

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ZACHARIAH BAKER, OF ERIE, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN TANNING.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **36,636**, dated October 14, 1862.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ZACHARIAH BAKER, of Erie, in the county of Whiteside and State of Illinois, have invented a new, useful, and improved mode of tanning all kinds of leather quickly without the use of bark; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

To enable others skilled in the art to use my invention, I will proceed to describe the process.

First place the hides intended to be tanned in a weak solution of salt and water, to remove the blood and dirt; second, when they are well cleansed place them on a beam and scrape off the flesh and flakes of fat; third, then to remove the hair use half a bushel of slaked lime to thirty-two gallons of water, in which the hides are to be soaked until the hair is loose, then scrape off on a beam; fourth, rinse off in clear water, and they are ready for the bath, prepared as follows: To sixty gallons of soft water add one bushel of oats and barley chopped in equal parts, and two pounds of salt, and allow the hides to remain in the solution until perfectly limber; fifth, when prepared for the tan, as above, take equal parts of May-weed and smart-weed, in the proportion of one pound to one gallon of water, and steep it in large vessels or a large vat with sheet-iron

bottom, and when fully steeped run the liquor into the vats used for tanning, and to sixty gallons of this liquor add four pounds of oxalic acid, three pounds of gum-kino, three pounds of gum-catechu, two pounds of potash, and four pounds of red sanders; sixth, allow the hides to remain in the above compound from six to twelve days, according to situation and circumstances; seventh, when sufficiently tanned remove the hides and place them in clear water to soak for twelve hours. Then place on the table and scrape off; hang up until half dry; curry, stuff, and oil; hang up until dry; curry smooth, roll, black, and finish off, and the leather is ready for use.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by letters Patent, is—

The use of the oats and barley chopped (unbolted) in connection with the salt for a bath, as combined and in the proportions set forth in my specification, and also the use for a tanning compound composed of the smart-weed, May-weed, oxalic acid, kino, catechu, potash, and red sanders, as combined and in the proportions substantially as set forth and mentioned in my specification.

ZACHARIAH BAKER.

Witnesses:

PATRICK SMITH,
SAMUEL BLAGG.