A. SMITH.

Whiffletree-Hook.

No. 212,276. Patented Feb. 11, 1879.

Fig. 1.

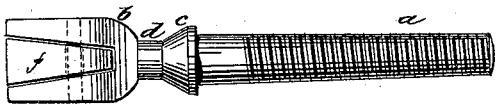
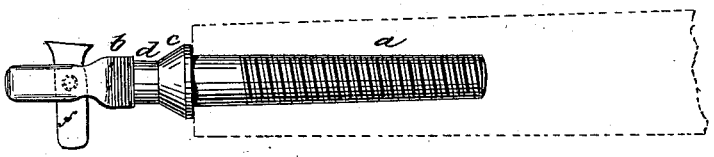


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALLEN SMITH, OF FORT RANDALL, DAKOTA TERRITORY.

IMPROVEMENT IN WHIFFLETREE-HOOKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **212,276**, dated February 11, 1879; application filed December 17, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALLEN SMITH, of Fort Randall, in the county of Todd and Territory of Dakota, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Devices for Attaching Traces to Whiffletrees, of which the following is a specification:

My invention relates to a bolt or plate secured to the ends of whiffletrees, and provided with a button pivoted in a slot of the trace-bearing.

The object of my invention is to prevent the liability to breakage and consequent accidents incidental to the slotted bearing.

The invention consists in forming the bearing in a different local relation to the bifurcation, to enable the strain to be borne without fracture, as hereinafter more fully described.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of my improved fastening device, with the tongue in a position for entering or removing the trace. Fig. 2 is an elevation, showing the parts in the position they naturally assume.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The device, as shown, consists of a pin having a screw portion, *a*, and an outer end or head, *b*. The screw is entered into the end of a whiffletree (shown in dotted lines) up to the shoulder *c*, leaving the head *b* projecting. *d* is the bearing for the trace. The head *b* is forked outside the bearing *d*, and in the fork is pivoted loosely a tongue, *f*, by a pin that passes through at about the center of the tongue lengthwise, so that the tongue, when at right angles to the head, as in Fig. 2, will project at each side far enough to prevent the trace from coming off. One end of tongue *f* is heavier than the other, so that its weight will tend to keep the tongue always in its vertical position.

To fasten or unfasten a trace, it is only necessary to turn the tongue by hand in line with the head, as in Fig. 1. The tongue will then be inclosed by the forked end of the head, out of the way.

The shape and size of tongue *f* may be varied to suit a heavy or light wagon; but in all cases one end should be the heaviest, so that jolting will not close it and cause the trace to get off.

This device is simple and efficient. There are no springs to get out of order, and there is but little liability of the parts becoming injured.

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

The bolt *a*, provided with a trace-bearing, *d*, between the bifurcated head *b* and the shoulder *c*, as and for the purpose specified.

ALLEN SMITH.

Witnesses:

JOHN CUNNINGHAM,

DANIEL L. PRATT, Jr.