

1904 Profile of Henry P. Westcott

In the *Seneca Falls, N.Y. and Vicinity, Grips Historical Souvenir Series*, 1904; page 141
(<https://archive.org/details/gripshistoricals01welch/page/141/mode/1up?view=theater>)

Henry P. Westcott. — Among the earliest manufacturers of Seneca Falls none was more progressive than the subject of this sketch, Henry P. Westcott. Mr. Westcott was born in Newport, R. I., in 1808, where he learned the sash and blind makers' trade and later started in business for himself in Truxton, N. Y., from which place he removed to Seneca Falls in 1847. Here, in company with his brother, Edwin J. Westcott, and Hiram Miller, both of Philadelphia, he engaged in the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds on an extensive scale. The old cotton factory, a five-story building, standing on the site of the present Gleason Mills, was occupied for the business and was fitted up with machinery invented and made by Mr. Westcott. Almost the entire product of the factory was shipped in hulk to Philadelphia where it found a ready market. Previous to this time these goods had been made entirely by hand and to him the industrial world is indebted for many improvements in machinery in general use today. The factory was destroyed in the fire of 1833, but was soon rebuilt and the business continued under the firm name of Westcott, Downs & Gould. Retiring from the partnership a few years later he erected the original brick building, now a part of the Rumsey & Co. works, in which were produced the first Venetian blinds made by machinery, which he invented and put into successful operation. The business was carried on here until the breaking out of the civil war when, owing to the greatly advanced cost of materials used, it was found impossible to continue it profitably.

With H. C. Silsby he next embarked in the manufacture of an improved churn and butter pail on which he had secured patents, in a well-equipped factory built for the purpose on the site of the old fork factory east of the present marble works. On the removal of the business to Belmont, N. Y., in 1868, he sold his interest and in 1872, in company with his sons, Charles H. and Frank Westcott, he established the firm of Westcott Brothers, manufacturing a variety of wood specialties.

Here, too, his experience and inventive genius were invaluable in making successful the business which is still carried on by the incorporated Westcott-Jewell Company.

His death, which occurred on Oct. 29, 1896, at the ripe age of 88 years, closed a life of earnest, intelligent work and upright citizenship.

U.S. Patent Office: Annual Report of the Commissioner of Patents, 1862-63, Volume 1

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No. 34,082.—AMOS WESTCOTT, of Syracuse, N. Y.—*Improvement in Churns*.—Patent dated January 7, 1862.—In addition to ordinary floats or dashers, appliances are used to secure an interchange of the fluid from end to end of the box, and to gather the butter to the centre of the churn after it is separated, so as to more perfectly work it, and at the same time to force through the fluid, whether milk or cream, while in the form of spray.

Claim.—First, the employment of the diagonal float-wheels *b* and *b b*, in combination with the shaft and dasher paddles *c c c c*, constructed essentially as and for the purpose described.

Second, the combination of the diagonal float-wheel *b b* with the diaphragm, Fig. 3, and chamber, Fig. 4, constructed as and for the purpose set forth.

Also, the trough *f* and *f f*, in combination with the chamber diagonal float-wheels and dasher paddles described.

No. 34,083.—H. P. WESTCOTT, of Seneca Falls, N. Y.—*Improvement in Panelling Machines*.—Patent dated January 7, 1862.—This machine is designed for working the tenon or tongue on panels having a raised surface, and is also adapted to rabbeting and matching and grooving on various kinds of work and stuffs.

Claim.—The combined arrangement of the spring pressure guide *L*, constructed and operating as described, the stationary guide *B*, and separately adjustable disks or cutter heads *D D*, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

Also, the construction and arrangement of the cutters *g g* with the round axle shanks *m m*, projecting at right angles from the planes of the cutter's motion, and fitting into sockets of the disks or cutter heads *D D*, in positions parallel with the axis of the said disks, thus producing the angular and axle adjustments thereof, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

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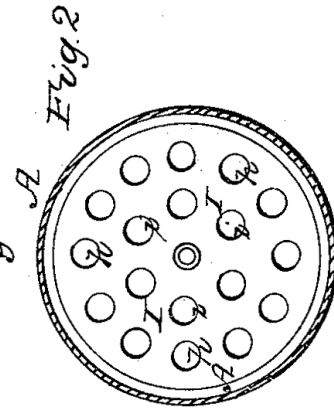
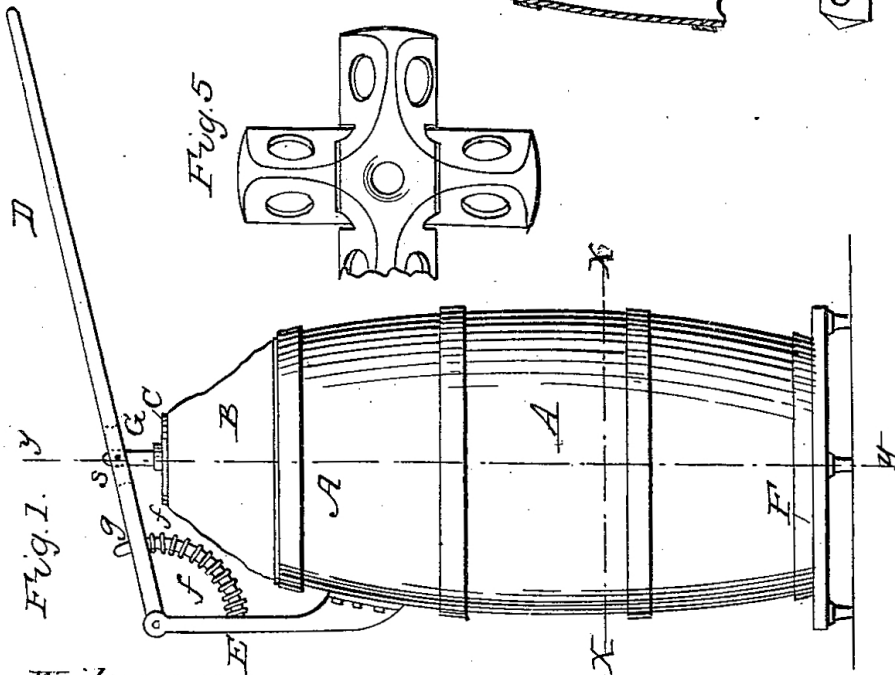
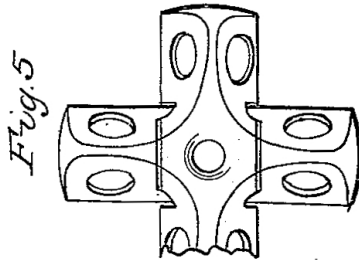
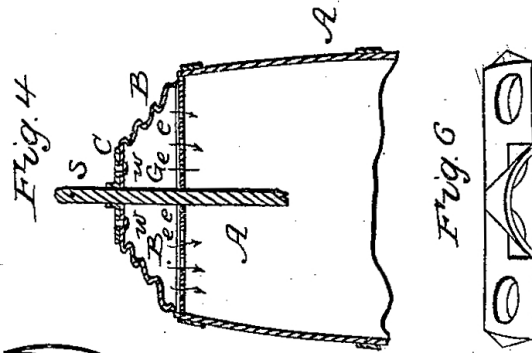
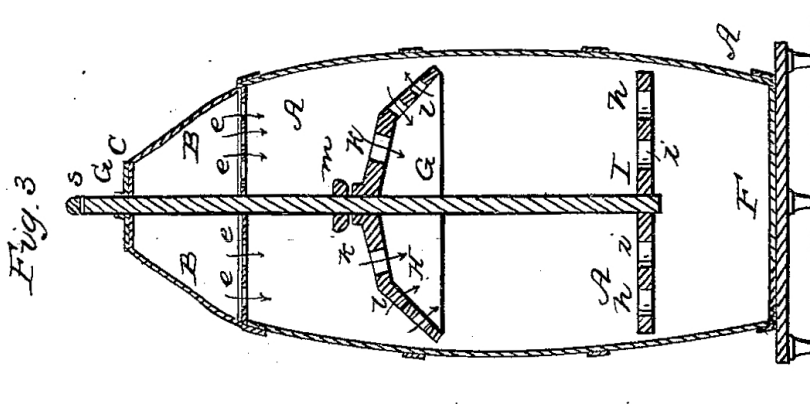
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H. P. WESTCOTT.

Churn.

No. 47,145.

Patented April 4, 1865.



Witnesses
W. A. ...
Andrew ...

H. P. Westcott
 By his Attorney
J. A. McOntae
 Inventor

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY P. WESTCOTT, OF SENECA FALLS, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN CHURNS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 47,145, dated April 4, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY P. WESTCOTT, of Seneca Falls, of the county of Seneca, in the State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Churns; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this application.

My present invention relates to that class of churns involving the use of a receiver or cream-chamber, and a vertically reciprocatory dasher-shaft.

My invention consists, first, in the employment of a bellows or flower arranged on top of the cream-chamber, and operated by the dasher-shaft in such manner as to cause a blast of air to penetrate numerous holes in the top of the cream-chamber, and enter into the mass of cream while agitated by the dashers, all as hereinafter more fully set forth.

And my invention consists, secondly, in a novel arrangement for assisting the operation of the dasher hand-lever, consisting of a spiral spring arranged on an arc in such manner as to exert a constant tendency to vibrate the hand-lever upward when the latter is depressed, as will be hereinafter fully described.

And my invention consists, thirdly, in making the dasher adjustable on its shaft, whereby I am enabled to set the dasher so that its path of motion will be near the surface of the cream, no matter whether a greater or less quantity of the latter be in the receiver, as will be presently more fully set forth.

And my invention consists, fourthly, in a peculiar form of dasher, as hereinafter more fully set forth.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the construction and operation of one of my improved churns, referring by letters to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this application, and in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of one of my improved churns. Fig. 2 is a cross-section at X X, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a vertical section at the line Y Y, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a partial vertical section showing the bellows in a depressed condition, and Figs. 5 and 6 are views of a dasher detached.

In the several figures the same part will be found indicated by the same letter of reference.

A is the receiver or body of the churn, into which the cream to be churned is put, and which I have shown as being made about in the form of a small barrel or cask, and mounted on a suitable base, F, furnished with small feet. On one side of the receiver or body A is bolted or otherwise properly secured near its top edge a stand or arm, E, in the extreme top end of which is pivoted one end of the working lever D. This lever is pivoted at s to the upper end of the dasher-shaft G, as clearly shown, and extends from thence a distance sufficient to effect the easy and convenient reciprocation of the dasher-shaft by the vibration of the long end of said lever D. From the arm or stand E there extends an ark, g, (see Fig. 1,) which passes through a slot in the lever D, and around which the latter works up and down freely. On this arc g is arranged a spiral spring, f, confined longitudinally between the under side of lever D and the stand E.

It will be seen now that if the lever D be depressed or vibrated downward (around its fulcrum in the end of arm E) the spring f will be necessarily compressed, which will cause it to exert a pressure or tendency to return the said lever D to its former elevated position, as seen at Fig. 1.

I is the lower dasher, which I have shown in the form of a plain disk, perforated with numerous holes, and which is secured to the lower end of the shaft G. This shaft, which works up and down through a suitable bearing in the top of the receiver A, has a screw thread cut during a portion of its length to accommodate the female screw of the adjustable dasher H and that of the jam-nut m. (See Fig. 3.)

The peculiar form of the dasher H will be clearly seen at Fig. 3, where it will be observed that said dasher H is convex on its top and hollowed out or concave on its lower surfaces, and that its surfaces are composed of two surfaces, forming an angle with each other, and that each of these surfaces is penetrated or perforated by holes of different diameters, t and k, through which the cream is forced, as indicated by arrows, Fig. 3, during the operation of the churn, as will be presently explained.

B is a bellows formed of leather, cloth, or other suitable material. The top of the receiver A

constitutes one base of this bellows, and the circular disk or plate C, which is fastened to the shaft G, the other base. In this latter are suitable valves, *w w*, (see Fig. 4,) for the ingress of the air, which is forced out through the apertures *e e e* in the top of the receiver A, as indicated by the arrows, Figs. 3 and 4. At Fig. 3 this bellows B is shown distended or filled with air, (the lever D being elevated or at the extreme of its upward vibration,) while at Fig. 4 said bellows is shown as depressed or discharging its blast through the holes *e e* down into the interior of the receiver A.

At Figs. 5 and 6 I have shown in top view and side elevation a peculiar form of upper dash, which may be employed with much advantage on account of its tendency to agitate the cream very greatly, and its economic construction, compared with the form shown in the other figures.

The operation of my improved churn may be thus briefly explained: The receiver A being supplied with the cream to be churned, the adjustable dasher H is first set to such an elevation or position to the shaft G (and there fastened by the jam-nut *m*) as will cause the said dasher H to lie in the plane of the top or surface of the cream when said dasher is at the middle of its stroke—that is to say, the dasher H is set at such a height relative to the top surface of the cream that it will ascend about as far out of the mass of cream as it will descend into it. The reciprocation or up-and-down motion of the shaft G is then effected by moving the long arm of the lever D up and down (by hand or in any other manner.) At each downstroke of the shaft G the spring *f* is compressed, and its strength or spring force, made to assist the following upstroke of the said shaft, and its lever D. As the shaft G moves up and down in the receiver A, the dashers H and I work, one near the top of the mass of cream, and the other near its bottom, the cream being forced (at each stroke of said dashers) through their openings or holes *h i* and *t k*, and thus greatly agitated. During the downstroke of the dashers, and while the cream is being forced upward in numerous jets through the holes *t k*, the bellows B is causing numerous jets of air to descend through the apertures *e e e* and commingle thoroughly with the mass of cream, whereby the extraction of the particles is greatly facilitated. It

will be observed that the holes *t* are bored at right angles to the surface of dasher H, through which they pass, while the holes *k* are bored at right angles to the surface through which they pass, and that the lines of directions of these two sets of holes is such as to converge at one point in the line of the shaft G. The objects of having the holes *t k* thus formed, are to induce to the forcing outward constantly of the cream toward the sides of the receiver, or away from the center of the mass of cream, and also to induce to a divergence of the jets of cream, to enable the currents of air from the bellows to more thoroughly intermingle with the cream.

It will be seen that the peculiar form of the dasher H is such as to assist in this operation on the cream by its tendency in its downward stroke to force the cream away from the shaft G, and out toward the perimeter of the dasher, as it escapes through the smaller holes, *t*, and it will also be seen that by making the dasher H of the form shown, and having the holes *k* larger than those at *t*, the tendency of said dasher during its upward stroke is to create a vacuum around the shaft G and near the body A of the churn.

Experiment has shown that the most desirable point to work the dasher is through (or near) the surface of the cream, and by making the dasher adjustable, as described, it will be seen that this desideratum may be successfully attained with various quantities of cream in the churn.

Having fully explained my improved churn, what I claim therein as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The employment, in combination with the arm E, lever D, and arc *g*, of a spring, *f*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.
2. The use of a bellows B, or its equivalent, in combination with the receiver and dasher-shaft, in the manner and for the purpose substantially as set forth.
3. Making the dasher adjustable, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.
4. The peculiar form of upper dash shown and described, for the specific purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 22d day of June, 1864.

HENRY P. WESTCOTT. [L. s.]

Witnesses:

JNO. F. PORTER,
SIMEON HOLTON.

Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for the Year 1866

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WESTCOTT'S IMPROVED DASH CHURN.

As many dairymen will not use any churn but one that operates on the dash principle, I herewith give a brief description and illustration of the best improvement in the dash churn that can be found in the country.

The illustration furnishes a correct idea of the churn. The dash is operated by a horizontal lever. A stiff spring is secured to the short end of the lever for the purpose of lifting the dasher after it has been forced downward, thus relieving the operator of the fatigue caused by lifting the dasher. Every one who is accustomed to use a dash churn understands that lifting the dasher constitutes the most laborious part of churning with a churn of this kind. It is true that more force is required to press the dasher downward, as the spring operates as a hindrance when the lever is descending. But it must be borne in mind that a person can press a lever downwards against a strong resistance with much less fatigue than he can lift a weight equal to the strength of a spring that will hold or lift a given weight or pressure.



At the right hand of the illustration the dasher is represented, having an adjustable flange-dasher, which may be moved up and down on the standard by means of a screw, the thread of which is cut in the standard and in the centre hole of the adjustable dasher. Many dairymen, who thought there could not be an improvement in the old dash churn, have accepted this churn as superior to any other.

H. P. Westcott & Co., Seneca Falls, New York, is the inventor and manufacturer.

Ad for Henry Westcott's Adjustable Dash Churn that ran in multiple issues of the *Cultivator and Country Gentleman* in 1867

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=njp.32101050599883&view=1up&seq=9>

**H. P. WESTCOTT'S
ADJUSTABLE
DASH CHURN.**

*First Patented Aug. 1863. Improvements Patented
April, 1865, and Nov., 1866.*



This Churn is now regarded by all the Agriculturists and Dairymen of the country, who have had an opportunity to examine it, as the best churn yet offered to the public—embracing as it does the principle of the old Dash Churn, adding thereto important improvements to **SECURE THE VERY BEST QUALITY, and THE LARGEST QUANTITY OF BUTTER WITH THE LEAST LABOR.** The last improvement is in the shape of the barrel, also the substitution of a *flat* steel Spring, (which is perfectly reliable,) to raise the Dasher; adjusting the *upper dasher outside the Churn*, above the Lever, by means of a malleable slide or clasp, and thumb screw. We make five sizes of these

Churns, (ranging from five to thirty gallons,) in the best manner and of the very best quality of White Oak. Retail price—No. 1, (30 gal.,) \$16; No. 2 ($\frac{3}{4}$ bbl.,) \$14; No. 3 ($\frac{1}{2}$ bbl.,) \$12; No. 4, ($\frac{1}{4}$ bbl.,) \$10; No. 5, (1-5 bbl.,) \$8.

H. P. WESTCOTT, Supt.
Seneca Falls Churn Manufacturing Co.,
Seneca Falls, N. Y.

May 23—4t.

H. P. WESTCOTT'S ADJUSTABLE DASH CHURN. First Patented Aug. 1863. Improvements Patented April, 1865, and Nov., 1866.

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