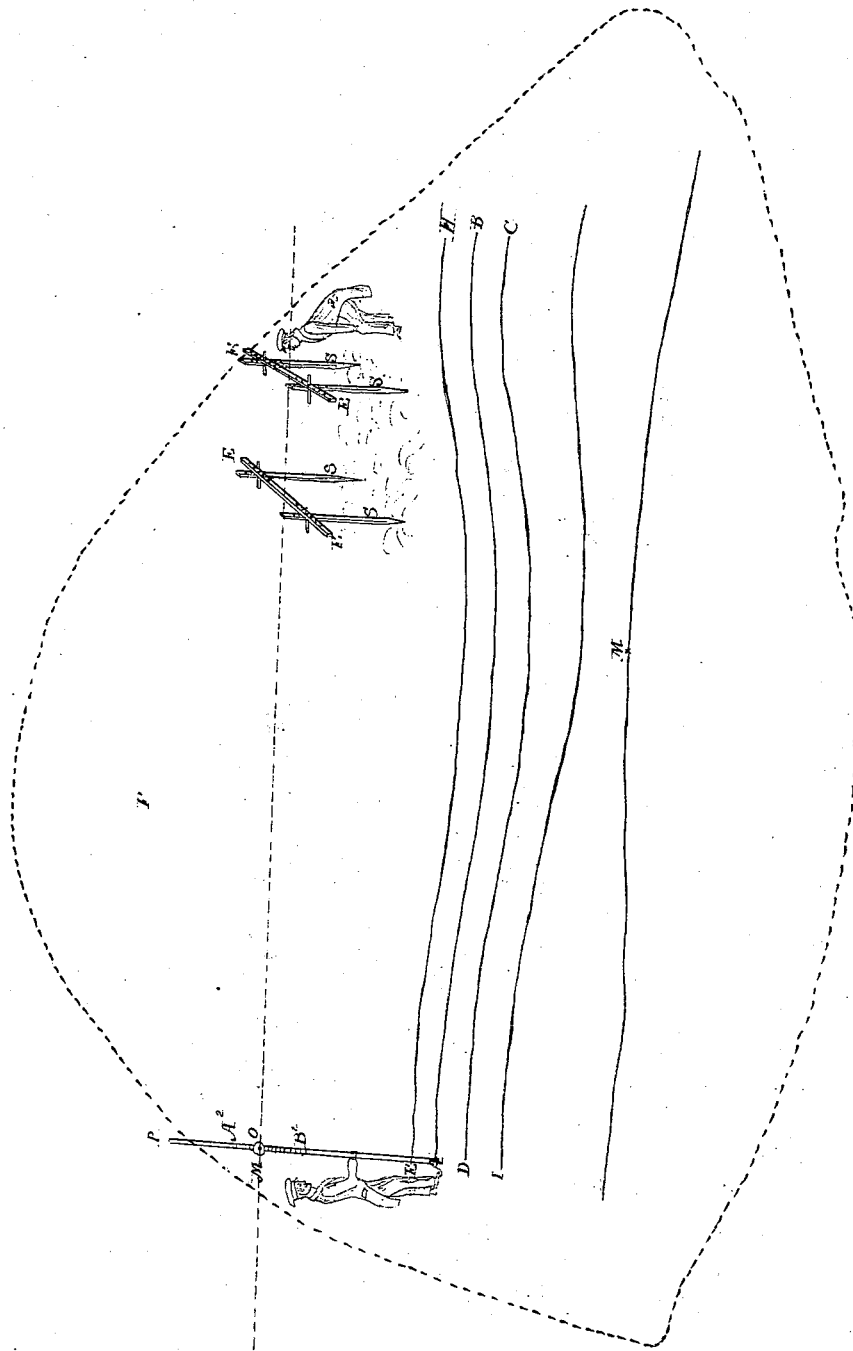


P. MOSELEY.

MODE OF LAYING DOWN ROWS OF CORN, COTTON, &c.

No. 2,882.

Patented Dec. 12, 1842.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PETER MOSELEY, OF YAZOO COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.

## LAYING OFF CORN-ROWS, &c.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 2,882, dated December 12, 1842.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, PETER MOSELEY, of Yazoo county and State of Mississippi, have invented a new and improved mode of laying off rows for farmers to plant on, say, corn, cotton, or any other kind of thing on a level or to give them any descent that may be desirable on broken, rolling, or undulating lands; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description.

The nature of my invention consists in forming a level or horizontal plane by sight to measure from by means of a portable plumb staff, with a movable object suspended on it to sight to the plumb staff and movable object operating as a moving gage to measure or gage from the horizontal sight as a guide.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention I will proceed to describe its construction and operation, as per model, or drawing herewith presented.

I would take a suitable stand in a field, say F, is a field to be laid off and form a level or horizontal plane in any of the known forms. For instance I would have two straight edges E, E, of sufficient width to keep from springing, say eight or ten feet long, more or less, place them eight or ten feet apart more or less nearly parallel with each other and precisely level and horizontal with each other, suspend them on stakes stuck in the ground, S, S, S, S, and by means of small pulleys or otherwise bring them to a level or horizontal by the use of a plumb, spirit, or water level, and if you prefer it you may have two additional straight edges to drop in across at each end of the first two, and level with them, but I think the first two will do as well as more with a person that understands arranging the sight properly—then sight cross in any direction and it gives you a large horizontal atmospheric plane by sight over the field to measure from by means of a plumb staff and a movable object or target suspended on it to sight to the vertical staff I would have ten, fifteen, or twenty feet long, more or less to suit ground, and laid off into inches and parts of inches so as to give any descent that may be wanted, and the target I would have so constructed that I could slip it to any point on the staff and there remain until you move it, say we (it takes two to lay off one to carry the staff and the other

to sight). commence a row at A, as laid down on the annexed drawings. Set the lower end of the staff P, on A, and slip the target O, to M, on the staff, now to have this row level to B, the target must not be moved until you get to B. Say you proceed from A, ten steps or thirty feet and try your staff by moving it upon higher or lower ground, until the target meets the sight, and there stick a small stake, and so on at every thirty feet more or less as the ground may require, until you arrive at B, then set your staff on C, and move the target to A, on the staff, and move on in the same manner to D, then set your staff on E, and move the target down to B, on the staff and move on in like manner to H, those three rows are laid off on a level. Now we will set the staff on I, and slip the target up or down until it meets the sight, then go say thirty feet and slip the target up one inch on the staff and move the staff upon higher or lower ground until the target meets the sight, then go on thirty feet farther and slip the target up one inch and try it to the sight as before, and so on at every thirty feet slip the target up one inch, and it gives you one inch descent for every thirty feet, we will now lay off the row with M, in the middle you may begin at either end, but when you commence have the target placed to the sight, and go thirty feet, then slip the target down one inch and try it to the sight as before and so on at every thirty feet until you come to M, then reverse the thing and slip the target up at every thirty feet, and try it to the sight as before, and this will give a descent from M, each way one inch to every thirty feet, and in this way you can give more or less descent as you please, and can draw the water off your field to any point you may think proper, and after getting your horizontal or level once fixed, you can lay off all around it in every direction as far as your sight can extend correctly without moving it. Consequently it is a much more expeditious mode of laying off in a horizontal way than any heretofore in use. When you commence laying off a boy may follow with his plane and take the small stakes on to the end of the row; and in this way two hands can lay off to keep ten or twelve planes busily engaged in leading up. This mode of laying off rows is intended to draw

the water off of broken lands in a gradual way, thereby preventing the wash of the land from the fall of heavy rains.

What I claim as my invention and desire  
5 to secure by Letters Patent is,

This my mode of laying off rows for farmers to plant on, say corn, cotton, or any

other kind of thing by the application of a horizontal sight to gage or measure from as herein described.

PETER MOSELEY.

Witnesses:

C. W. EDWARDS,  
M. A. JENKINS.