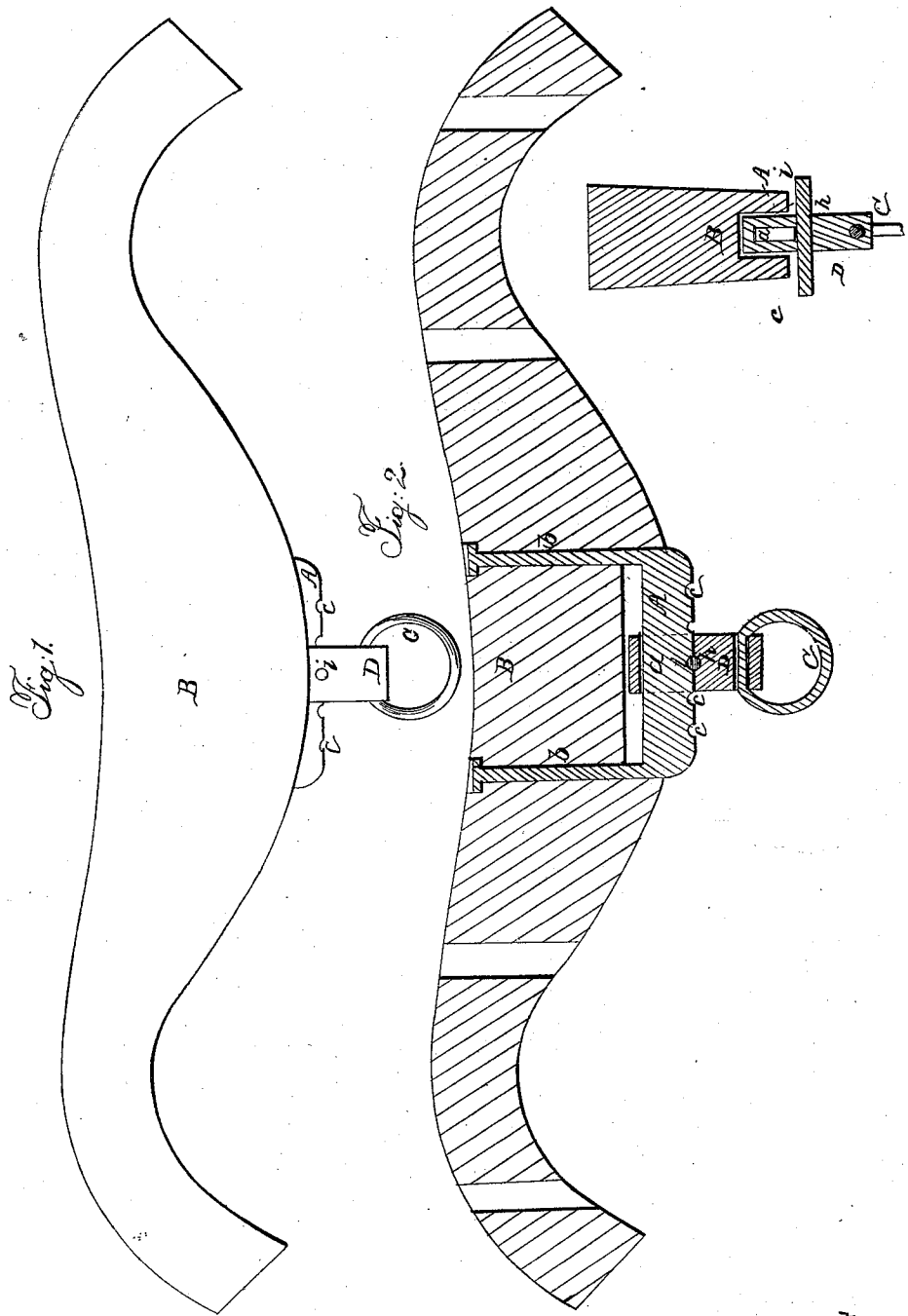
W. BURNHAM.

Ox-Yoke.

No. 24,096. Patented May 24, 1859.



Witnesses,
F. P. Hale Jr.

Inventor
Washington Burnham

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WASHINGTON BURNHAM, OF ESSEX, MASSACHUSETTS.

OX-YOKE.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 24,096, dated May 24, 1859.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WASHINGTON BURNHAM, of Essex, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Ox-Yokes; and I do hereby declare that the same is fully described and represented in the following specification and the accompanying drawings, of which—

Figure 1, is a front view Fig. 2, a longitudinal section, and Fig. 3, a transverse section of an ox yoke containing my improvement.

Such invention is intended to equalize the pressure on the necks of the oxen or draft animals. It is well known, that when the pole ring is in the middle of the yoke and one ox is stronger or exerts the greater forward pressure on the yoke, the weaker ox, or both, will suffer in consequence of the yoke being bent out of square with the pole. I am aware that remedies for such have been applied to yokes but not in the mode which constitutes my invention or improvement and which is simple and effective.

In carrying out the said invention, I employ what may be termed a staple rack A, which consists of a strong metallic staple formed with a straight bar *a*, uniting its legs *b*, *b*. This bar *a*, is constructed with a series of semicircular notches *c*, *c*, *c*, formed on its lower or outer edge. The staple so made is let into the yoke, B, in manner as shown in Fig. 2, and may be fastened therein either by rivets or by screws and nuts at the upper ends of its legs.

The pole ring C, is suspended from a block or carrier, D, through which the rack passes such carrier or slider being furnished with a hole *h*, for the reception of a pin *i*. The hole is so formed and arranged with respect to the notches of the rack as to enable a person at one and the same time to insert the pin in it and any one of the notches in line of which the hole may be placed. Under such circumstances, the pin will hold the ring carrier in position in the staple rack and the position may be varied either to the right or left of the center of the rack as circumstances may require, in order to prevent the stronger ox from overcoming the power of the weaker to maintain the yoke square with the pole.

I am perfectly aware of the invention of Joseph H. Riggs, as patented August 3rd, 1838. My invention although having the same object differs materially from his, as I do not employ two racks, arranged and operating like his, nor am I obliged to turn any screw and move downward any rack or part of my invention to accomplish the movement of the pole ring as is the case with his. My invention not only operates to much better advantage, but is much simpler than that of the said Riggs.

It is not my intention to claim the principle of having the pole ring adjustable with reference to either end of the yoke, but to confine my claim simply to an improved mode of accomplishing such.

Therefore, I claim—

The mode of applying the pole ring to the yoke, viz, by means of the staple rack, and the ring carrier, made so as to be capable of sliding on the rack and with a pin passage arranged with respect to the notches of the staple rack substantially in manner as described, the whole being for the purpose explained.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my signature.

WASHINGTON BURNHAM.

Witnesses:

DAVID CHOATE,

W. C. CHOATE.