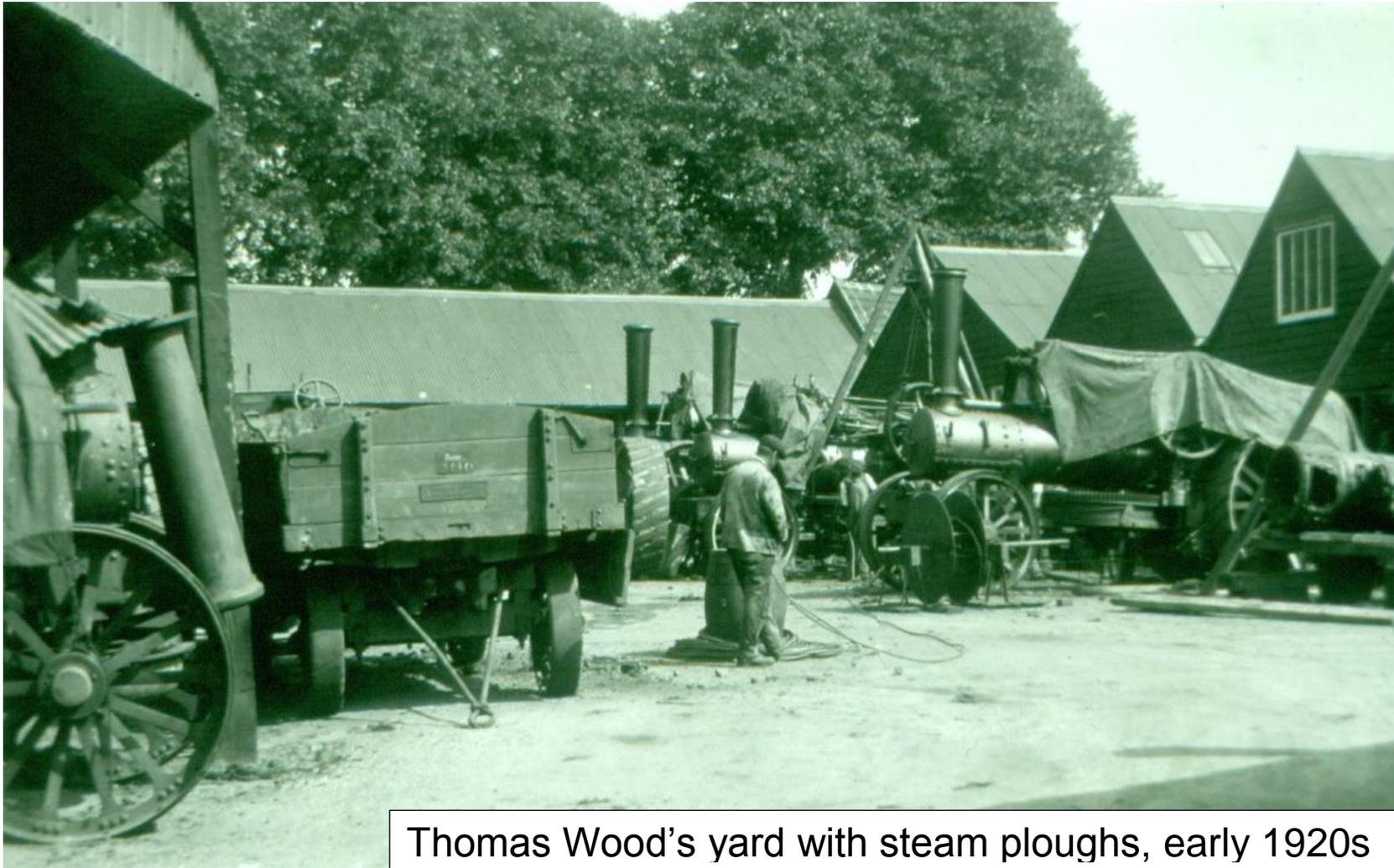


THOMAS WOOD & SONS LTD. CROCKENHILL

Thomas Wood & Sons were steam engine proprietors with a foundry & workshops on Cray Road – premises still owned by the Wood family, with some equipment still in situ that would have been running in the First World War.



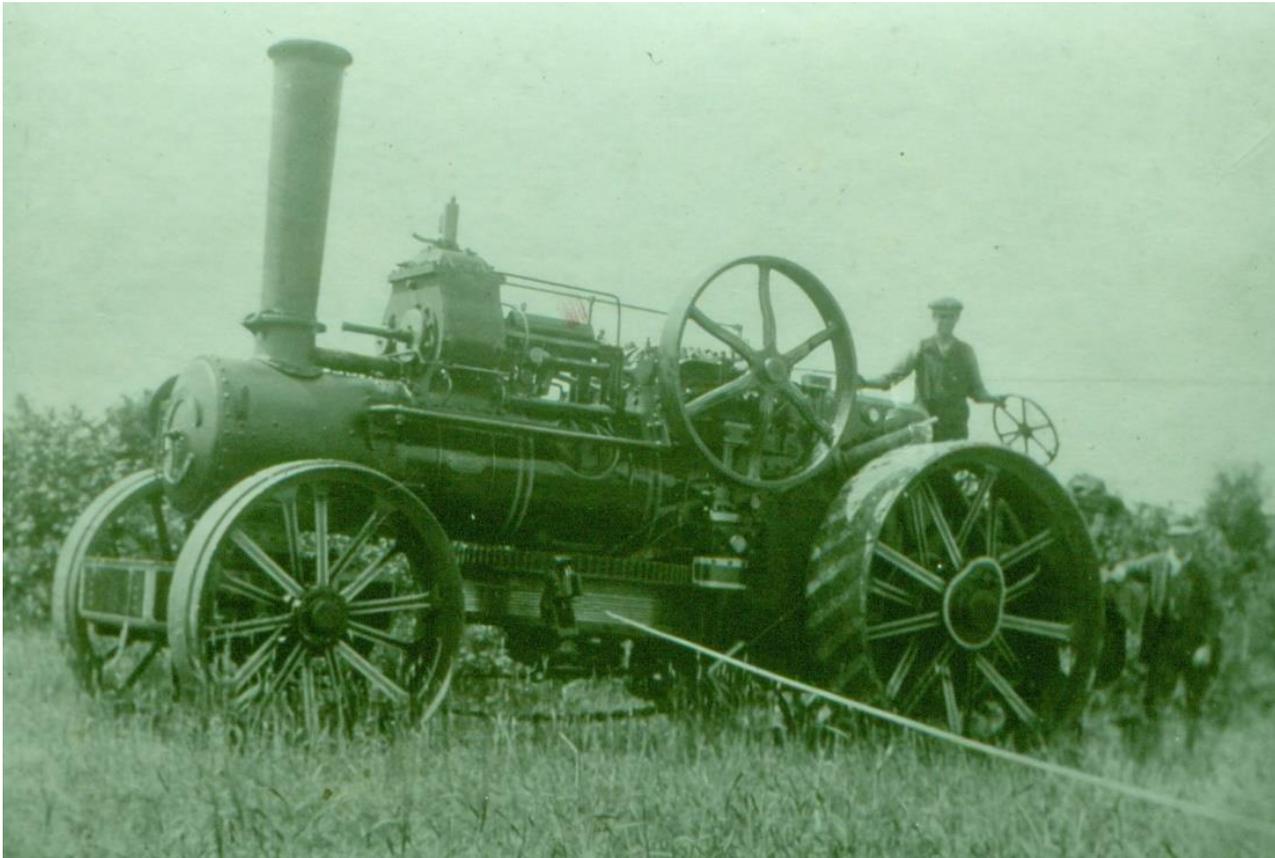
Thomas Wood's yard with steam ploughs, early 1920s

Farmers in Kent hired steam ploughs and threshing engines, with teams, to work on their farms.

THOMAS WOOD & SONS LTD.

CROCKENHILL Thomas Wood owned several farms – Woodlands (Knatts Valley), Greatness (Sevenoaks), Pedham Place (Farningham), West Farleigh (near the Medway) and Otford Castle Farm – supplied the Royal Navy with vegetables.

In the First World War the Company was contracted to plough up Sevenoaks Racecourse to turn into farmland.



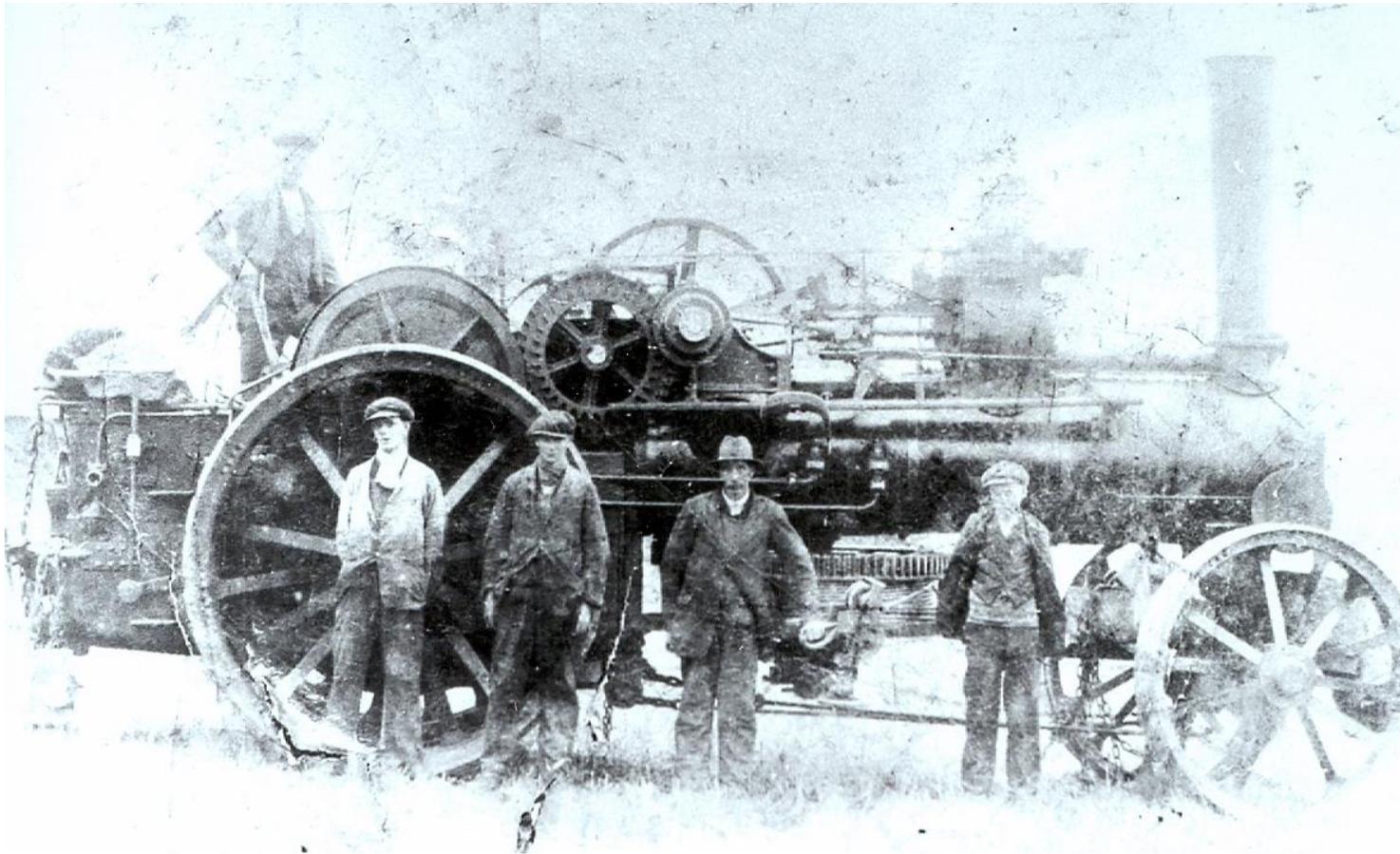
Steam plough, Bill Jarrett driving, Bower Farm, Eynsford, 1920. Freddie Coppins, ploughman by rear wheel. The chain linked to another steam engine on the opposite side of the field and the ploughshare would be pulled across the field from one steam engine to the other

THOMAS WOOD & SONS LTD. CROCKENHILL

Had War Office contract, which ended in July 1920, to haul guns from Woolwich to Chatham Dockyard.

Sidney Gilham was given exemption from military service because he was the only skilled engineer left in the firm.

Wood's last steam plough was bought in 1919 as John Fowler had to build a quota to help food production, and Thomas Wood was on the list to have one supplied.



Fowler steam plough bought by Thomas Wood in 1911, so would have been in use in First World War. Tom Day on engine, Fred Champion, Bill and George Jarrett, 'Snowball' Stone, at White Hill, Gravesend, 1919