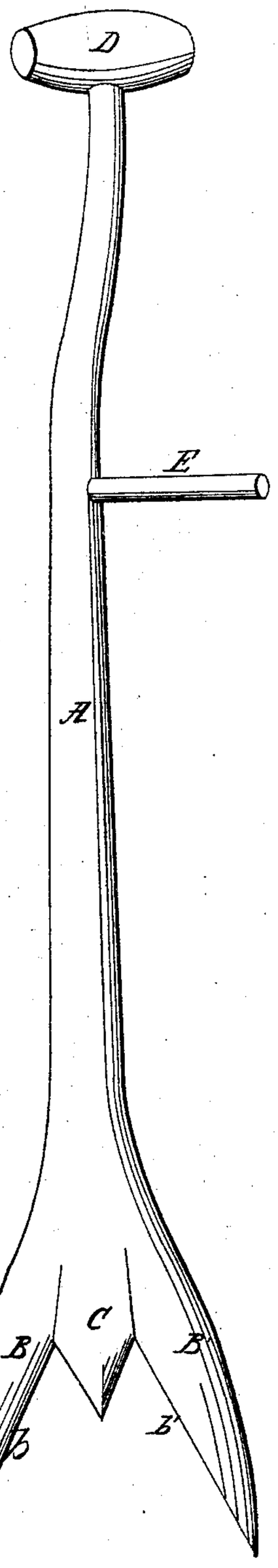
F. J. Fischer,

Hay Knife,

No. 55,765. Patented June 19, 1866.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANCIS J. FISCHER, OF HAMILTON, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND JOHN B. BERNING, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN HAY-KNIVES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **55,765**, dated June 19, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANCIS J. FISCHER, of Hamilton, Butler county, Ohio, have invented a new and Improved Hay-Knife; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, making a part of this specification.

My invention relates to the class of instruments employed for cutting hay in the rick or stack.

A is a straight shaft, which may be round, or nearly so, at its upper part, and somewhat flattened toward its lower part, whence it expands in the plane of its flatness, so as to take the form of two angularly-diverging blades, B B′, whose inner edges, *b b′*, are in right lines, which diverge at an angle of sixty degrees, or thereabout, and are brought to a sharp knife-edge, while the exterior edges, *b′*, are curved in the manner set forth. At the junction of the said edges *b b′* is a third blade, C, much shorter than the blades B B′, and double-edged or of lancet form.

The basils or chamfered portions of the blades B, B′, and C are wholly on one side, the other side being perfectly flat.

D and E are handles, which being grasped by the operator enables him to push the instrument down into the body of hay, so as to sever the portion desired.

It will be observed that by the above act a portion of the hay will be gathered between the edges *b* and *b′*, and whose descent operates to sever the stalks; but where the intermediate blade, C, is absent too much labor devolves on the extreme inner angle, owing in part to the crowding of the entire uncut portion into that part and in part to the edge of the knife at that part pressing directly down on the hay instead of gliding along it with a carving action, as is the case with the edges *b b′*. This defect I completely remedy by the provision of my central lancet-formed blade, C, which, piercing the body of hay at its densest portion, cuts its way into it in two directions in co-operation with the blades B B′, so as to enable the cutting to be effected at this part as easily as elsewhere.

I claim herein as new and of my invention—

The hay-knife constructed, as described, with a shank, A, diverging blades B B′, and a short middle blade, C, the whole adapted to cutting hay from the stack, substantially as described.

In testimony of which invention I hereunto set my hand.

F. J. FISCHER.

Witnesses:

GEO. H. KNIGHT,

JAMES H. LAYMAN.