Mrs. M. de K. Cutts' Tobacco Drying House.

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Fig. 1.

PATENTED
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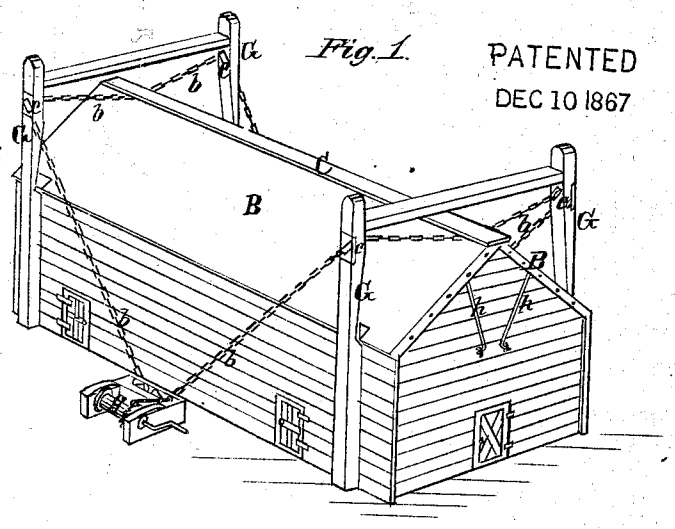


Fig. 2.

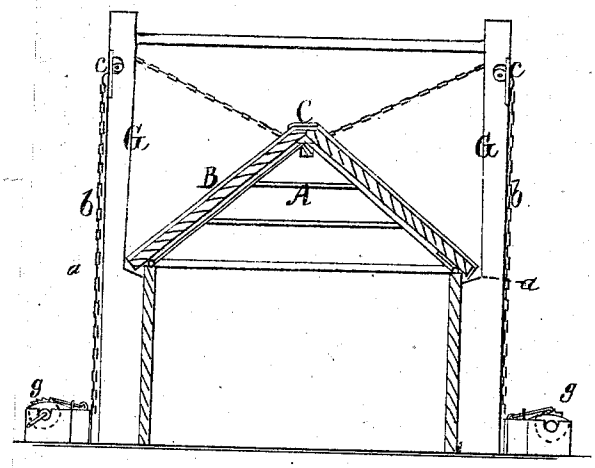
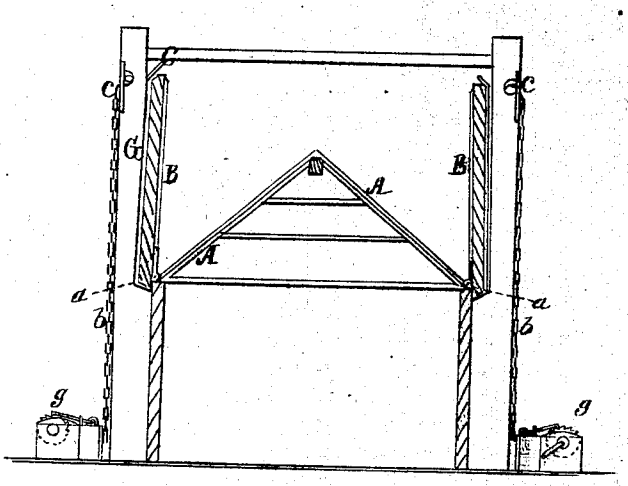


Fig 3.



Witnesses.
R. T. Campbell
Edw. Schupp

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Mrs M. de K. Cutts
by Munn Semrad & Hammer.

United States Patent Office.

M. DE K. CUTTS, OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

Letters Patent No. 71,855, *dated December* 10, 1867.

IMPROVED CONSTRUCTION OF ROOFS.

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, M. De K. Cutts, of Richmond, in the county of Henrico, and State of Virginia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Construction of the Roofs of Houses for Curing Tobacco; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the tobacco-drying house.

Figures 2 and 3 are sectional views of the house.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

This invention relates to a novel improvement on the construction of the roofs of houses in which tobacco in the leaf is dried and cured.

The object of the invention is to so construct and apply the two inclined sides of the roof of a tobacco-drying house that with very little labor, and whenever desired, these sides can be thrown up in vertical positions, so as to expose the racks of tobacco to the drying effects of the sun and air, and at the same time allow of a free circulation of air between the racks, thereby effecting the drying and curing of the leaves in a much shorter time than hitherto, and avoiding the labor and expense of handling the leaves and changing them from one place to another upon the racks. And whenever the condition of the weather is such as would injure the tobacco if exposed to it, the sides of the roof can be lowered and the tobacco protected from dampness, as will be hereinafter described.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand my invention, I will describe its construction and operation.

All that portion of the house, with the exception of the roof, may be constructed in the usual well-known manner, and the framework or racks A, for supporting the tobacco-leaves, may be erected in such house and arranged as hitherto. The roof consists of two inclined sides, B B′, which are hinged in a strong and substantial manner to the vertical sides of the house, so that these sides B B′ can be raised to the upright positions shown in fig. 3, or lowered in the positions shown in figs. 1 and 2. This roof will thus admit of the entire top of the house being uncovered, and the tobacco-frames or racks exposed to the air and sun. The sides B B′ forming the roof may be constructed in any suitable manner, and provided with an overlapping portion, C, at the ridge of the roof, which portion will cover and close the joint formed by the meeting of the upper edges of the two hinged sides B B′, as shown in figs. 1 and 2, thereby preventing the roof from leaking at said joint during a rain. The sides B B′ are attached to the upper edges of the vertical sides of the house by means of hinges *a*, which may be constructed in any suitable manner which will afford the greatest strength. Having provided the structure with a hinged roof, which can be opened or closed as described, I employ an arrangement by which these sides B B′ can be readily raised or lowered. To the upper portions of the two sides B B′, and near the ends thereof, I attach chains *b b*, two to each one of said sides, which chains are passed over pulleys *c c*, in posts G, and thence carried down on both sides of the house, and connected to drums or windlasses *g g*, as shown. There are four posts, G G, employed, which are firmly secured in upright positions at or near the four corners of the structure, which posts not only serve as elevated supports for the pulleys *c c*, over which the lifting-chains pass, but they also serve as props or supports for the two sides B B′ when thrown up, as shown in fig. 3. The windlasses may be arranged either inside or outside of the structure, and for extraordinarily heavy roofs trains of gearing may be applied to the winding-drums *g g*, so that one person can, without much exertion, raise or lower the sides of the roof. It will be seen by reference to the drawings that I apply pawls and ratchets to the winding-drums for the purpose of arresting the drums whenever desired, during the operation of erecting the sections or sides of the roof. When the sides of the roof are closed as shown in fig. 1, they may be secured down in place by means of hooks *h h*, or other suitable fastenings, which will prevent the said sides from being blown open during a storm.

It will be seen from the above description that when the weather is dry the top of the house can be readily uncovered and the tobacco-frames exposed to the direct heat of the sun and drying currents of air. By thus uncovering the house and its contents there will be a free upward draught of air between the racks supporting the tobacco-leaves.

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

1. A tobacco-drying house which is provided with a sectional hinged roof, in combination with frames A, which support the tobacco-leaves while being dried and cured, substantially as described.

2. The supporting-posts G, in combination with hinged sections B B′, elevating-devices, and supporting-frames, constructed and arranged in such manner that the leaves of tobacco upon said frames can be exposed to the action of the sun and air at pleasure, substantially as described.

Witness my hand, in the matter of my application for a patent on a house or the roof of a house for drying and curing tobacco, this 28th day of October, 1867.

M. DE K. CUTTS.

Witnesses:

EDW. SCHAFER,

EDM. F. BROWN.