

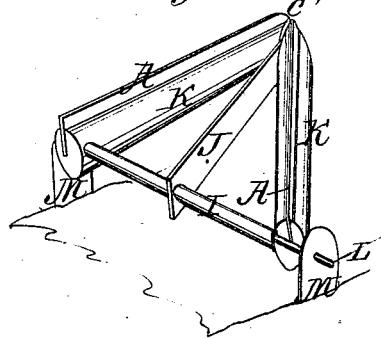
*C. Slawson,*

*Preparing Hides.*

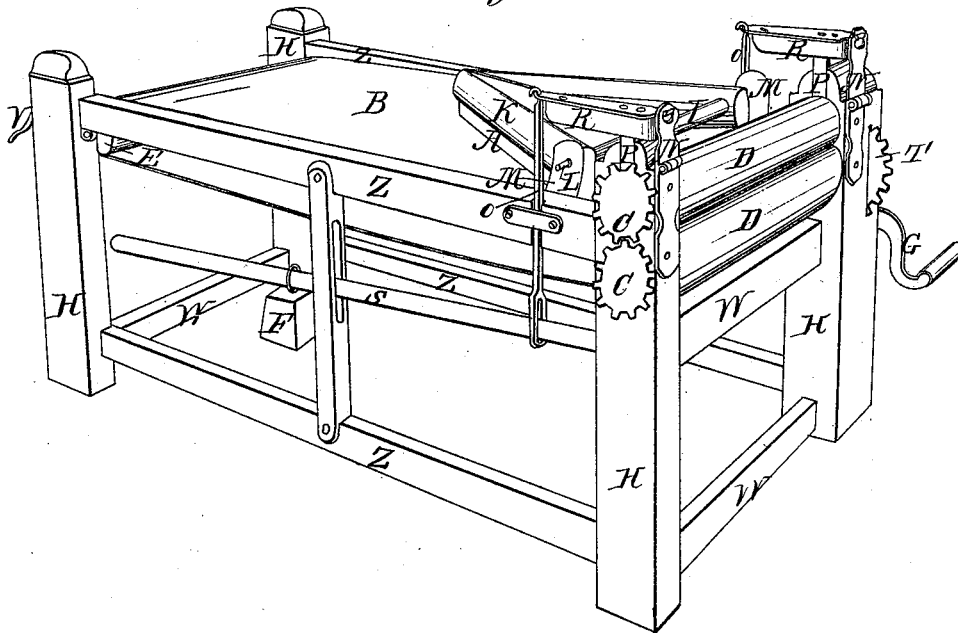
*N<sup>o</sup> 6875.*

*Patented Nov. 13, 1849.*

*Fig: 1.*



*Fig: 2.*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES SLAWSON, OF NORWICH, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO REUBEN LYON.

## LEATHER-DRESSING MACHINE.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 6,875, dated November 13, 1849.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES SLAWSON, of Norwich, in the county of Chenango and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Machine for Spreading, Scraping, Compressing, and Dressing of Tanned Hides and Leather; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the construction and operation of the same.

The nature of my invention consists of the passing of the tanned hide or leather over an endless adjustable apron and beneath a spreader and between adjustable revolving rollers by which means I am enabled to scrape, compress, smooth down and make even the surface and more compact the body of the tanned skin and thus prepare the leather for its completing and finishing process in a more expeditious and better manner than under the older and more usual methods and means now in use.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention I will proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the drawing accompanying and making part of this specification.

I construct a frame (Fig. 2) of four or more upright posts using such a number as may be required to make the frame sufficiently strong, as shown in the drawing, letters H, H, H, H, and as many horizontal rails (marked Z) and cross pieces (marked W) as may be necessary to give full support.

At one end of the frame near the top of the upright posts I extend across a roller (marked E) secured by a pivot at each end in the eye of a movable and adjustable bolt, which bolt passes through its respective post and is secured by a nut with a handle (marked V,) on the outer side of the post. At the other end of the frame I extend across two rollers one above the other (marked D, D,) the pivots of which rollers on each side pass through the respective adjoining post, the ends of which pivots on the one side are attached to the center of a cog wheel as marked (C, C,) the teeth of which cog wheels fit into each other, the other end of the lower roller is likewise attached to the center of a cog wheel marked (T,) which is moved by a pinion having a crank and handle (marked G,). The distance between these two rollers may be lessened or in-

creased as may be needed by the action of levers on each side (marked S,) connected to a short bar (marked R,) having an arm (marked P,) which passes down through a slot in the post holding the upper roller and pressing upon the pivots of this upper roller; this bar (R) at one end being connected to the lever by means of rods (marked O, O,) and having an attachment at the other end to an upright hinged piece (marked N, N,) upon one end of the levers (marked S,) is a weight (marked F,) for the purpose of sustaining the rollers in their adjustment.

I place an endless apron around the roller (marked E,) at one end of the frame and around the lower of the two rollers (marked D,) at the other; the passage of the apron in motion thus being between the two rollers (D, D,). Between the folds of this endless apron (B,) there is a wooden surface for nearly its whole length under which surface are framed rails, or supporters to the said surface mortised into the upper horizontal or side pieces (marked Z, Z,) this wooden surface gives support to the upper fold of the apron when the pressure of the scraper or extender is made. On each side of this frame I attach a small arm (marked M,) to the upper horizontal pieces (marked Z, Z,) into these arms are affixed the pivots (marked L,) of the bar of the spreader. This spreader is made of a V shape, the pieces forming the sides (marked K,) being united at the apex and at the base, having a rod or bar (marked I,) extending across and through each piece which is pivoted through the arm (marked M,) as above named. This rod (I,) also passes through a center strip (marked J,) which center strip reaches from the apex to bar attached to the first part by screws or rivets and to the last part by the rod (I,) as named.

This scraper, extender or compressor is more fully shown in Fig. 1, where the like parts have the same letters of reference as in Fig. 2.

I construct my scraper, extender or compressor of either metal entirely or of such stone as is susceptible of being made sufficiently smooth or of metal and wood. As may best suit my convenience or the work to which I design it. When made of metal and wood I insert into grooves made in

the lower part of the side pieces (K,) metallic plates (A, A,) of such size and depth and of such keenness as may best answer the particular use I intend to make, which plates  
5 are riveted or otherwise made fast into the pieces (K, K).

It will be seen that this scraper may be made to press down with greater or less power by means of weight upon it as  
10 occasion may require, and thus be adjusted and fitted to substances of different thicknesses.

In the first part of the operation of this apparatus upon the tanned hides and leather  
15 the scraper is made to perform a very important duty whereby the expense and time occupied in the older methods and by older means are much lessened, and the leather is made to have a smoother and more uniform  
20 surface. I allude to that part of the operations on the hide or skin by which the adherent outer skin that gives to the unfinished hide its rough and scaly-like appearance, is sought to be removed. By having the edges  
25 of the scraper sufficiently fine the adherent irregular patches of the skin are scraped off, thus leaving a very smooth surface, which adds greatly to the beauty of the leather, as well as renders it more durable. The  
30 scraping off then of this scurf-skin as I call it, is a leading feature of my apparatus, and which has never before been accomplished by machinery. When this scurf-skin has  
35 been removed, it has been done by hand instruments, which cannot give that uniform

and regular smoothness of surface, which my apparatus gives.

By means of this machine I am enabled to scrape, press, compress, extend, and otherwise prepare and put in a condition  
40 for further dressing and finishing tanned hides, leather or any other article, readily adjusting the rollers to the thickness of the substance to be passed between them, and  
45 by means of the weight (F,) and lever (S,) to compress more or less the substance passed between. And thus by the combined action of the rollers and scraper or extender and the endless apron moved along by the action  
50 of the parts of the machine named to give to whatever substance may be acted upon a smooth, even and clear surface while at the same time I make that substance compact and firm, or loose and spongy as may be  
55 desired, or as may be best considering the purpose to which the substance or fabric is to be put.

Now what I claim as new and of my invention, and desire to secure by Letters  
60 Patent is—

1. The adjustable endless apron in combination with the scraper or extended for the purpose and uses as herein described.

2. I claim the adjustable scraper or extender as described for the purpose and uses  
65 of leather dressing as herein set forth.

CHAS. SLAWSON.

Witnesses:

ABEL CHANDLER,  
BENJ. E. RANDALL.