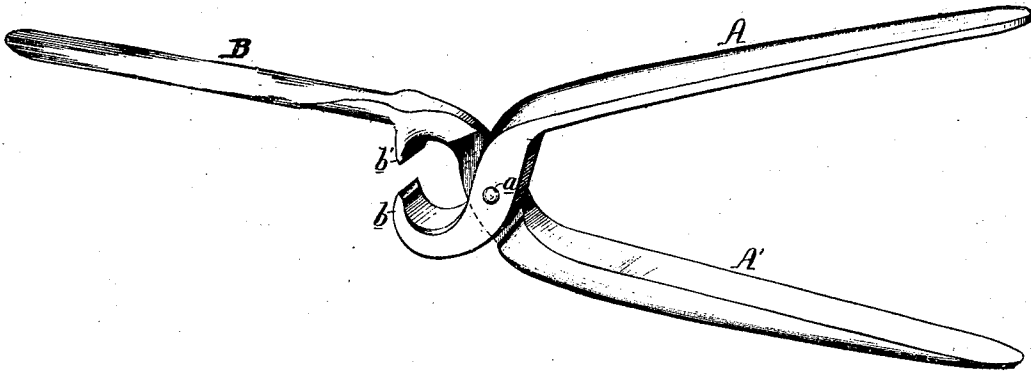


M. C. Boyer.

Oyster Opener.

No. 112,895.

Patented Mar. 21. 1871.



Witnesses { *Jno. B. Harding.*
Harry Smith

M. C. Boyer
by his Att'y
Howson and Son.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MICHAEL C. BOYER, OF NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN DEVICES FOR OPENING OYSTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **112,895**, dated March 21, 1871.

I, MICHAEL C. BOYER, of Norristown, county of Montgomery, State of Pennsylvania, have invented an Instrument for Opening Oysters, of which the following is a specification:

Nature and Object of the Invention.

My invention consists of nippers or pinchers combined with a blade, substantially as described hereafter, so as to form an oyster-opening instrument by which the shell can be broken and opened with facility.

The figure in the accompanying drawing represents, in perspective, my instrument for opening oysters.

The instrument consists of two levers, A and A', the long arms of which are to be grasped by the hand of the operator, the short arms *b* and *b'* being curved, and terminating in sharp or comparatively sharp edges. In fact, the instrument is very similar to an ordinary pair of pinchers or nippers, such as are used for severing wire, &c., with this exception, that from the short arm *b'* of the lever A' projects a blade, B, like that of an ordinary oyster-knife.

In using ordinary knives it is the practice to rest the closed shells on a sharp stationary anvil, and to break the edge of the shell with the butt-end of the knife, so as to expose an opening between the shells for the insertion of the blade. This operation demands the repeated reversal of the knife in the hands of

the operator—a duty which, in using the above-described instrument, becomes unnecessary, for the operator, grasping the levers A and A' in his right hand, with his left passes the edge of the closed oyster-shell between the jaws formed by the curved arms *b* and *b'* of the levers, and, compressing the long arms of the latter in his right hand, severs or breaks a portion from the shell, so as to present an opening for the insertion of the blade B, which he manipulates while still grasping the long arms of the levers, precisely as he would manipulate the blade of an ordinary oyster-knife.

It will be seen, without further description, that by the above-described instrument the operator can break the shell of the oyster by the pinchers and open the shell by the blade without releasing the long arms of the levers from his grasp.

Claim.

An oyster-opener consisting of pinchers or nippers and blade combined in one instrument, substantially as described.

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

MICHAEL C. BOYER.

Witnesses:

WM. A. STEEL,

FRANKLIN B. RICHARDS.