

L. E. STILWELL.

Improvement in Wagon-Tongue Supports.

No. 115,133.

Patented May 23, 1871.

Fig. 1.

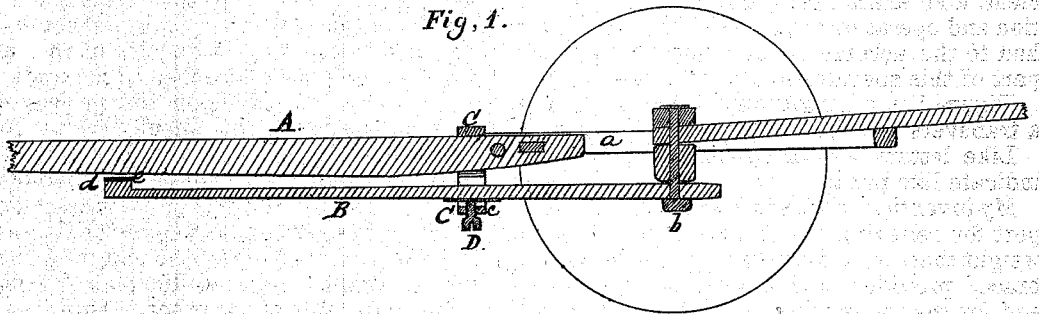
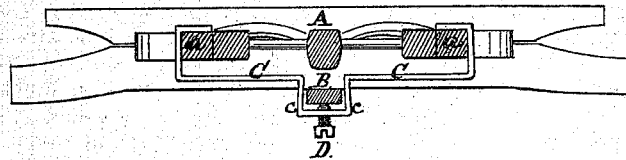


Fig. 2.



Witnesses,

W. Burris
George Woolf

Inventor,

Lewis E. Stilwell
By Attorney G. B. Lusk

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEWIS E. STILWELL, OF FRANKLINVILLE, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN WAGON-TONGUE SUPPORTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 115,133, dated May 23, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEWIS E. STILWELL, of Franklinville, in the county of Cattaraugus and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Wagon-Tongue Supporter; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal section. Fig. 2, a transverse section.

Like letters in both figures of the drawing indicate like parts.

My invention relates to a wagon-tongue support for relieving the horses' necks from the weight thereof; and consists of a "stiff wooden brace," provided with a bearing on its front end for the tongue to rest on, and which may have either rubber, leather, or other similar substance attached thereto or not, as may be required, for preventing any rattling noise, in combination with a set-screw and strap attached to the hounds for suspending the brace under the tongue, the set-screw being for the purpose of adjusting the brace, thus avoiding the liability of a "jerk or vibratory motion" being given the tongue by the use of a spring-brace.

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

A is the tongue of the wagon, attached to the hounds *a* of the front axle in the usual manner. B is the brace, of a suitable length, and arranged under the tongue, with the rear end secured under the axle of the king-bolt, the bolt being inserted through a hole in the brace, and a nut, *b*, screwed onto the bolt, making the brace fast to the axle. C is the strap or holder for supporting the brace, and is suspended from the hounds by their ends being turned up at right angles and made to lap over on the top sides thereof, and then secured thereto by screws. The strap is so constructed with a depression, *c*, in the center as to hold the brace securely in place, and yet admit of its being readily removed when desired, this being done, as will be apparent, by

unscrewing the nut *b* from the king-bolt and slipping the end of the brace off from it and then drawing it through the strap. The brace is made so as to have a projection on the front end, or it may be provided with a block, *d*, to receive the weight of the tongue properly thereupon. This projection or block *d* may have a piece of rubber, *e*, or its equivalent, attached to the upper side of it, or the tongue may have the same attached to the under side of it where it rests upon the projection. I contemplate doing this should the tongue vibrate any therein and cause an unpleasant rattling sound, which should be avoided by the use of the rubber. D is the set-screw, which is fixed in the bottom of the depression *c* of the strap or holder, the end of the screw coming against the metallic plate *h* attached to the under side of the brace. This set-screw is for the purpose of elevating or lowering the forward end of the brace, and, consequently, the tongue, to the point desired for relieving the horses' necks from the weight thereof.

The operation of this support will be apparent without much explanation, the effect of it being to relieve the horses' necks from the weight of the tongue by the tongue resting upon the support instead of their necks, as ordinarily, which support can be so adjusted by the set-screw as to elevate the tongue to the point desired for accomplishing it.

I am aware that the use of a brace as a support for the tongue is not new, a metallic spring-brace having been used before for that purpose; but the objection to this kind of a brace is that it gives the tongue an unsteady support, the spring causing it to vibrate too much to be of any practical value; therefore, it will be seen by the use and arrangement of a stiff wooden brace that this will be avoided.

The use of the rubber on the front end of the brace is not designed to give the tongue that vibratory motion produced by the spring-brace, but simply to give the tongue an elastic bearing in order to avoid any rattling noise. Leather or any other similar substance will answer the purpose as well as rubber, but it is very probable that the rattling noise may not be perceptible enough to require this.

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

The stiff wooden brace B, provided on its front end with the bearing *d* for the tongue to rest on, and attached at its rear end to the axle by the king-bolt, in combination with the set-screw D and strap or holder C, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

As evidence that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have hereunto set my hand and seal in the presence of two witnesses.

LEWIS E. STILWELL. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

W. BURRIS,

HALLET KILBOURN.