

(No Model.)

C. H. EVANS & F. T. DUNLAP.
WHIFFLETREE HOOK.

No. 486,929.

Patented Nov. 29, 1892.

Fig. 1.

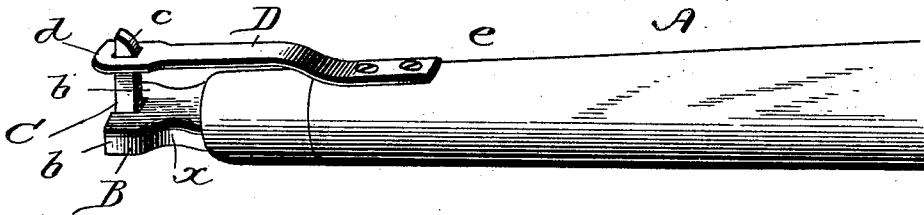


Fig. 2.

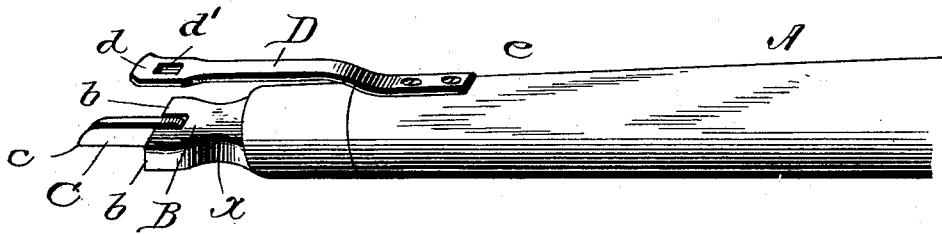
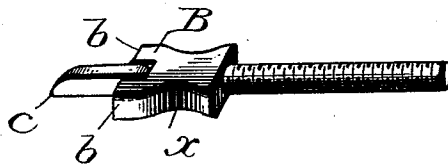


Fig. 3.



Witnesses
Albert Spiden.
Albert Spiden.

Inventors
Charles H. Evans
Fred. T. Dunlap
By Attorney *Woodbury Lavery*

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES H. EVANS AND FRED T. DUNLAP, OF MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

WHIFFLETREE-HOOK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 486,929, dated November 29, 1892.

Application filed August 22, 1892. Serial No. 443,750. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES H. EVANS and FRED T. DUNLAP, citizens of the United States, residing at Manchester in the county of Hillsborough and State of New Hampshire, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Whiffletree-Hooks, of which the following is a specification.

The object of our invention is to provide an improved whiffletree or trace hook to be attached to the end of the whiffletree, cross-bar, draw-bar, or other suitable location on a vehicle, by means of which the traces of the harness may be readily fastened and unfastened and are permanently held from becoming accidentally detached. It may also be used for any other suitable purpose; and our invention consists of a forked hook-head between the prongs or projections of which is pivoted one extremity of a guard, while the other extremity locks into an aperture in a spring-tongue, and thus secures the trace through the eyelet, in the end of which the guard and hook-head have previously been passed. The trace-hook may be made of iron, steel, or other suitable material, and its parts may also be made of different materials, as desired.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate our invention, Figure 1 is a view of our whiffletree-hook in the locked position. Fig. 2 is a view of the same with the guard open for attaching the trace, and Fig. 3 shows one way of attaching the hook-head and guard to the whiffletree by means of a shank.

A is the whiffletree, to the end of which is attached, in any suitable way, the hook-head B, having the two prongs or projections *b b*, between which is pivoted one end of the guard or catch C in such wise as to swing freely into the vertical and horizontal positions shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3. The free end *c* of the guard C is preferably beveled, as shown, in order to press against and lift the spring-catch D, which has one end fastened to the

whiffletree and the other end *d* provided with an aperture *d'* and preferably bent up. On raising the guard C its beveled extremity *c* presses against the convex surface of the end *d* of the spring, lifting the latter until the end of the guard enters the aperture *d'*, when the spring slips back to its original position and locks the guard. To release the guard, the free end of the spring is raised until the guard is withdrawn from the aperture, and the trace which has previously been slipped over the guard and hook-head withdrawn.

In the drawings we have shown the hook-head B as having a narrow part or neck at *x* where the trace is fastened, and in Fig. 3 we have shown the hook-head B provided with a screw-threaded shank *b'*, which may or may not be integral with the hook-head, and by which the latter can be attached to the whiffletree; but we do not limit ourselves to this particular form of the hook-head or its mode of attachment, as they may be greatly varied without departing from the spirit of our invention.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a whiffletree-hook, the combination of the hook-head B, having the neck *x* and the projections *b b*, the guard C, having one end pivoted between the projections of the hook-head and the other end *c* beveled, said head and guard being adapted to pass through the aperture in the trace, the spring-catch D, having the aperture *d'* for engaging with the free end of the guard, and means for attaching the spring-catch and hook-head to a whiffletree, substantially as described.

In witness whereof we hereunto set our hands this 9th day of August A. D. 1892.

CHARLES H. EVANS.

FRED T. DUNLAP.

In presence of—

GORDON WOODBURY,
GUY H. JOHNSON.