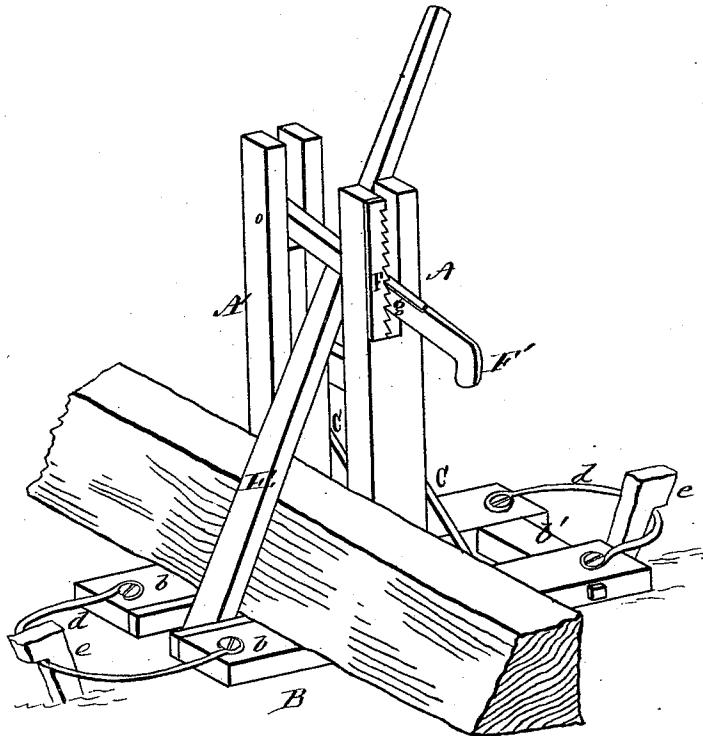


C. W. MATTHEWS.

RAIL-HOLDER.

No. 170,679.

Patented Dec. 7, 1875.



Witnesses

*J. P. Connolly*  
*A. C. Cassell*

Inventor

*Cyrus W. Matthews*

*Connolly Bros*

Attorneys

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CYRUS W. MATTHEWS, OF JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN RAIL-HOLDERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **170,679**, dated December 7, 1875; application filed February 26, 1875.

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CYRUS W. MATTHEWS, of Jacksonville, Morgan county, Illinois, have invented a Machine for Holding Slab-Rails, &c., of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which is shown a perspective view of the said machine.

The object of this invention is to provide for firmly holding slab-rails, rafters, or other large sections of wood in a horizontal position while their ends are being trimmed with an ax or other chopping implement.

Said invention consists in the novel construction of a machine for the purpose mentioned, comprising a sill or base, which may be rigidly attached to the ground, a pair of vertical standards, a clamping-lever, and an adjustable lock, all as hereinafter described.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, A A' designate a pair of vertical standards of suitable height and thickness, firmly attached to a horizontal base, B, and, if necessary, sustained by diagonal brace-rods C C. The base B is formed of the longitudinal side bars *b*, and cross-ties *b'*, bolted together, as shown, and is provided with loops or bails *d d* at the end for the reception of stakes *e e*, which are driven into the ground to retain the frame of the machine in place. E designates the clamping-lever, pivoted at its lower end to and between the forward ends of the base-bars *b*, and made of sufficient length to pass between

and above the uprights A A'. F' represents a locking-lever, pivoted to the upright A, and thence passing through a slot in the upper end of the upright A, which is provided with a rack, F, to receive a lip, *g*, projecting from said lever, and hold the latter at different positions. The rail to be held is laid crosswise the base B, between the lever E and the uprights A A', and is secured by the pressure of the lever, which is inclined backward between said uprights, and locked by means of the lever F'.

It is deemed unnecessary to particularize the advantages of the above-described device. That it is simple in construction, labor-saving, and well adapted to the purposes for which it is intended, is perfectly manifest.

Having fully described my invention, I claim as new and desire by Letters Patent—

The combination, with the base B and uprights A A', of the lever E, pivoted to the forward end of said base, and the locking-lever F' and rack F, attached, respectively, to said uprights, all as shown and described, and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CYRUS W. MATTHEWS.

Witnesses:

CHARLES H. FOX,  
WM. ROCKWELL.