Oct. 18, 1949. E. S. PRESTON 2,484,958

COMBINED OARLOCK AND WELL BRACKET

Filed May 7, 1946

Fig. 1.

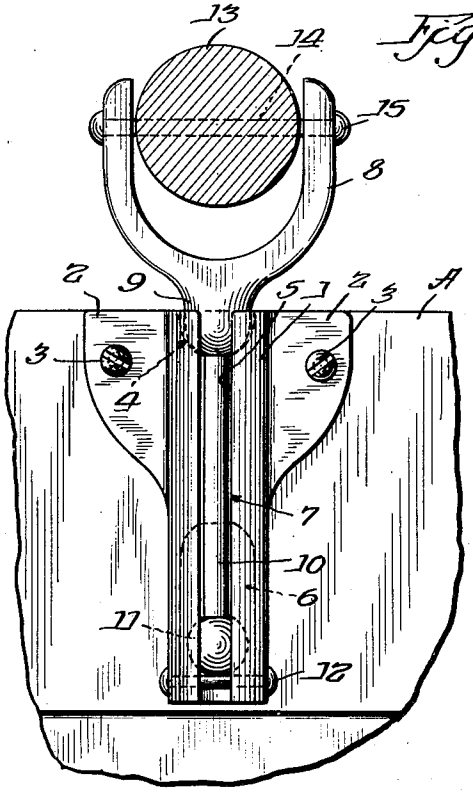
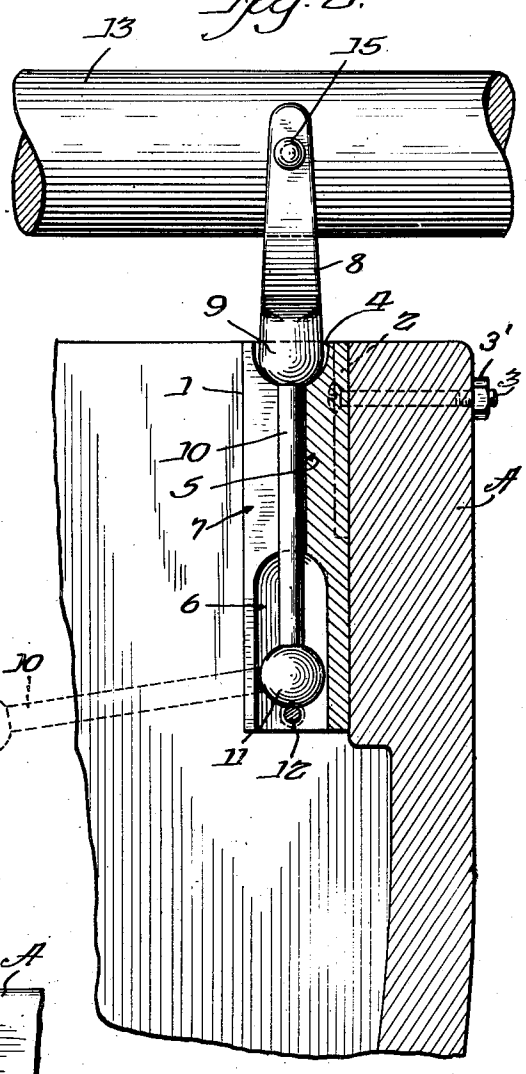


Fig. 2.



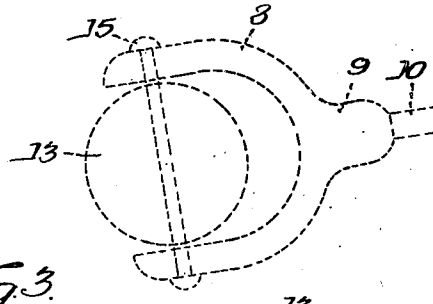
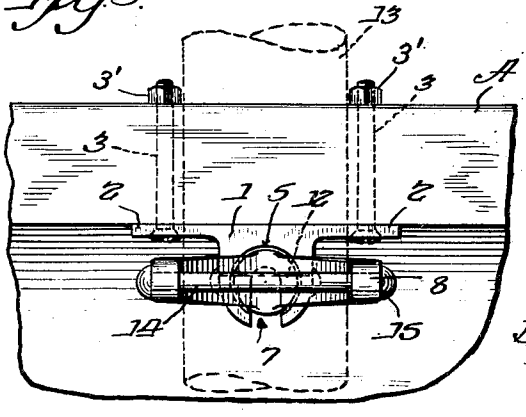


Fig. 3.



Inventor:
Erland S. Preston.

By: W. F. Keeling

Atty.

Patented Oct. 18, 1949 2,484,958

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,484,958

COMBINED OARLOCK AND WELL BRACKET

Erland S. Preston, Milwaukee, Wis.

Application May 7, 1946, Serial No. 667,846

2 Claims. (Cl. 9—26)

1

This invention relates to improvements in a combined oarlock and well bracket, having for an object to provide a device of the stated character by means of which the oarlock will be securely supported with relation to the gunwale of an equipped boat and will be freely rotatable through a horizontal or substantially horizontal plane or through a plane at right angles to its longitudinal axis to permit efficient rowing motion of a received and supported oar, and when desired, may be conveniently moved from an operative to an inoperative position alongside the boat gunwale in order that the oar may be placed within the boat in proximity to and generally longitudinally of the near side thereof, hence, preventing undesired displacement of the oar from the boat and its possible loss.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a well bracket for an oarlock so designed and constructed as to freely rotate or turn with rowing motion of an oar received by the supported oarlock.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide a device of the character above generally stated, capable of being readily attached to the gunwale or similar portion of a rowboat and of easy and quick assembly (operative interrelationing of the bracket and the oarlock) for use.

The invention also aims to provide a combined oarlock and well bracket of simple, rugged and economical construction, capable of being produced at a comparative minimum cost and of affording its user dependable, satisfactory and advantageous performance.

The foregoing, as well as other objects, advantages and meritorious teachings of my invention, will be in part obvious and in part pointed out in the following detailed disclosure thereof, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, it being understood that the form of the invention presented herein is a precise and what is now considered to be the best mode of embodying its principles, but that modifications and changes may be made in specific embodiment without departing from its essential features.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved combined oarlock and well bracket, showing the same attached to the inner side of a rowboat gunwale and with the received and supported oar shown in transverse cross-section.

Figure 2 is a vertical transverse section through a portion of a rowboat and one of its gunwales and the well bracket of the invention, the oarlock being shown, in full lines, in operative position with a portion of an oar attached thereto, and in dotted line positions in an inoperative position within and adjacent the near or supporting boat gunwale, and

2

Figure 3 is a top view of the improved combined oarlock and well bracket, illustrating the manner in which it is arranged and attached to an appropriate portion of a rowboat, with a portion of a received and supported oar shown in dotted lines.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the reference letter A indicates a portion of one of the gunwales of a rowboat, to which the oarlock well bracket is attached or connected. Said bracket comprises an elongated body 1, made of metal or other suitable material, formed with a longitudinal way extending completely therethrough, to be presently more fully described. Relatively opposed and flat bracket attaching wings 2 or like devices are fixed to or integral with the normally outer side and upper portion of the body 1 and have appropriate openings formed therein whereby to receive bolts 3, or their equivalents, in order that the well bracket may be securely connected to an inner side portion of the boat gunwale A, as shown in the figures of the accompanying drawings; suitable locking nuts 3' being turned into engagement with the screw-threaded extremities of said bolts, for an obvious purpose. Thus, it will be understood that the well bracket will be fixedly or rigidly connected to a portion of the inner face side of the boat gunwale A in a substantially vertical plane.

A cup-like well 4 is formed in and opens onto the upper end portion of the bracket body 1. Its lower portion opens into the longitudinal bracket body way, the portion 5 of the latter is of less cross-sectional area or width than its lower portion 6, as well shown in Figure 2 of the accompanying drawings. The normally outer side of the well bracket body 1 has a longitudinally disposed slot 7 formed therein communicating, throughout its length, with the portions 5 and 6 of the body way and with the well 4 therein. The width of this slot 7, as shown in Figure 1 of the drawings, is less than that of the lower portion 6 of the body provided way, but substantially the same as that of the upper portion 5 thereof, for a purpose which will be subsequently apparent.

An oarlock, consisting of the usual bifurcated body 8, is adapted to be received and rotatably supported by the well bracket. The under or normally lower side of said oarlock is formed or

otherwise provided with a bottom rounded bearing element 9, whose diameter is such as to permit of its snug though readily movable or rotatable engagement in the cup-like well 4 formed in the upper end of the wall bracket body 1, above described. A cylindrical shank 10 is fixedly connected to the lower portion of the bottom-rounded bearing element 9, and as shown in the drawings, extends longitudinally therefrom. The length of said cylindrical shank 10, it will be noted, is less than that of the bracket body 1. In consequence, when the shank is received within the longitudinal way of the bracket body 1, its lower end will be upwardly spaced from the corresponding end of said body. It is also of moment to here note that the diameter of the cylindrical shank 10 is such that it may be moved through and inwardly or outwardly of the longitudinal slot 7, in the manner indicated by the dotted line showing in Figure 2 of the drawing. To prevent complete outward displacement of the cylindrical shank 10 from the longitudinal way of the bracket body 1, a preferably spherically shaped head or element 11 is fixedly secured to the lower and free end thereof. The diameter of the spherical element 11, it will be seen on reference to Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings, is materially greater than the width of the longitudinal slot 7 in the outer side of the well bracket body 1. Moreover, the size of this element is such that whereas it can have free turning, sliding and/or other movement within the enlarged lower portion 6 of the body way, it cannot engage in or move into the reduced upper portion 5 of said way. However, the length of the cylindrical shank 10 is such that it may be slid vertically through the way 5—6 of the well body bracket, in order that the bottom-rounded bearing element 9 on the lower side of the oarlock 8 may, at times, be displaced from the body provided well 4.

To prevent downward vertical displacement of the spherical element 11 and its carrying shank 10 from the well bracket body 1, I may and preferably do engage a cross-pin 12, or the like diametrically through and across the normally lower end of the body 1, suitably anchoring its opposite ends to adjacent portions of the side walls of the bracket body to prevent lateral displacement therefrom.

An oar, partially shown in the accompanying drawings and designated by the numeral 13, is adapted to be received within or by the oarlock 8, being mounted on a bearing pin 14 passed therethrough, which pin has its opposite ends engaged through adjacent portions of the bifurcated sides of the oarlock and upset, or otherwise formed, as at 15, to prevent displacement.

In usage of my improved combined oarlock and well bracket, and assuming that the bracket body, hereinbefore described, has been connected or secured to a portion of the inner side of a boat gunwale, such as indicated by the letter A; also, that the cylindrical shank 10, with its enlarged spherical head or element 11, is engaged within the longitudinal way of the well bracket body, to place the oar 13 in operative or usable position for rowing, it is grasped and moved upwardly and outwardly with respect to the adjacent gunwale A. By such movement, it will be seen that the shank 10 will be drawn upwardly in the well bracket body 1 until the enlarged spherical element 11 abuttingly engages with the inner end of the enlarged portion 6 of the longitudinal body way.

Concurrently, the upper portion of the cylindrical shank 10 is moved within the longitudinal way of the well bracket body through the adjacent portion of the communicating longitudinal slot 7. When the proper vertical positioning of the shank 10 and oarlock 8 have thus been effected, the oar 13 is lowered along with the oarlock 8. By such lowering movement, the bottom-rounded bearing element 9 on the lower side of the oarlock 8, will be engaged into or within the cup-like well 4 in the normally upper end of the well bracket 1 which, as will be recalled, communicates at its bottom with the reduced portion 5 of the longitudinal way of the bracket 1. With engagement of the bearing element 9 in the well 4, it will be seen that lateral displacement of the oarlock 8 with relation to the well bracket body 1 will be prevented, particularly, since the diameter of the bearing element 9 is materially greater than the width of the adjacent portion of the longitudinal slot 7 formed in the normally outer side of the well bracket body 1. Rowing motion may be now transmitted to the oar 13 without causing lateral displacement or disengagement of the rotatable oarlock 8 from the well bracket body 1. In addition, it will be understood and appreciated that the oarlock 8 will be provided an effectual rotatable support in order that it may be turned through a horizontal plane or a plane at substantially right angles to the longitudinal axis of the oarlock 8 and its shank 10.

When the oar 13 is not in use, it may be moved to a position within and substantially longitudinally of an equipped rowboat, merely by grasping it and pulling the same, together with the attached oarlock 8, upwardly with relation to the well bracket body 1. The extent of such upward movement will be limited by abutting engagement with the enlarged spherical head 11 with the upper end of the enlarged portion 6 of the body provided longitudinal way. With upward movement of the oarlock 8, and in consequence, its cylindrical shank 10, the oar, along with the oarlock 8 and cylindrical shank 10, may be then swung outwardly and downwardly to that position shown in dotted lines in Figure 2 of the accompanying drawings; the bottom-rounded bearing element 9 being thus disengaged from the cup-like well 4 and the cylindrical shank 10 being swung or moved outwardly through an adjacent portion of the longitudinal slot 7 in the well bracket body 1.

While I have hereinbefore described a single combined oarlock and well bracket, it will be understood, of course, that a pair or more of such devices will be and are normally used, such as conditions or preference may dictate.

I claim:

1. A combination oarlock and well bracket, comprising a substantially straight bracket body formed with transversely curved side and front walls and a flat and solid rear wall, said curved and flat walls extending throughout the length of the bracket body, substantially co-planar flat attaching wings integral with the opposite and curved side walls of the bracket body and contiguous with and parallel to its flat rear wall, said bracket body having a way formed in and extending longitudinally therethroughout opening onto its opposite ends and a slot formed in and extending longitudinally throughout its front wall communicating with said way, an oarlock, a shank of cross-sectional size less than the width of the bracket slot extending from the bottom of

said oarlock rotatably and slidably received in the way of the bracket body and having a portion thereof rotatably and removably seated in the upper end of said way, and a pin engaged in and across the lower and open end of the bracket way below the adjacent end of said shank.

2. A combination oarlock and well bracket, comprising a substantially straight bracket body formed with transversely curved side and front walls and a flat and solid rear wall, said curved and flat walls extending throughout the length of the bracket body, substantially co-planar flat attaching wings integral with the opposite and curved side walls of the bracket body and contiguous with and parallel to its flat rear wall, said bracket body having a way formed in and extending longitudinally therethroughout and opening onto its opposite ends and a slot formed in and extending longitudinally throughout its front wall communicating with said way, the lower portion of the way being of greater cross-sectional area than its intermediate portion and the upper portion thereof being of greater cross-sectional area than its said intermediate portion and having the bottom of the same curved, an oarlock, a bottom curved bearing element on the normally lower side of the oarlock removably receivable and rotatable in the enlarged upper portion of said bracket way, a shank of less cross-

sectional area than the bearing element connected to and extending longitudinally from and beyond its bottom, the cross-sectional size of the shank being less than that of the bracket body front wall slot and the intermediate portion of the bracket body way and being movably received in the latter, an enlargement on the normally lower end of said shank of a size greater than the cross-sectional area of the intermediate portion of the bracket body way movable in and through said lower portion of the way, and a pin engaged in and across the lower and open end of the bracket body way below said enlargement.

ERLAND S. PRESTON.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
204,159	Mayo	May 28, 1878
1,497,162	Richardson	June 10, 1924
2,349,692	Anderson	May 23, 1944

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
1,704	Great Britain	1882