office, all have signed off. The proposal and plans have received the final stamp of approval from the Town Council. So it is now a "GO" and we have a new Doctor coming who had agreed to come providing that the Clinic go ahead. Currently Sauble Beach only has a Doctor one halfday a week, with two Nurse Practitioners on duty at all times. There is going to be a huge dedication ceremony when the building is finished and from what I'm told, the Bannister Family is going to be recognized at that time. I've even been told "off the record" that the Bannister name is going to be used in the name of the Clinic. That is the story up to now. They haven't broken ground for the Clinic as yet, so we could send you more after the opening. If you want more before then, Nancy and I are willing to work on something for you.

[Marilyn Bannister (July 30, 2007)]

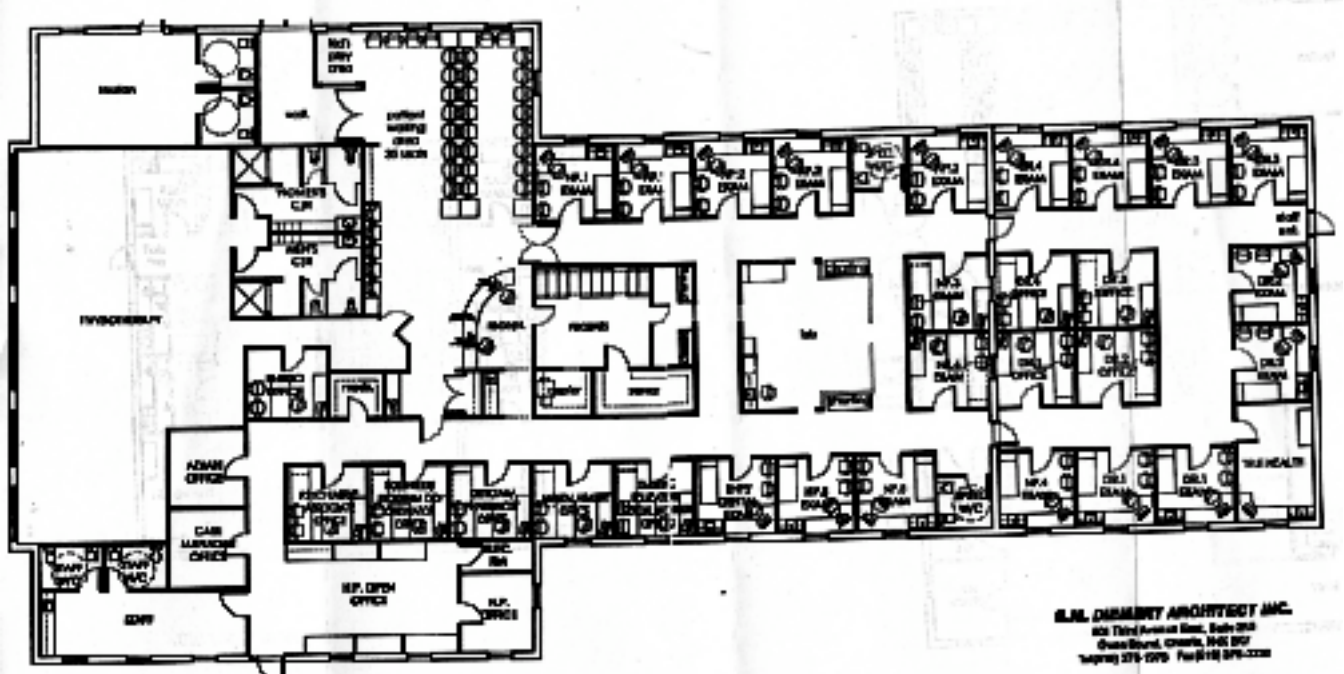
Various Views of Bannister Park Facilities



above - l: Ballfield; r. Playground - below ; l: Horseshoe and r. Open field



Typical views of the facilities as they exist in Bannister Park today. On the following page of this issue we show a floor plan of the proposed health center. The new clinic building will be adjacent to the community center building shown on page 2. See page 4, bottom as beginning of site preparation. photos by Marilyn Bannister.

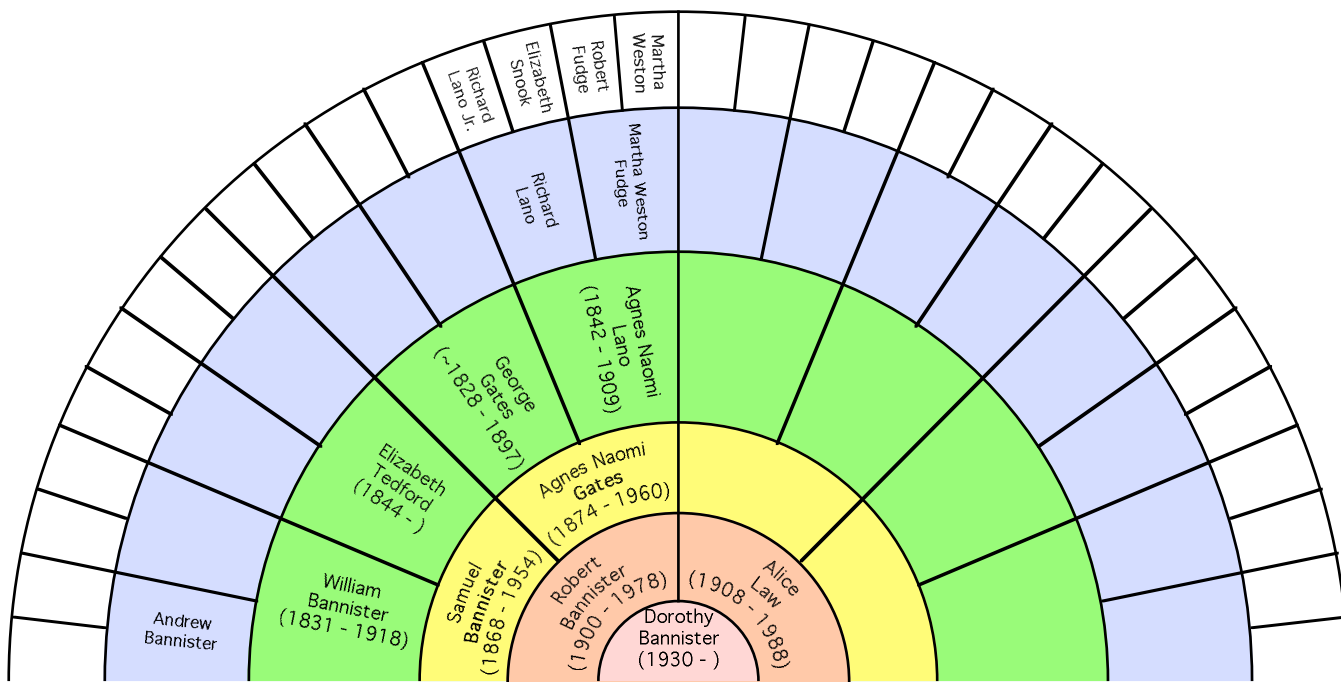


Construction has started with site preparation.



Bannister Genealogy

We include a fan chart for the benefit of our readers to determine relationship to Robert Bannister for those that are descended from Richard and Martha (nee Fudge) Lano.



Siblings: Dorothy Bannister 1930-
 Roberta Bannister 1935-
 Frederick Banister 1940-1992

Current Research Efforts
Ethel M. (nee Chinnery) Lockhart

Donald Chinnery with assistance of Mary Jo Cameron is attempting to obtain death information [obituary or death certificate information] for Wilbert Lockhart believed to be the spouse of Ethel Chinnery. Wilbert and Ethel had two daughters Arlene and Shirley. If we can locate the death information and obituary for either parent we might possibly obtain the married names of the two girls. The last contact I can remember was when Shirley visited us in Ludington early 1940's. Ethel Lockhart died in Azusa California in July 1972. Wilbert appears to have predeceased her in April 1963. Arlene is believed to have married a YATES and they had one son Douglass.

My initial research had Ethel's husband as Earl Lockhart based upon 1930 census entry showing the head of household with the two daughters as Earl. Closer scrutiny of the entry turns out the head of household was a female "F" thus this entry was the mother and two daughters. Husband has not been found in 1930 Census but the 1920 census we found Ethel with her husband Wilbert Lockhart living in Detroit area. 1920 Census, Wilbert (age 16) was living with parents

in Summit Township, Mason County, Michigan. We can only surmise this is how Ethel and Wilbert met. As yet we have not found any record of their marriage.

WWI Draft Registrations

Walter Gerhardt Wuebben and Charles W. Fitch. source: Ancestry.com files.

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At Charles W. Fitch Reunion - July 2007



1 to r: Elaine (Henry) Stevens, Aunt Helen Burmeister., Joyce(Herrick, Burchett, Aunt Arlene Brant.

John Henry Fitch - The Four Drive Tractor Eleven Four Drive Tractors now confirmed existing with six fully restored!

by Christopher Dixon

Eleven Four Drive Tractors now confirmed existing with six fully restored!

This article is to an update of information regarding Fitch Four Drive tractors that last appeared in "The Four Drive" Vol VI, No 3 dated Dec 31, 2002 on pages 4-5.

My family and I moved back to Washington State in July 2003 after spending 3 1/2 wonderful years in Connecticut. Since that time, I have periodically updated my Four Drive Tractor websites and those sites have yielded great dividends and leads on researching existing Four Drive tractors.

In July 2005, I received an email from Michael Betz of Battle Creek, MI who owns a Model E 15-30 4-Pull tractor known as "The Cat". This tractor was owned by his late Grandfather Ray Noel. Michael received the tractor after Ray passed away in January 1985. I had a photocopy of that tractor from Ludington Daily News dated August 11, 1975 featuring John H. Fitch Grandsons Jamey & Larry Bentz sitting at the wheel of the tractor. Though another Four Drive owner Bob Hamilton of Woodstock, Ontario, Canada (this is ironic in that the Ficht family settled in Woodstock after immigrated to Canada from France in the 1850's), I received a photocopy from the May/June 1975 issue of "Gas Engine Magazine" of a 4-page article entitled "My Experience with a 'Cat' and how to Make it Purr" written by Ray Noel detailing his efforts in restoring his tractor.



I was able to locate and purchase a complete magazine at RailPub.com. Ray stated that he purchased two Model E's from Stanley Schuberg (the uncle of current Four Drive owner Keith Schuberg of Rodney, MI) in September 1972. Ray restored the one and the other was later sold to Bob Hamilton. Michael takes his tractor to various

shows around the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek areas.

Bob Hamilton of Woodstock, Canada contacted me by email in October 2005 with attached photos of his tractor in which he is currently trying to restore. It is missing the hood and the Waukesha motor does not run. The serial number on Bob's Four Drive is #3065: Stanley Schuberg stated to Ray Noel that that tractor was the last tractor to be built at the plant in Big Rapids.

Bob gave the phone number of a well-known tractor collector in western New York state by the name of Jim Erdle of Canandaigua, NY. I contacted by phone in October 2005. Jim stated that he purchased his Model D 20-35 from the Frank Miller Estate of LaCrosse, Indiana in 1968. The tractor has been in a large pole building on his property since then. He had initially plan to restore the tractor but other projects came up and the Fitch has been put on the back burner. When I told him that there are less than 10 of that model in existence in the world, he said he may have to put some attention in getting his restored. I am looking into obtaining pictures of this tractor in the near future.

In September 2005, I received an email from Ole Potter of Escalon, CA ((10 miles north of Modesto) in which he stated he had the back half of a Fitch tractor. He did not send me any photos of his tractor but sent me 22 photos of a Model D 20-35 at Angels Camp Museum in Angels Camp, CA about 45 miles east of Stockton. The museum is owned by the city of Angels Camp and the tractor has been there since shortly after World War II. I received a photocopy of that tractor from Four Drive tractor owner Jim Spall of New Zealand which features UC-Davis agricultural engineering expert Jim Fairbanks riding the tractor in a May 1966 issue of the "Davis Enterprise". Ole was unable to provide any information regarding his tractor as he was suffering from cancer that eventually took his life the following year. His widow Debbie sold his partial tractor to Wally Bellows of Las Vegas, NV. Wally contacted me by email in September 2006. Wally's Four Drive Model D20-35 consists of the rear axle, frame and rear wheels. The wheels had rubber tires mounted on standard tractor rims from the 1930's. The manufacture's plate was still on the front of the tractor with the serial number of #1345 - this is the oldest of the existing Model D Four Drives that I have been able to locate. Wally intends to restore the tractor the best he can and in dire need of a Climax engine and front axle. Wally attends

various shows in California, Nevada and Minnesota.

From information that Bob and Wally provided for me, I have been able to find more information regarding the history of the Model D20-35 tractor that Ken Christensen of Aberdeen, WA owns. His tractor was purchased from the Arthur Bright Museum Auction in September 1986 by Vincent Barney of Tenino, WA. Vincent suffered a stroke shortly after purchasing the tractor and it sat in a field for over 10 years. After many inquiries by various collectors in Washington, Mr. Barney sold the tractor to Ken and Ken and his friends were able to have the tractor fully running at a tractor show just 9 days after getting the tractor to his shop.

Keith Schuberg of Rodney purchased his Model F 15-30 from the Earl Marhanka Estate auction in Dowagiac, MI in August 1991. He takes his tractor to various shows in Michigan including the well-known show at Buckley, MI and his local show in Big Rapids.

Below is an updated list of existing Four Drive tractors and their status

Model D 20-35 Four Drive tractors built 1920-30

Ken Christensen, Aberdeen, WA, restored
 Jim Spall, Fielding, NZ, restored
 Gunnadah Rural Museum, Australia, restored
 Marlborough Vintage Farm Machinery Museum, Blenheim, New Zealand, restored
 Allen Crocker, Rough and Ready, CA, unrestored
 Jim Erdle, Canandaigua, NY, unrestored
 Angels Camp Museum, Angels Camp, CA, unrestored
 Wally Bellow, Las Vegas, NV, partial rear half, unrestored

Model E/F "Cat" 4-Pull tractor built 1928-30

Keith Schuberg, Rodney, MI, restored
 Michael Betz, Battle Creek, MI, restored (below)



Bob Hamilton, Woodstock, Canada, unrestored

In an effort to get more leads, I have recently posted a Four Drive Tractor Company page at mySpace.com and that can be viewed at

<http://www.myspace.com/fourdrivetractorcompany>

John H. Fitch Patents located. [These patents are available as pdf file and copies have been stored on www.chinnery.info. link provided by each patent listed paragraph below. Since you are viewing as pdf file the links are not hyper links - you need type the links into your browser]

After searching various websites for a number of years, I have recently located a patent search engine at Google (<http://www.google.com/ptshp?ie=UTF-8&tab=wt>) that resulted in locating 8 patents submitted by John H. Fitch. This website allows the ability to able to download the patents and drawings in Adobe Acrobat PDF format.

Patent 0576188 - Basket or Crate - 2 Feb 1897 <http://www.chinnery.info/Basket.pdf>

Patent 0603377 - Ratchet Wheel Wrench - 3 May 1898.

<http://www.chinnery.info/wrench.pdf>

Patent 0721688 - Switch Actuating Mechanism - 3 Mar 1903

<http://www.chinnery.info/Switch.pdf>

Patent 0734259 - Switch Actuating Mechanism - 21 Jul 1903

Patent 0777889 - Street Car Switch Mechanism - 20 Dec 1904

Patent 0907023 - Rotary Engine - 15 Dec 1908

Patent 0972071 - Explosive Engine - 4 Oct 1910

Patent 1114245 - Motor Vehicle (Four Wheel Drive) - 20 Oct 1914

<http://www.chinnery.info/FourDrive.pdf>

I was also able to located 6 additional patents submitted by the Four Drive Tractor Company from 1918-25.

Some internet links for those desiring to research the patents.

May be obtained by contacting the editor of this newsletter and I will forward them to you by email.

<p>SUBSCRIPTIONS</p> <p>Starting with this issue #36, The Four Drive is no longer available for general mailing to subscribers. All future issues will be available on line at our web site. www.chinnery.info here you may download as a pdf file</p> <p>dongeni@verizon.net or fitch4drive@verizon.net</p>	<p>The FOUR DRIVE, a genealogy newsletter brought to you for promoting genealogy of our ancestors and their descendants. Need copies of any of the information referenced? Contact the editor or the author of the material. What about Family Group Sheets? Your editor is most happy to provide what we have available upon request. GEDCOM files can also be provided.</p>
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