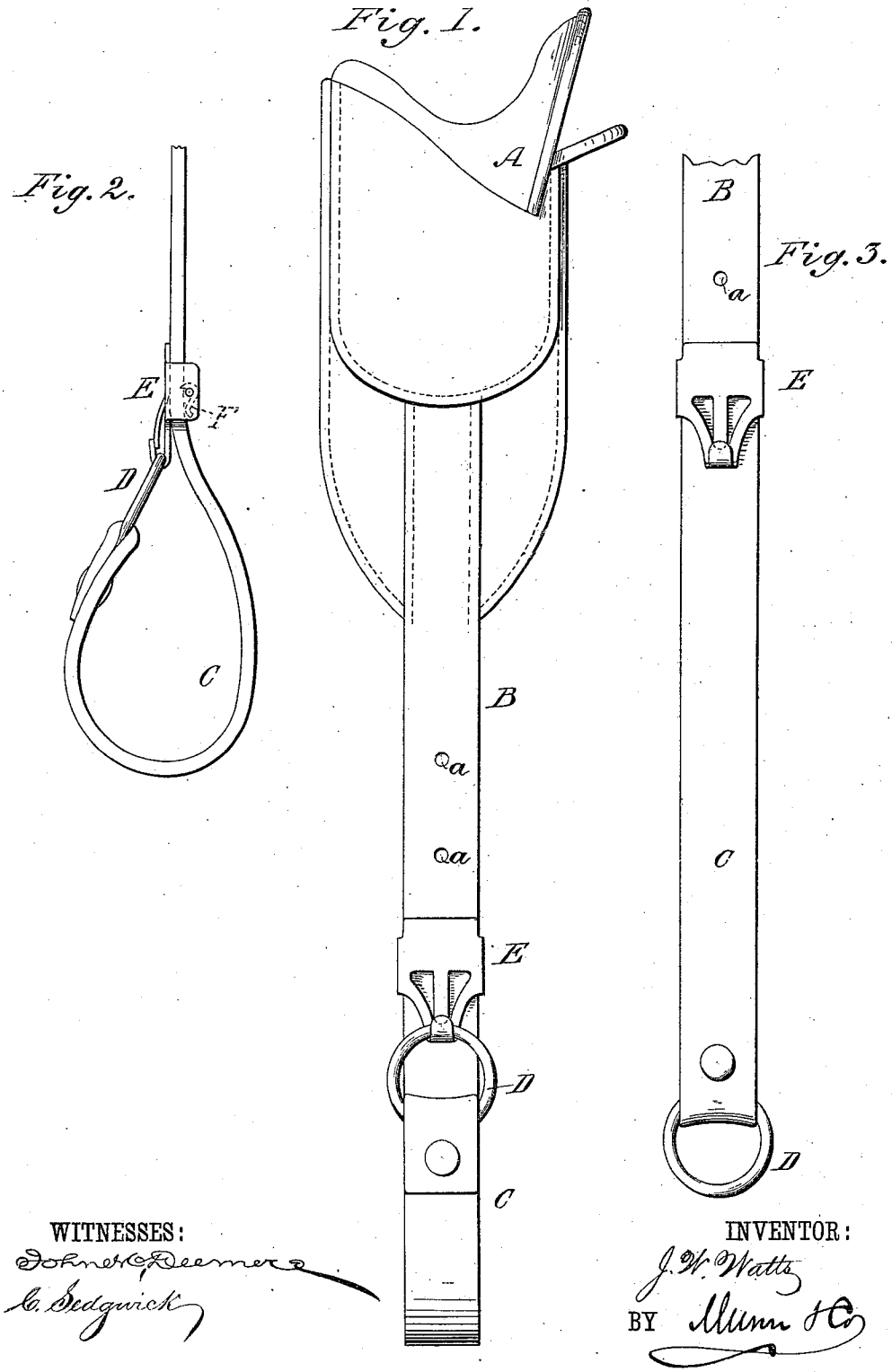
(No Model.)

J. W. WATTS.

THILL HOLDER FOR HARNESS.

No. 313,266. Patented Mar. 3, 1885.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. WATTS, OF MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA.

THILL-HOLDER FOR HARNESS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 313,266, dated March 3, 1885.

Application filed May 17, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. WATTS, of Montgomery, in the county of Montgomery and State of Alabama, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Thill-Holders for Harnesses, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the back-pad and skirt of a harness having my improved thill-holder applied thereto. Fig. 2 is an edge view of the thill-holder as it appears when looped for holding the thill; and Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the holder unlooped.

This invention has for its object to facilitate the work of hitching horses to one-horse vehicles; and the invention consists in providing the harness with thill-holding straps instead of loops, the straps being adapted to be wrapped around the thills and secured by a snap-hook or buckle and ring, thus avoiding the necessity of sliding the thills through loops, as is now the common practice.

Referring to the drawings, A represents the back-pad or saddle of the harness, and B represents the skirt of a harness, which said parts may be of the ordinary or of any approved construction. In this instance the skirt and thill strap or holder C are made in one piece; but the latter may be made separate and buckled or otherwise secured to the skirt, if desired. The thill-holder C is a plain strap of suitable length to be wrapped around the thill, and provided at its outer end with the ring D, which is adapted to be held by the snap-hook E, secured to the strap or holder B the proper distance from its lower or free end, as will be understood from the drawings.

The snap-hook is made adjustable on the strap B by means of a pivoted tongue, F, (shown in dotted lines, Fig. 1,) adapted to engage one of a series of holes, *a*, in said strap when the snap-hook is slid to its proper position.

In use, the horse to be hitched to the vehicle will simply be placed in the thills, and the thills raised and the thill-holders C passed under and around the thills, and the ring D placed in the hook E. In this manner the trouble of slipping the thills through thill-loops is avoided; and the thill-holder is cheap, practical, and convenient, and can be applied to all kinds of harness.

I prefer to make the thill-holder C an extension of the skirt B of the harness; but for harness already in use the thill-holder C may be made of a separate strap adapted to be buckled to the skirt in place of the ordinary thill-loops.

I am aware that a halter-strap has been provided with a sliding snap-hook for engaging a ring or loop on the end of the strap; also, that a saddle has been provided with a strap, around which metallic clasps were passed. To these clasps a plate was secured, the plate being bent to form a loop, and being provided with a spring carrying a pin to hold it in position on the strap; and I do not claim such constructions as of my invention.

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

The combination, with the saddle A, of straps B, secured thereto and provided with rings D at their lower ends, apertures *a*, and a sliding snap-hook constructed to engage said apertures, whereby the strap may be wrapped around the thill to form a loop, C, after the animal has been placed within a thill, substantially as set forth.

JNO. W. WATTS.

Witnesses:
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