E. MEARS.

REIN-HOLDER.

No. 184,096. Patented Nov. 7, 1876.

Fig. 1.

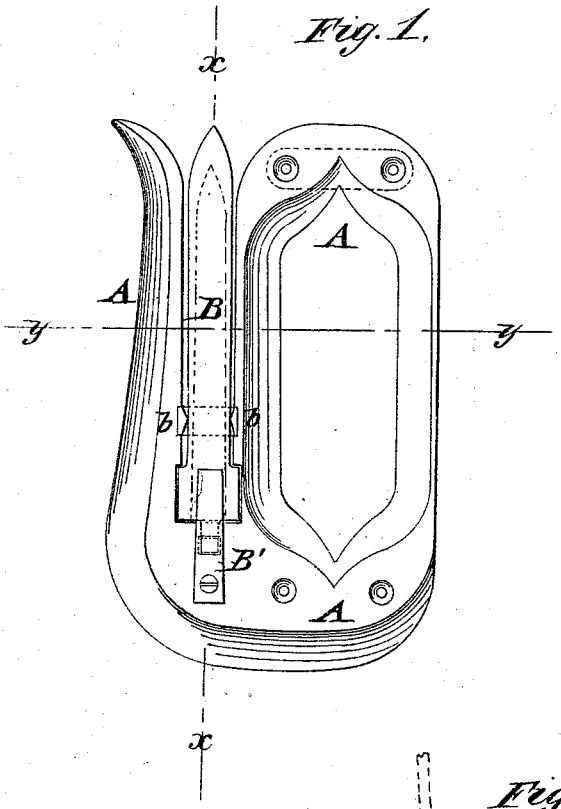


Fig. 2

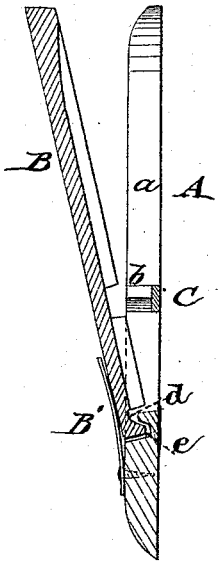
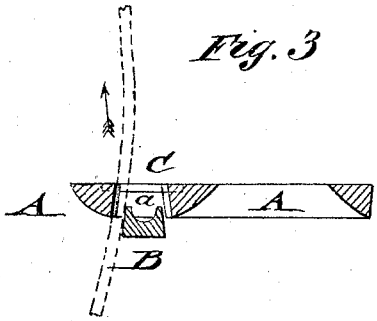


Fig. 3



WITNESSES:

A. W. Almquist

John Goethals

INVENTOR:

E. Mears.

BY Munn & Co

ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EPHRAIM MEARS, OF ATTICA, INDIANA.

IMPROVEMENT IN REIN-HOLDERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **184,096**, dated November 7, 1876; application filed August 21, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EPHRAIM MEARS, of Attica, in the county of Fountain and State of Indiana, have invented a new and Improved Rein-Holder, of which the following is a specification:

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 represents a front view; and Figs. 2 and 3 are, respectively, vertical transverse and horizontal sections on lines *x x* and *y y*, Fig. 1, of my improved rein-holder.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The invention has reference to that class of devices by which the reins are securely retained in their position when not used by the driver; and the invention consists in the improvement of rein-holders, as hereinafter described.

In the drawing, A represents a suitable frame that is attached to the dash-board, supporting-rod or other part of the carriage. The frame A is provided with a longitudinal recess, *a*, with beveled sides, toward which the upper part of the frame is rounded off to admit the ready introduction of the reins. A V-shaped follower or wedge-piece, B, is pivoted at the lower end to frame A, so as to swing readily into the recess *a*, being retained in the same by a spring, B′, pressing on one side of the follower B, and by a transverse brace, C, at the opposite side, that holds it flush with the frame A. Projecting side lugs *b* of recess *a* secure the follower B against lateral displacement by the action of the reins. The upper end of the follower B is tapering or pointed, to facilitate, in connection with the rounded-off part of the frame A, the slipping in of the reins at both sides of the follower. The lower end of the follower, retaining-lever, or presser-bar is provided with a projection, *d*, which enters a recess, *c*, in the plate *e*, being held therein by the spring B′. Said projection and recess form the pivot or joint of the follower, and will permit the ready detachment of the latter from the supporting-plate by simply removing the spring from contact with the follower. The follower holds the reins drawn in from the top, in tight manner, the pressure thereon being increased the greater the strain exerted on the reins. By pulling the reins back the follower clears the recess of the frame and admits the ready detaching of the reins.

The rein-holder may be made of wood or metal, and of suitable ornamental shape, according to the style of the vehicle to which it is applied.

I am aware that it is not, broadly, new to use a spring-pressed pivoted plate for retaining reins between the same and a stationary plate.

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

The rein-holder herein described, consisting of the retaining-lever or presser-bar B, pivoted at its lower end, and having beveled sides, the plate A provided with a slot, with correspondingly-beveled sides, a transverse bar, C, side lugs *b*, and spring B′, all constructed and relatively arranged as herein set forth, for the purpose specified.

EPHRAIM MEARS.

Witnesses:

THOMAS P. CAMPBELL,

JOHN J. CLAYPOOL.