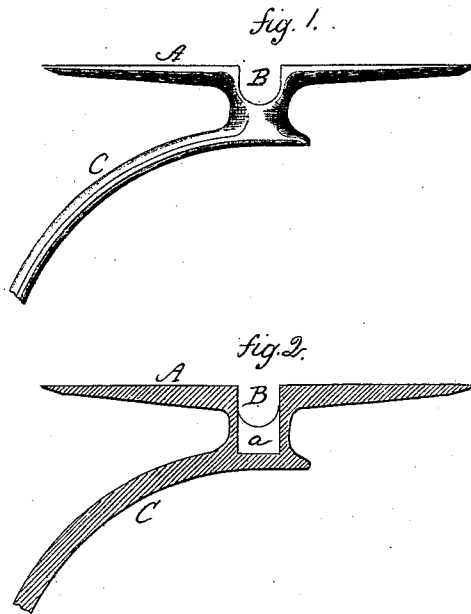


F. B. MORSE.
Fifth-Wheel Brace.

No. 112,950.

Patented Mar. 21, 1871.



Witnesses.
J. H. Shumway
A. J. Tibbitts

Francis B. Morse
Inventor
By his Attorney
John E. Earle

United States Patent Office.

FRANCIS B. MORSE, OF PLANTSVILLE, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO H. D. SMITH & CO., OF SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 112,950, dated March 21, 1871.

IMPROVEMENT IN KEEPS AND BRACES FOR FIFTH-WHEELS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANCIS B. MORSE, of Plantsville, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Keep and Brace for Fifth-Wheel; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawing and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawing constitutes part of this specification and represents in—

Figure 1, a side view; and in

Figure 2, a longitudinal central section.

This invention relates to that part of a carriage termed the fifth-wheel, and especially to the construction of the part called the keep, that is to say, the strap or saddle which passes over the fifth-wheel and is secured to the perch, the object of the invention being to combine with the keep, in one and the same piece, the brace, which extends from the perch below the axle; and the invention consists in forming the keep and brace in one and the same piece, joined together in the center, that is, immediately below the groove within which the fifth-wheel works.

A is the keep, formed with a recess, B, corresponding to the shape of the fifth-wheel, and so that when the keep is secured to the perch the fifth-wheel will turn freely in and be held in position by the said keep.

A projection is formed on the keep on the reverse side, and from this I extend the brace C, and when desirable I form a chamber, *a*, beneath the recess B, within which to place a pad of India rubber, or other material, to prevent the rattling of the fifth-wheel.

The brace C I make of an indefinite length, giving it by preference nearly the curvature which will be required, and in this condition the article is ready for market.

The consumer welds to the brace C an extension sufficient to carry the end of the brace beneath the axle to the point desired.

Heretofore the brace has been made independent of the keep, and both secured to the perch by bolts. By this invention they are both in one and the same piece, facilitating the securing of the two to the perch, and preventing all possibility of their separating.

I claim as my invention—

As an article of manufacture, the herein-described keep and brace for fifth-wheel of carriages, formed in one and the same piece, substantially as herein described.

F. B. MORSE.

Witnesses:

E. E. PADDOCK,
ASA L. FOWLER.