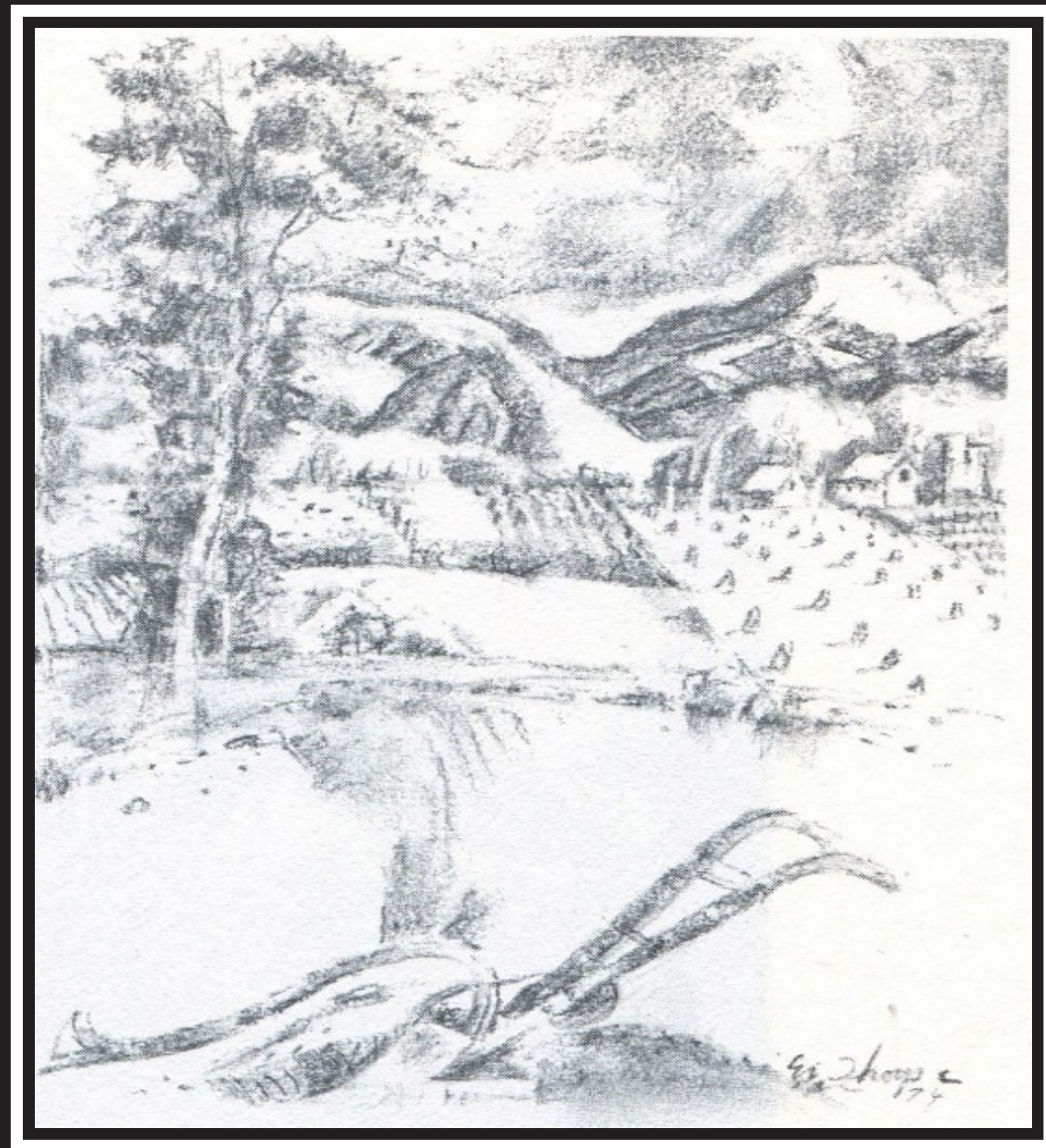


FARMING THE LIFE BLOOD OF THE SETTLEMENT

With each family entering the valley in 1859, came their family cow, their oxen to pull the wagons and plow the fields, their sheep for clothing, their horses to ride, their swine for meat, and tucked away in a crate in the back of the wagon the family flock of chickens.

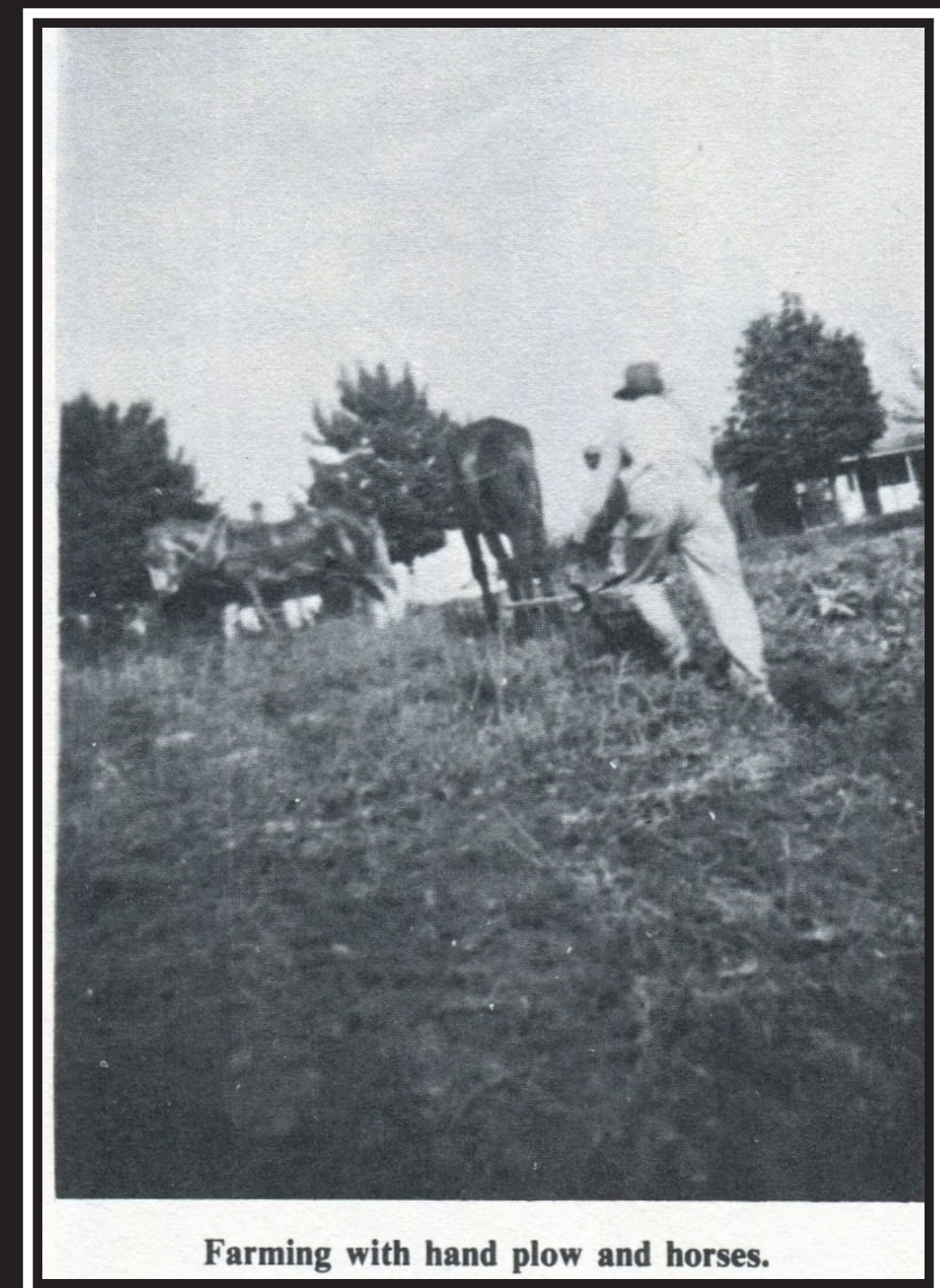


Everett T Thorpe Drawing

Farming was the major activity of most people of Providence for over a hundred years. The raising and production of food created employment for many of those who did not own farms. In the first year, 1859, the people of the settlement had one objective in their planting, to harvest and store enough food to last through the winter and until the crops began to bear food the following year. They barely made it. By the spring of 1860 they were eating sego lily bulbs, red roots and whatever they could find that was edible. The grain that was left by the time spring came had to be saved and used for planting.

Few implements came with the early settlers to help make the work of farming easier. Each man had a scythe to cut and store grass for the farm animals in the winter.

(1859 to 2022) As the years rolled by, the settlers would plant alfalfa to replace the wild grass, and grain to be used for food for the families and animals. Other crops were important to the Providence economy. Among the many vegetables and fruit raised, large quantities of green beans and peas were produced and sold to canning factories in Hyrum and Smithfield. To make it easier to harvest the pea crops, a pea vinery was built on the corner of what is now 100 North and 200 West in Providence. The farmers would bring their pea vines to the vinery, where the pea pods were separated from the vines, and then taken to the cannery for sale.



Farming with hand plow and horses.



Threshing Grain in the fall



Pea Vinery that stood on 2nd West and 1st North

Large acreages of corn were raised in the area around Providence, to be used for cattle feed, and as a commercial crop to sell to the canneries. Sugar beets were an important cash crop to the farmers of Providence, with a sugar factory opening west of town in 1903. Practically every boy and a few girls who grew up in Providence from 1903 to 1944 were familiar with the back breaking work of thinning, weeding, and topping beets. Done all most exclusively by hand, caring for beets was one of the most difficult and physically demanding of the farm labors.



Harvesting Sugar beets in October

The green belt which surrounded the town has disappeared. Farming in and around Providence has been replaced by homes and businesses, and farming around Providence has become a thing of the past.

Funding for this project has been provided by the Providence Historic Preservation Commission and Providence City.