



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## WHIFFLETREE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 417,573, dated December 17, 1889.

Application filed September 4, 1889. Serial No. 322,923. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM ALBERT MILLER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Springdale, in the county of Washington and State of Arkansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Whiffletrees; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 represents my device in use. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view of one of the whiffletrees detached.

Like letters of reference denote corresponding parts in all the figures.

My invention relates to whiffletrees, and has for its object to provide an improved device of this class which shall be adapted to be used in narrow and irregular places. I accomplish this object by means of the peculiar construction and adaptation of the parts illustrated in the aforesaid figures.

Referring to the drawings, the letter A designates an evener, which may be of the ordinary construction, except that, for reasons hereinafter set forth, it should obviously be short. The evener is provided with the usual clevis or staple *a*, and, if desired, a chain *b* attached to said clevis or staple for the sake of greater freedom and play. For attaching the whiffletrees each end of the evener is provided with a hook, or, preferably, as illustrated in this case, an eyebolt *c*. To each of the eyebolts *c* is attached a pair of rods *d*. These rods connect with the twisted links C, which inclose the ends of the whiffletrees B, and to the forward end of the twisted links may be attached suitable chains or tugs E for fastening to the hames.

The operation of my device, briefly stated, is as follows: The chains E are attached to the hames and the whiffletrees B rest back of the front legs of the horses. It will be observed that the whiffletrees are curved or bent downwardly, so that they may not strike against the bellies of the horses. They also

keep the twisted links C and the rods D from chafing or rubbing the horses. It will be seen that, rods *d* being hinged or pivoted in the eyebolt *c*, a great amount of lateral play is provided for and the horses may be drawn very closely together, and thus when being used in orchards or in other narrow or confined places the whiffletrees will not stick out and catch against or bark the trees or be liable to come in contact with other obstructions. When plowing in orchards, it will also be found desirable to use a reasonable length of the chain *b*, and by this means the plow may be brought closer to the trees without bringing the evener in contact with the trees. The length of the chain *b* may of course be adapted to the circumstances, or, if desired, entirely dispensed with and the evener staple or clevis attached directly to the plow-clevis or other implement to be used.

It is evident that one of the whiffletrees herein described may be used, as and in the manner set forth, with a single horse in like circumstances and with like advantages to those above set forth, in which case the rods *d* will be attached to a suitable link or clevis.

Having thus described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

The combination of an evener provided at opposite ends with forwardly-extending eyebolts, and also provided with a rearwardly-extending clevis or staple, said clevis or staple having the securing-chain connected thereto, obliquely-extending rods pivotally secured to the forward ends of the rods, downwardly-curved whiffletrees having their ends provided with recesses to receive the loop portions of the twisted links, and chains or tugs for connecting the forward ends of the links with the hames, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereunto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM ALBERT MILLER.

Witnesses:

A. J. HALE,

W. G. VINCENHELLER.