

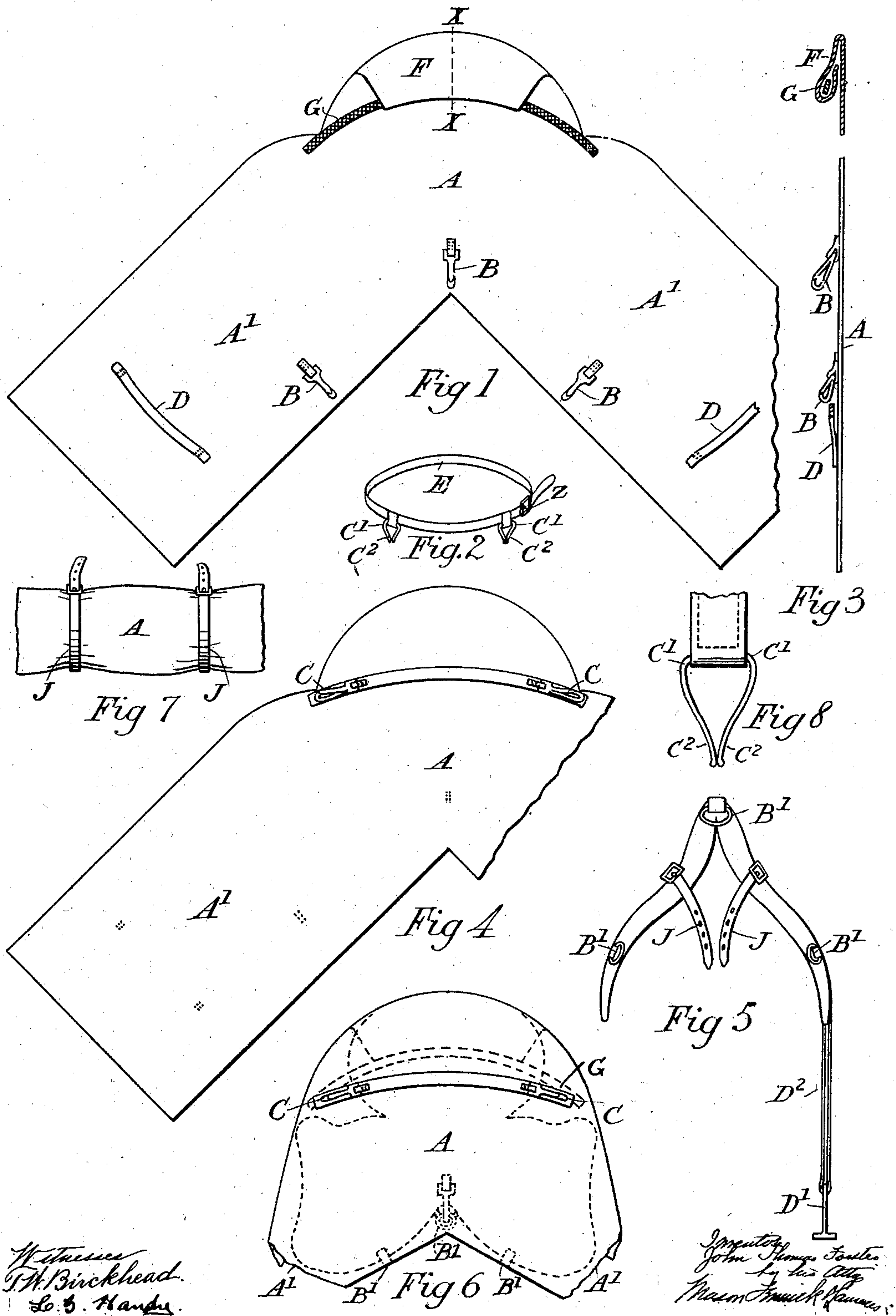
No. 702,297.

Patented June 10, 1902.

J. T. FORSTER.  
LAP ROBE.

(Application filed Sept. 11, 1901.)

(No Model.)





# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN THOMAS FORSTER, OF DANDENONG, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

## LAP-ROBE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 702,297, dated June 10, 1902.

Application filed September 11, 1901. Serial No. 75,053. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN THOMAS FORSTER, a subject of the King of Great Britain and Ireland, residing at Dandenong road, Dandenong, in the county of Bourke, in the State of Victoria and Commonwealth of Australia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stomach, Leg, and Saddle Covers for Horsemen, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a cover for the legs and stomach of horsemen which can be instantly detached from the rider and which when he has alighted can be spread over the saddle, and thus protect it either from sun or rain.

My invention includes a flat piece of waterproof or other material cut to somewhat resemble the letter A, which is secured in position when in use to the rider's waist, the front of the saddle, and the stirrup-supporting straps. When the saddle is empty, the portion drawn against the stomach can be spread over the saddle-seat and engaged (by a pocket underneath it) with the underneath portion of the crupper end of the said saddle. Around the waist of the rider is a waistband or belt having two safety-eyes thereon. This waistband is secured to the rider by a buckle which may be self-releasing. When this buckle is released, it leaves the rider free to dismount, the cover remaining protecting the saddle and the stirrup-supporting straps, or the cover can be rolled and folded and, if necessary, strapped.

Referring to the drawings which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a back view of the inside of the cover, which is flattened out. Both legs of the cover are identically the same, though one is broken away for the convenience of illustration. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the rider's waistband, which may be self-releasing or of such a size and material that it will break with the slightest strain. To it are hung safety-eyes, to which the cover is attached. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the cover, the upper portion being a section through the line *xx*, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a front view of the front side of the cover flattened out and looking at the front. Fig. 5 is a front elevation of the saddle, showing the three eyes or rings by which the mid-

dle portion of the cover is secured, also the stirrup-supporting strap, to which the inside of the legs of the cover are secured by cross-pieces. The straps for holding the cover when rolled and folded are also seen. Fig. 6 is a plan of the saddle with the cover stretched over the seat. Fig. 7 shows an elevation of the front of the cover when it is rolled, folded, and strapped out of use onto the saddle-front. Fig. 8 is an enlarged view of one of the safety-eyes on the waistband.

Similar letters of reference indicate similar or corresponding parts where they occur in the several views.

Referring to the drawings, it will be seen that A is the cover, having legs A' A'. This cover has on the inside of it three spring-clasps B. These clasps engage in eyes or rings B', secured to the front of the saddle. Near the bottom of each leg and also inside the cover are stitched or otherwise secured at each of their ends the cross piece or straps D. Through the middle of these pass the stirrups D' and stirrup-supporting straps D<sup>2</sup>. The foregoing describes the method of attachment of the cover to the saddle.

The upper portion of the cover on the outside or front of the same has attached thereto the two spring-clasps C. These connect to the safety eyes or rings C' on the waistband E. These safety-eyes have two spring-legs C<sup>2</sup>, which separate when the clasp is dragged between them. The waistband is an ordinary strap with a self-releasing buckle Z thereon, and when the strap is disengaged from the buckle the rider is free from the cover. Instead of a buckle the waistband may be connected by a hook and eye or any other quick-detaching device.

The upper portion of the cover is turned back upon itself, as seen in Fig. 3, and the flap F thus formed is held down to the inside of the cover by an elastic or other strip of flexible material G. When the rider has dismounted and wishes to protect his seat, he pulls the cover backwardly and passes the flap of the pocket over the crupper end of the saddle. If necessary, a crupper-strap connection may be made to the top of the cover, by which the crupper-strap can be attached. The flap is held in position by the strip of elastic material.



To the front of the saddle are secured the two straps J, by which the cover when it is folded and wrapped is strapped out of the way.

5 The rolling and the folding of the cover is as follows: The horseman pulls the stirrups and the stirrup-supporting straps from between the cross-pieces D and the cover, thereby disengaging them from the legs of the  
10 cover, and then commences to roll the inside of the leg over onto itself. When this is done, he folds the bottom of the leg over onto the top and performs the same operation with the other side. The two straps J are then pulled  
15 over the rolled and folded parts and passed through their buckles, and the cover is then secured.

As can be well understood, the rider is perfectly free from the cover with the exception  
20 of the two spring-clasps C, engaging with the safety eyes or rings C' on his waistband; but the said waistband may be of any well-known self-releasing description, and he can easily disconnect the said cover either by unbuckling the strap around his waist or pulling the  
25 spring-clasps through the safety eyes or rings on his waistband. If he unclasps the springs or pulls the clasps from the safety-eyes, he can carry his waistband away with him, whereas if he unbuckles his waistband he can leave  
30 it on his horse. Instead of spring-clasps to hold the cover to the waistband I may use hooks.

The whole device complete only weighs a  
35 few ounces, and when tucked in around the legs of the rider and also against his stomach effectually protects him not only from the most piercing winds, but also from heavy rains.

40 Having now described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A stomach, leg, and saddle cover for horsemen, comprising a body of suitable material, a flap at the upper end of and turned  
45 back upon and underneath said body, means for retaining the flap in said position, the pocket so formed being designed to be passed over the crupper end of a saddle for the protection of the saddle, substantially as described.  
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2. A stomach, leg and saddle cover for horsemen, comprising a body of suitable material, a flap at the upper end of and turned  
55 back upon and underneath said body, and a strip of flexible material secured thereto for retaining the flap in said position, the pocket so formed being designed to be passed over

the crupper end of a saddle for the protection thereof, substantially as described. 60

3. A stomach, leg and saddle cover for horsemen, comprising a body of suitable material, a flap turned back upon the same, and a strip of elastic material folded in the edge of said flap and secured thereto and also secured to said body for retaining said flap in  
65 its turned-back position, the pocket so formed being designed to be passed over the crupper end of a saddle and to inclose the same for the protection thereof, substantially as described. 70

4. A stomach, leg and saddle cover for horsemen comprising a body of suitable material, a downwardly-opening pocket formed at the upper end thereof, designed to be passed  
75 over the crupper end of a saddle, and means carried by said body for securing its lower end to the front of said saddle, substantially as described.

5. A stomach, leg and saddle cover, comprising a body of suitable flat material, bifurcated, and the legs being designed to be passed on either side of a saddle, clasps carried by said body for securing the same to the  
80 front end of said saddle, and means formed on said body for securing the upper end thereof about the crupper end of the saddle, substantially as described. 85

6. In a device of the class described, the combination with a belt designed to encircle  
90 the waist of the user and provided with safety-eyes, of a bifurcated piece of material, each leg of the bifurcation being designed to inclose one of the legs of the user, and clasps carried by the upper portion of said piece of  
95 material for engaging said safety-eyes, substantially as described.

7. In a device of the class described, the combination with a belt designed to encircle  
100 the waist of the user and provided with safety-eyes, of a bifurcated piece of material, one leg of the bifurcation being designed to inclose each leg of the user, a strap secured to and extending across the upper portion of  
105 said piece of material, and clasps carried near the ends of said strap and designed to engage said safety-eyes, substantially as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand to this specification in the presence of  
110 two witnesses.

JOHN THOMAS FORSTER.

Witnesses:

EDWIN PHILLIPS,  
CECIL W. LE PLASTRIER.