

No. 883,499.

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W. E. SMITH.

COUPLING MEMBER FOR TOOL HANDLES.

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Fig. 1.

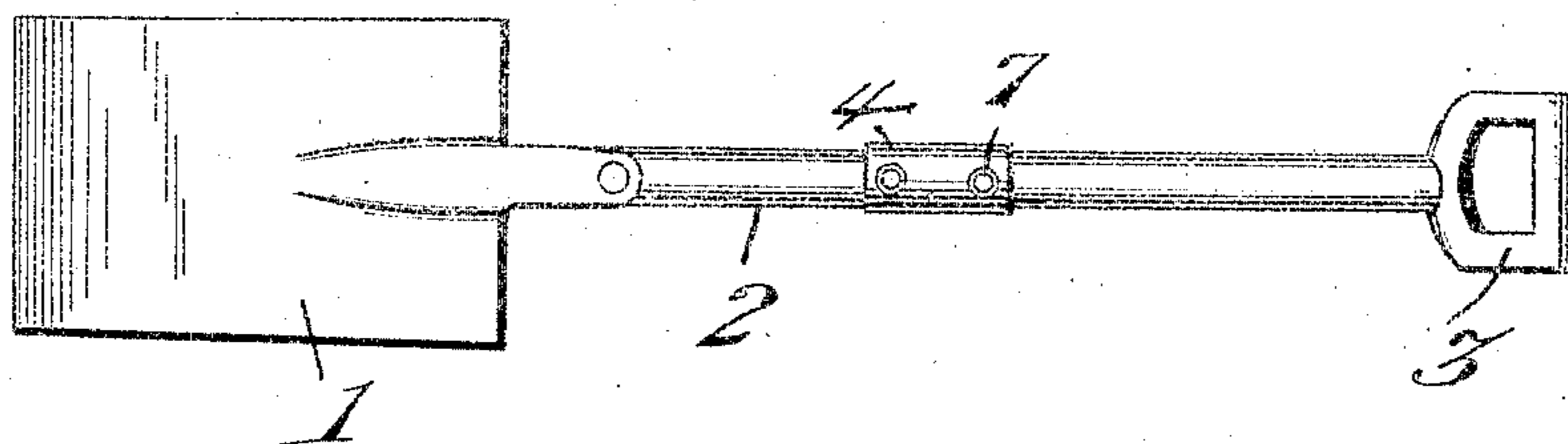
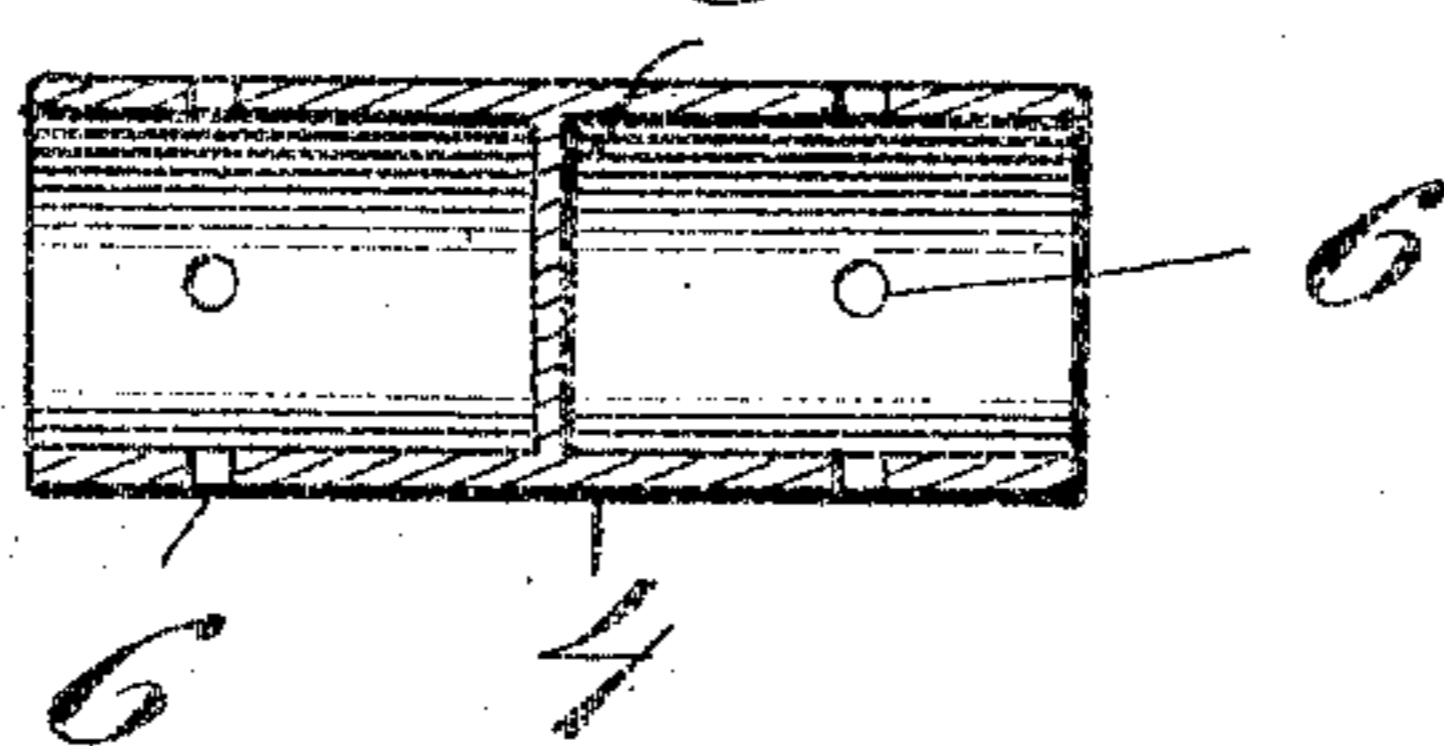


Fig. 2.



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Witnesses

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WILLIAM E. SMITH, OF PINEVILLE, KENTUCKY.

COUPLING MEMBER FOR TOOL-HANDLES.

No. 883,499.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 31, 1908.

Application filed April 17, 1906. Serial No. 312,219.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. SMITH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pineville, in the county of Bell and State of Kentucky, have invented new and useful Improvements in Coupling Members for Tool-Handles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to coupling members designed for use in repairing shovel or other tool handles in the event of the latter being broken, and has for its objects to produce a comparatively simple, inexpensive device of this character which may be readily applied for use, and one whereby the sections of the handle will be firmly and securely united.

With these and other objects in view, the invention comprises the novel features of construction and combination of parts more fully hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 is a plan view of a shovel showing the improved coupler applied to and for connecting the sections of the handle thereof. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section centrally through the coupling member and showing the same on a larger scale.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates a shovel or other tool having a handle 2 provided at its outer end with a hand piece 3 which, together with the other parts, is of the usual form and construction and adapted to perform its ordinary functions.

The handle 2 is made in two parts or sections connected by a coupling member 4 in the form of a tubular sleeve having at its longitudinal center a transverse solid and rigid partition or head 5 dividing the member into a pair of compartments or sockets of relatively short length adapted to receive respectively the ends of the handle sections and having transverse perforations 6 through which are entered fastening members or screws 7 to secure the handle sections in the sleeve.

In practice, should the grip piece 3 be

broken, as frequently occurs in devices of this class, the outer portion or sections of the handle may be disconnected by removing the screws 7 to permit its replacement by a new section having an undamaged grip piece. The handle may be initially made in two sections connected by the coupling member 4 or the member may be employed for attaching one of the outer sections to an old handle which has been broken in use.

This invention is especially adapted as an emergency coupler or mending device, and as in the case of broken tool handles, such as shovels, pitchforks, rakes, hoes, etc., they could be easily mended without the services of a blacksmith or other mechanic. Should a handle be broken, the broken ends thereof are whittled or trimmed down until the ends can penetrate the sockets, and are then driven into place, (as usually the couplers are of less diameter than the two handles), and should one end be driven in place and secured therein, it is not possible to drive it out when the other end is driven in from the opposite side, owing to the solid head between the socket.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

A coupler for sectional handles of shovels and the like comprising a tubular member of relatively short length constructed of rigid unyielding material and having a central integral partition therein to provide two separate and independent sockets so as to permit each section of handle to be driven therein with their inner ends engaging with the said partition, each of said sockets having openings therein and securing devices inserted through said openings and into the inclosed portions of the sections of handles, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM E. SMITH.

Witnesses:

GEO. H. REESE,
R. E. SAMUELS.