(No Model.)

J. D. HOLLISTER.

TAIL LIGHT BRACKET FOR RAILROAD TRAINS.

No. 288,058. Patented Nov. 6, 1883.

Fig. 3.

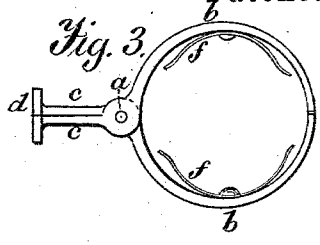


Fig. 4.

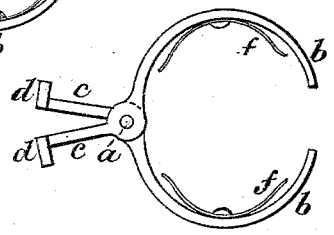
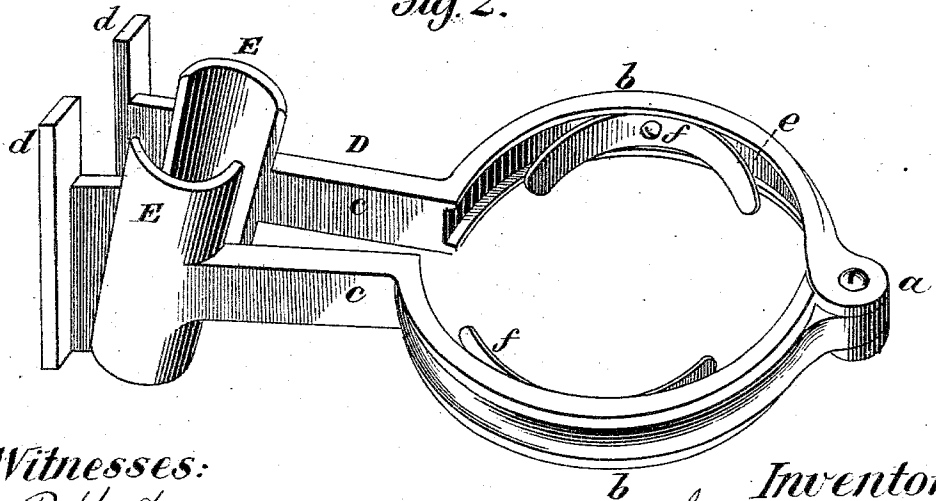


Fig. 1

Fig. 2.



Witnesses:
A. Ruppert.
W. T. Cole

Inventor:
James D. Hollister,
by Howard & Howard
attys.

N. PETERS. Photo-Lithographer, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES D. HOLLISTER, OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

TAIL-LIGHT BRACKET FOR RAILROAD-TRAINS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 288,058, dated November 6, 1883.

Application filed July 9, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES D. HOLLISTER, of Savannah, in the county of Chatham and State of Georgia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signal-Brackets for Railroad-Trains, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved device specially designed for holding a signal-lantern at the rear car of a train or section of a train.

The invention is also designed to hold a flag-staff for day-signaling by flag.

The object of the invention is to provide for the convenient attachment and removal of the lantern, or lantern and flag, to and from its holder, and to prevent the jarring or shaking of the lantern by the movement of the car.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view, showing the invention applied to and held by its pocket, and in a position to clasp and support the lantern, and also to hold a flag-staff. Fig. 2 shows the invention lifted or detached from the pocket and opened, for the removal of the lantern. Figs. 3 and 4 show a modification, as hereinafter described.

Similar letters of reference indicate similar parts in the respective views.

A is a pocket or rest, which is secured to the car, and which pocket, as it does not form any part of my invention, and has been heretofore used, need not be specially described.

D is the tail-bracket, which is made in two pieces, hinged together at *a* in each of the figures. When in the position shown in Figs. 1 and 3, the two parts form an annulus or ring, *b*, to encircle the lower or other portion of the lantern, while the straight parts *c*, at their ends, when united, form a vertical tongue, *d*, which fits in the pocket A, the two halves of the bracket becoming locked in the act of inserting the tongue in the pocket. The interior of the ring is preferably, but not necessarily, recessed, as shown at *e*, and in the groove so formed springs *f* are placed, one being suitably secured to each half of the annular portion *b* of the bracket. The springs *f*, when free, are of a diameter less than that of the ring, but when the lantern is inserted the springs are distended and assume approximately the diameter of the interior of the ring, which is but slightly greater than that of the cylindrical portion of the lantern to be clasped. Thus the lantern is inclosed within an elastic ring and the jar of the train is softened and not fully transmitted to the lantern, and at the same time the lantern is kept from rattling. The use of metallic springs of the character shown produces an effect different from that produced by the employment of rubber clamps, constructed to entirely surround the lantern, my springs having free ends, which are distended in the act of closing on the lantern. My metallic springs, when holding the lantern, do not bear upon its entire circumference, but only have bearing at certain points in the circumference, thus giving greater elasticity than can be obtained by any elastic clamping device which entirely surrounds the lantern. The elastic ring as constructed by me also admits of the use of lamps of different diameters. It will be seen that by lifting the bracket from its pocket A and opening the bracket to the position shown in Figs. 2 and 4 the lantern may be readily detached, and that the bracket may afterward be replaced within its pocket, and that the act of placing it in its pocket locks the two parts of the bracket together.

E shows a socket in halves, intended to receive a flag-staff, so that the invention may be used either as a lantern or flag-staff support. The socket is set at an angle, to give the staff a suitable position. The invention may be used either with or without the flag-support.

I am aware of devices forming elastic sockets, of substantially annular form, for holding various articles, and also of hinged flag-staff and other holders. I am also aware of holders for signal-lanterns, both elastic and hinged, and, also, that such holders have been combined with a flag-staff socket, and such, therefore, I do not broadly claim; but,

Having described my invention, I claim—

1. As an improvement in lantern-holders, the combination, with a bracket-ring in halves, hinged together, of metallic springs within the ring for holding the lantern in an elastic seat, said springs having free ends, adapting them to be distended in the act of closing upon the lantern, substantially as set forth.

2. In a lantern-holder, an annular socket, a portion of which is adapted to open, combined with internal metallic springs for holding the

lantern in an elastic seat, said springs having free ends, adapting them to be distended in the act of closing upon the lantern, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination, with a suitable pocket, of a bracket divided in two substantially duplicate parts, and hinged together to form, when closed, a seat for the lantern, said bracket being adapted to be locked in the act of fitting it to its socket, and to be lifted from the pocket and opened for the removal of the lantern, substantially as set forth.

4. A combined lantern and flag-staff holder, consisting of a bracket in two parts, hinged together, in each of which is a half-ring for the lantern-holder and a half-socket for the flag-holder, which halves, when the bracket is closed, form sockets for the lantern and flag-staff, respectively, substantially as set forth.

5. The combination of lamp and flag holder in one arm or bracket, composed of two substantially duplicated spring-sections hinged together for the purpose of producing a close fit, and preventing jar and rattling, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of June, A. D. 1883.

JAMES D. HOLLISTER.

Witnesses:
JNO. C. TELFER,
THOS. J. BACON.