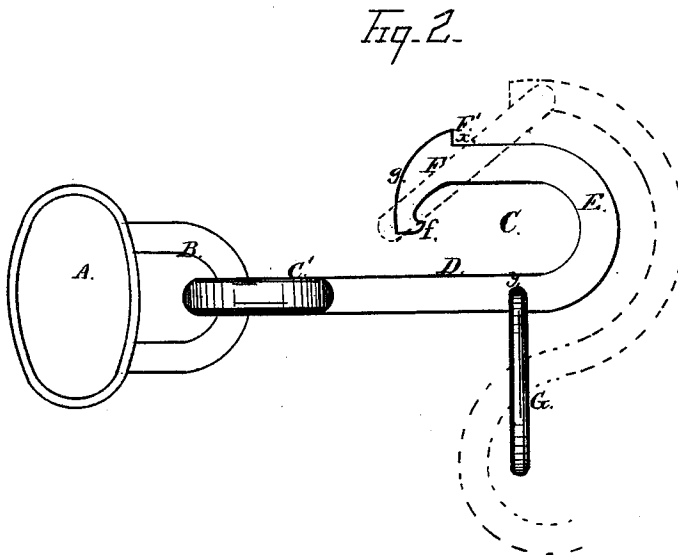
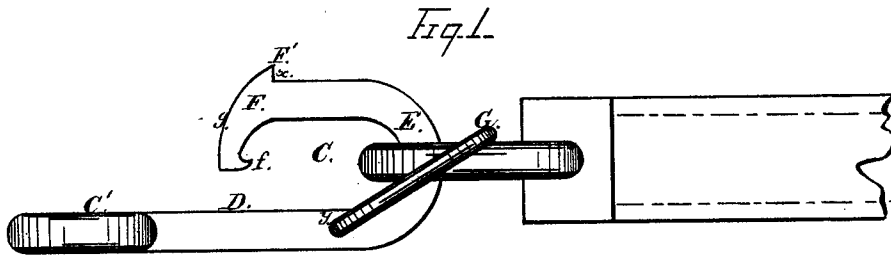


W. G. REEVES.

TRACE-HOOK.

No. 176,352.

Patented April 18, 1876.



WITNESSES
E. A. Nottingham
Wm. H. Breton

By

INVENTOR
Willis G. Reeves
Legged & Legged Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIS G. REEVES, OF BARTLETT, TENNESSEE.

IMPROVEMENT IN TRACE-HOOKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **176,352**, dated April 18, 1875; application filed October 15, 1875.

To all whom it may concern :

Be it known that I, WILLIS G. REEVES, of Bartlett, in the county of Shelby and State of Tennessee, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trace-Hooks; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to trace-hooks, and consists of a hook with a peculiar-shaped nose or hook end, constructed with and used in connection with a retaining link or loop thereon, as and for the purposes hereinafter set forth and shown.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of my hook, as in use; Fig. 2, a view of same, when not in use, with the retaining link or ring lying down out of use, and the trace shown in dotted lines in the position or manner of applying it to the hook.

A is the end of a single or double tree, with the ordinary cuff B. C is my trace-hook, secured thereto by a loop, C'. The end or crook of this hook is formed, as shown, with a straight portion, D, and a rearward curved end, E. The end or nose F of the hook is turned down, with an inward curved or hooked under part, *f*, and a straight or curved part, *g*. At the top of this nose *f* is formed a projection or stop, F'. G is a ring or loop applied or secured to the lower or straight portion D. The height or distance of the crook or bend E from the points *xy* is just sufficient to allow the loop G to reach the projection F'. The distance from the inside of the part *f* to the inside edge of the curve E, and from the lower edge of the part *f* to the top of the portion D, is made just sufficient to admit of the ordinary trace, either chain or otherwise, to be applied, but not allow an easy rear

escapement of the trace past these parts after it is hooked.

The manner of using this hook is as follows: It being in the position shown in Fig. 2, with the ring G hanging down, the trace is first carried back under the ring G, then forward through it and up over the hook E. When thus applied the trace is in the position shown in Fig. 1, with the loop G resting upon it and preventing it from slipping out, as is apparent. The limit of the rearward movement of the retaining-loop being at the stop F, the trace cannot pass the ring.

The details of construction of this hook may be varied somewhat without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I am aware that a retaining ring or loop, operating against a shoulder at the end of a whiffletree to retain the trace in place, has before been used. This, therefore, I do not claim.

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

1. The trace-hook C, constructed with straight portion D, curved hook-end E F, with shoulder F' and trace retaining ring or loop G, as and for the purposes described.

2. In a trace hook or lock, constructed as described, with hook end E and trace-retaining ring or loop G, the end or nose F, constructed with a shoulder, F', a straight or curved face, *g*, and hooked or projecting end *f*, whereby to prevent the accidental release of the trace-loop, past the end of the hook, as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand.

WILLIS G. REEVES.

Witnesses:

W. B. WILLIAMSON,
D. H. MCGOWAN.