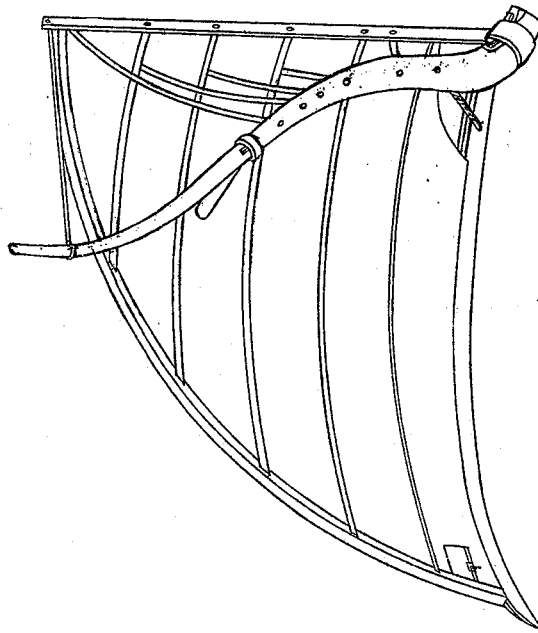


*W.L. Larimore,
Grain Cradle.*

No. 178

Patented April 25, 1837



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILSON L. LARIMORE, OF BOURBON COUNTY, KENTUCKY.

IMPROVEMENT IN CRADLES FOR CUTTING HEMP.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 178, dated April 25, 1837.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILSON L. LARIMORE, of the county of Bourbon and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and Improved Mode of Cutting Hemp by Hand; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description.

The nature of my invention consists in cutting hemp by hand with a cradle or machine attached to a scythe.

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

I take a scythe of any of the known sizes or forms, numbered on the drawing by 1, which I hang to a sneed, in drawing 2, with heel-ring and wedge, in drawing 3, nib 4, grass-nail 5 being hung as for mowing. I then insert a post, No. 6, into the heel-end of the sneed, standing nearly upright, as though it was for a grain-cradle from two to five feet in length, owing to the construction. I then insert into this post from two to five fingers, more or less, in Drawing No. 7, having a similar crook to that of the scythe, each finger having a brace extending from it to the sneed, also a brace extending from near the top of the post to the sneed, each serving as a support, and numbered in drawing 8. I then put a thin broad hoop, of either wood or metal or any other material answering the design, to the back of the scythe, in drawing No. 9, one end of which I insert into the post near the heel of the scythe, or otherwise confine on or near the back of the scythe, confining the other end to the scythe near the point by means of a screw through the scythe, in drawing No. 10, or it may be otherwise confined, which hoop serves to prevent the hemp, in making the sweep, from falling behind the scythe, and consequently tangling. This hoop may sometimes be omitted by confining a finger near the scythe. I then construct a bow or guard, of either wood or metal or any material answering the design marked in the drawing 11, being confined to the end of the hoop near the point of the scythe by means of tin or something strong tacked around the joint, or it may be confined by a mortise or otherwise, or the end

of the bow may be confined near the point of the scythe, independently of the hoop, by means of a screw or otherwise, this bow or guard then extending up around the points of the fingers, being confined to them by a mortise or otherwise, which serves to protect the fingers, in making the sweep, from being broken by catching more straws than are cut by the scythe, and also serves to prevent the hemp from falling over the fingers when the hemp is top-heavy, and gives the advantage of strength. I have this bow, after passing the fingers, extended over in a circular form to the top of the post, to which I confine it by a mortise or otherwise; or it may be confined to another post set farther up into the sneed; or it may be otherwise confined to have the intended effect of holding the hemp from falling over, and other advantages. When confined to the top of the post, I confine a cord (which may be substituted by wood or metal) to the bow near the post, and then extending and confining it to the sneed between the nib and small end, which serves, in making the sweep, to lodge the hemp and keep it from falling too far back on the frame; also serves as a support to prevent the weight of the hemp from straining or swagging the frame, and is marked in the drawing No. 12.

In applying this machine I take the nib in the right hand and near the small end of the sneed in the left hand. I then start the point of the scythe on the ground, and continue it on the ground throughout the sweep, and the hemp may be either gripped in the left hand or thrown off by a cant.

What I claim as my invention is—

The use and construction of the bow or guard around the points of the fingers and its extension to the post, likewise the cord which confines the bow and extends to the sneed, likewise the confining of the scythe at the point to the frame by a screw or otherwise, likewise the hoop confined on or near the back of the scythe.

WILSON L. LARIMORE.

Witnesses:

JAMES G. MCCLURE,
JAMES WHALEY.