In 1847, the McCormick brothers, Cyrus and Leander, started the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company and began selling the McCormick reaper. McCormick’s father had worked many years designing a horse-drawn reaper, and in 1830, when Cyrus turned 21, his father gave him the ownership rights to the reaper. Cyrus developed a refined version of the reaper, and McCormick patented it in 1834.

In 1902, the company passed on to Cyrus Sr.’s son, Cyrus McCormick, Jr. McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, Deering Harvester Company, Plano and Warder, Bushnell and Glessner, and Milwaukee merged together to create the International Harvester Company.

Production of new farm machines came almost to a standstill while the factories were engaged in war production. Many farmers couldn’t afford to trade for newer equipment during the depression, and couldn’t get it during the war, so they had to make do with the old tractor.

In early 1923, The McCormick Deering 15-30 was International Harvester’s only tractor model as the 2-plow International 8-16, 3-plow Titan 10-20, and 4-plow International 15-30 chain drive was discontinued. This tractor was referred to throughout its production run as a 15-30 by IHC. The name 15-30 had become famous with farmers across the nation. This was a tractor, along with the famous John Deere ‘D,’ which made the transition from horsepower to horsepower complete. The 15-30 and the D were evenly matched, as the D’s rated horsepower was 15-27. The D was a two-cylinder, horizontal-engine machine, but the 15-30 was a four-cylinder vertical.

The late 15-30, or 22-36 style, was one of the workhorses of this country’s farm production during World War II.