

owning land, with 992 acres cultivated. These settlers had a total of 66 oxen, 150 cows, and 77 horses. The population of the township increased from 530 in 1817 to 2,536 in 1850. In 1852 it dropped back to 1,894 because the village of Ingersoll was detached.

Because a fire destroyed the township books on July 6, 1856 we have few records for reference during this time. The war of 1812-14 and the 1837 rebellion had a huge impact on the township. These subjects are fully covered in another chapter. Over the years the township has remained basically a farming community. Recorded history is scant and we have to depend on family histories to piece together how our township grew.

An old treasurer's book starting in 1892 lists the taxes collected in the township as \$7,537.26 with \$2,596.60 paid to the nine public schools and one Catholic school. Entries of interest are:

"James McIntyre for 6 chairs for council \$7.50"

"George Cuthbert for burying horse found dead on the town line, \$1.00"

"J.W. Brown for vaccinating children in several School Sections in West Oxford Township, \$75."

"Paid James West for digging a grave for an indigent \$2.00."

"Paid Dr. Williams \$15 for medical services."

"Paid James McIntyre \$8 for coffin and shroud."

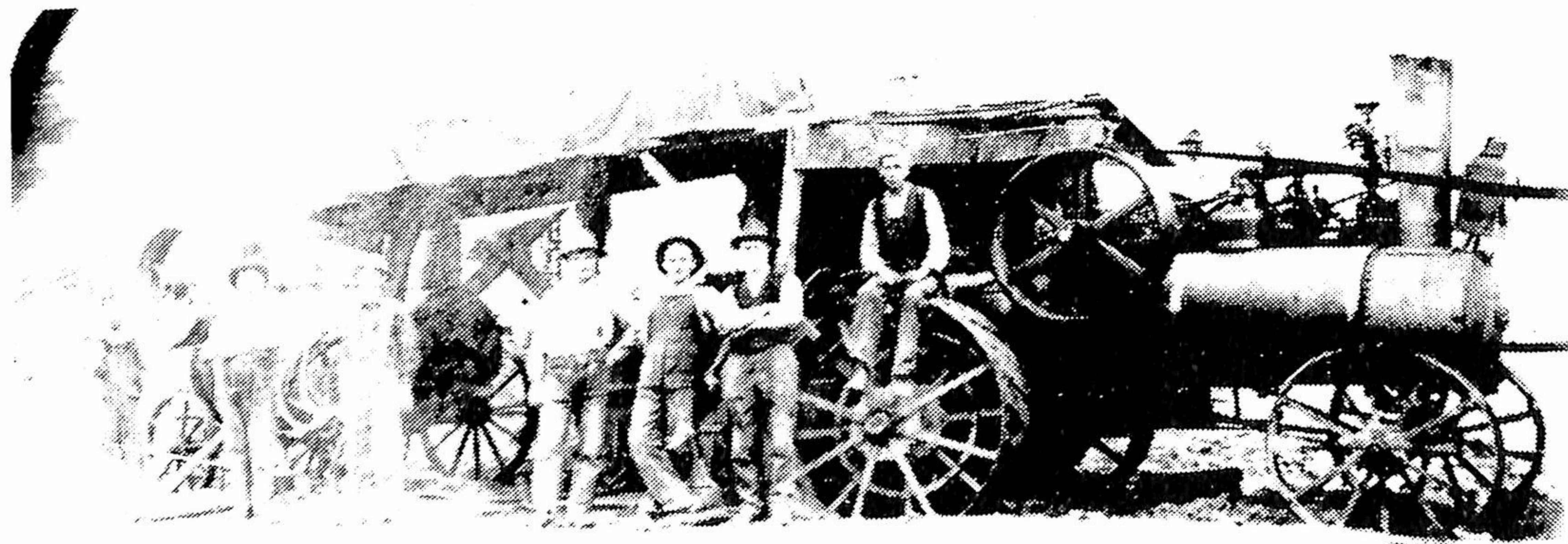
"Paid Albert Pullin for repairing culvert and furnishing plank on Sweaburg Road \$6.00."

"Paid Richard Mayberry \$3.00 for use of Harris Street Hall for an election, held June 26, 1894 to Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

In 1892, \$237.31 was paid for indigent patients yet three years later only \$41 was required.

At this time there were four commissioners, John Prouse, Joseph Jarvis, James Cuthbert and J.H. Forden. Road overseers were C.E. Gamsby, George Nichols, Thomas Poole, Wm. Arthur and Arthur Clarkson. Apparently each commissioner was responsible for a certain section of road and paid out various amounts for repairs needed; later being reimbursed by the Treasurer.

The roads were maintained by statute labour. All farmers were requested to do a certain number of days road work. A man shovelling gravel counted as one. A team to haul



By 1902 some equipment powered by steam was used in road building.