

# THE DAVIS HORSE WHIM

by Ted Bobrink  
Redlands, California

Throughout my years of roaming the deserts in search of abandoned mines, I have on several occasions had the pleasure of finding a most unusual devise for hoisting ore buckets. I would have loved to have brought one home, but they are quite large and heavy and it seems that whenever we came across one, we were already loaded down with ore cars, timber cars and powder boxes. It would be nice to have one in my back yard, as a few years back I was able to trade a friend of mine out of his Davis Horse Whim brass plaque. Of all the Davis Whims I

had encountered, none of them had the plaque still intact. Though the original plaque is curved so it could be bolted to the center post, Mark Bohannon was able to make a nice pencil rubbing as seen in Fig. 2.

The Davis Horse Whim was invented by Francis M. Davis of Denver, Colorado, and patented on Dec. 11, 1888. The horse whim was used in developing prospects where fuel and water were hard to attain and as the windlass did not work well below 40 feet. As you can see by the illustration, the whim was turned by a horse

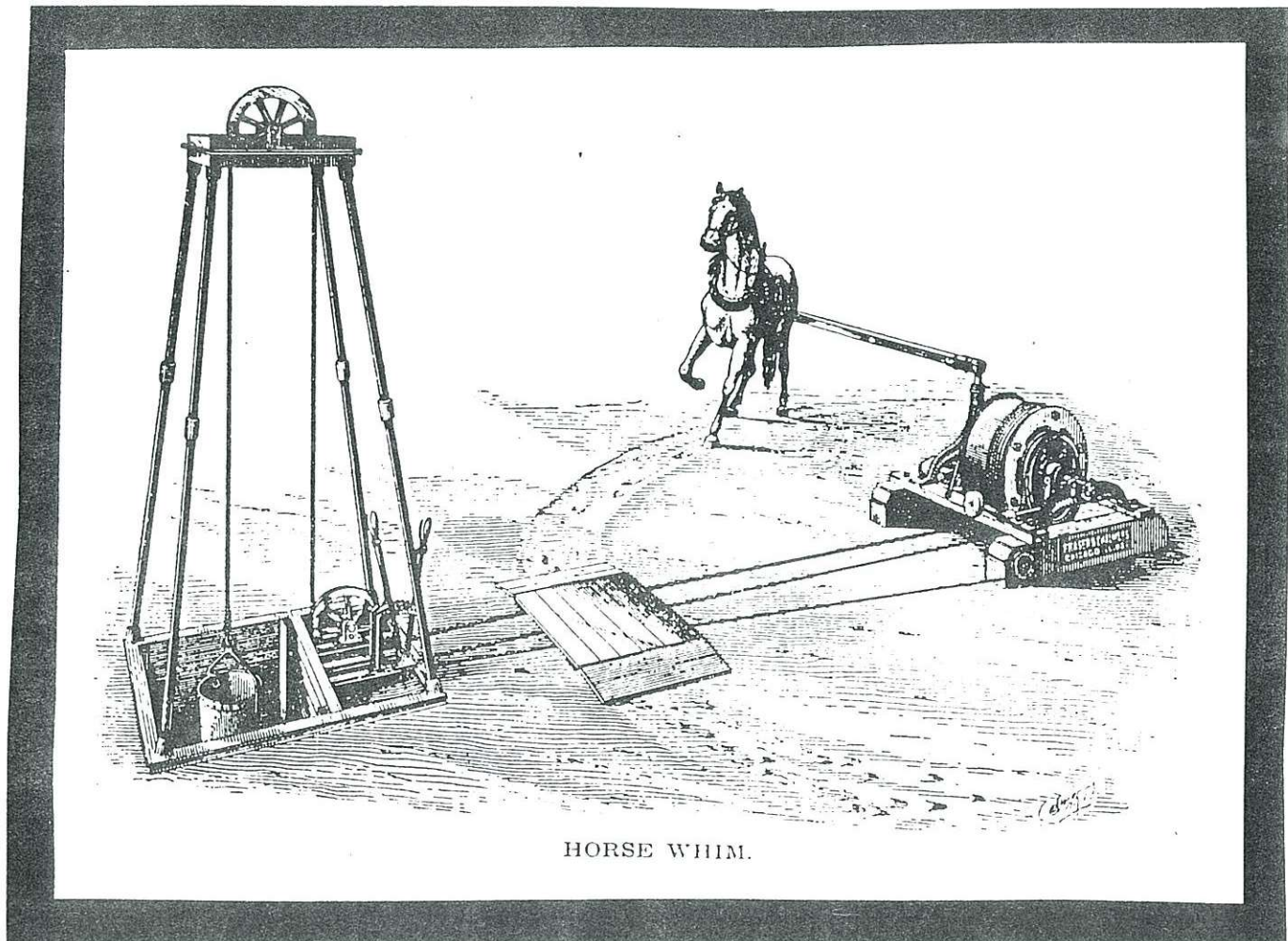


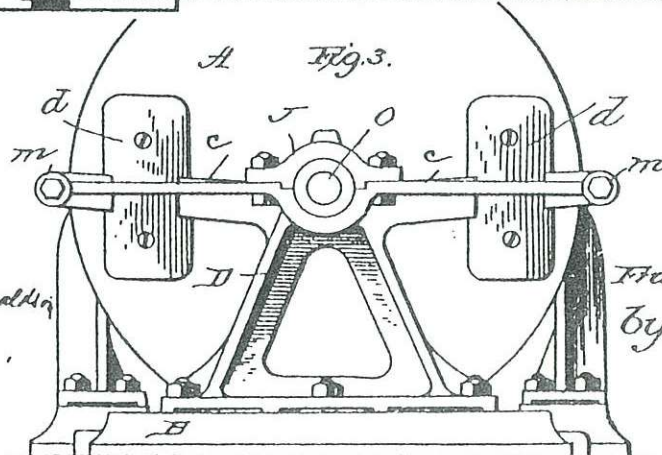
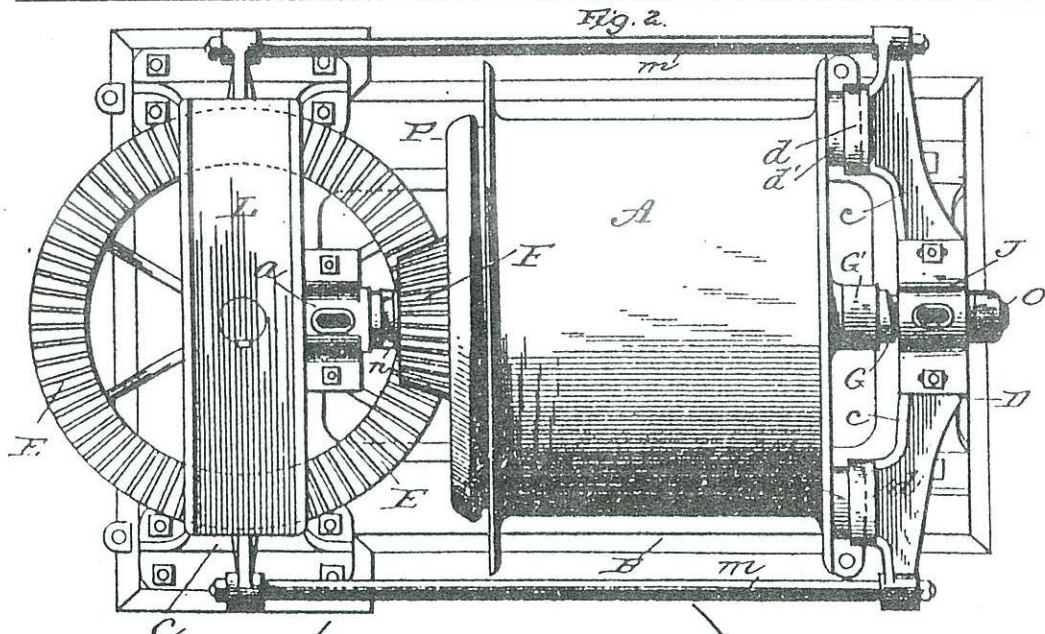
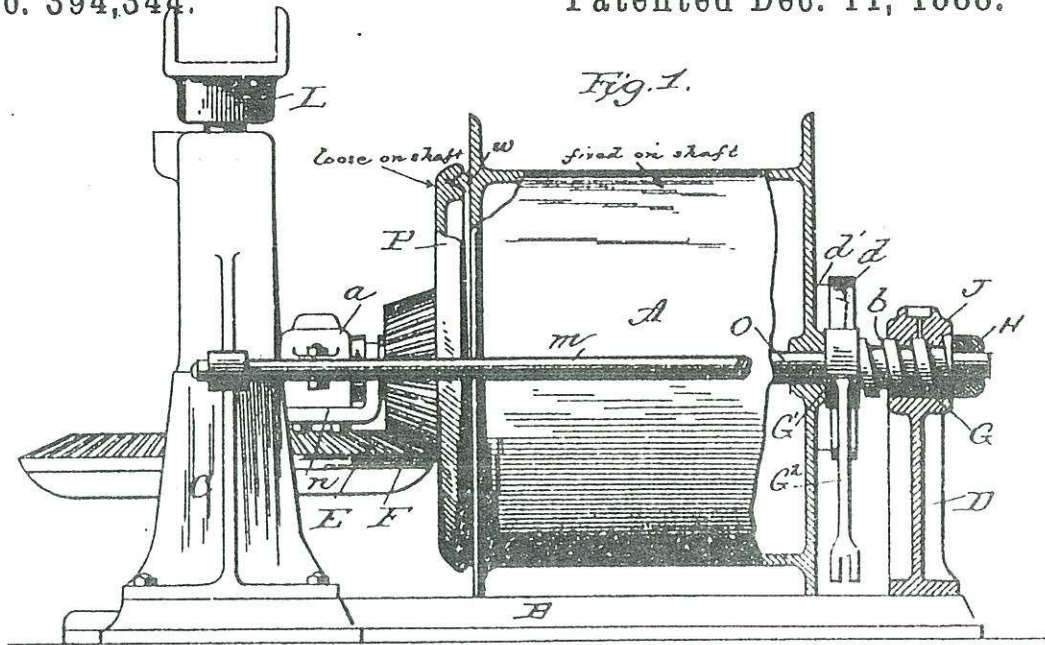
Figure 1. A drawing illustrating how the Davis Horse

(No Model.)

F. M. DAVIS.  
HOISTING APPARATUS.

No. 394,344.

Patented Dec. 11, 1888.



Attest:  
*[Signature]*  
F. L. Middleton.

Inventor:  
Francis M. Davis.  
by *[Signature]*

Atty.

Figure 2. The patent drawings for the Davis Horse Whim patented by Francis M. Davis on December 11, 1888.

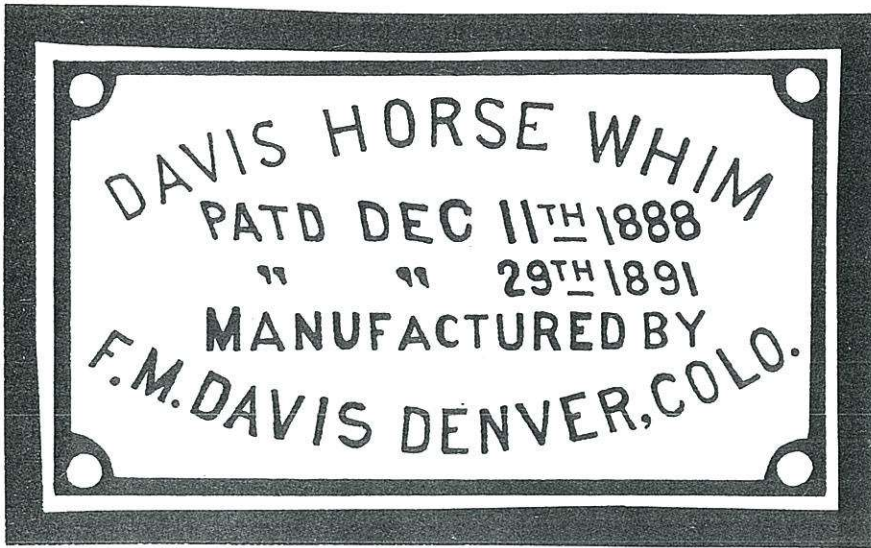


Figure 3. A pencil rubbing of the brass plaque for the Davis Horse Whim. The plaque measures 6 inches long by 3 1/2 inches wide, and is 1/4 inch thick.

Figure 4. The patent drawings for the brake for the Davis Horse Whim patented by William C. Davis on December 29, 1891.

or mule simply by walking in a circle. A horse whim could handle the rock and water to a depth of 300 feet. According to the patent information, you could bring a bucket from a shaft a hundred and fifty feet deep in two and a half minutes with a seen hundred pound capacity, in forty-five trips you could raise fifteen tons a day.

Two years later, another patent was granted on Dec. 29, 1891 to a William C. Davis-- I presume a relative. This patent was for an automatic safety brake to be used in connection with the Davis Horse Whim. I would assume that early on, the Davis Whims encountered some problems with whatever kind of brake it first came with. You can only wonder what would have happened if the main post that attached to the horse had ever come loose or broke off while pulling up or sending down a heavy load.

Over the years I'm sure the Davis Horse Whims I encountered have by now been removed and are sitting in some proud collectors back yard or better yet in a museum. So for now I will have to settle for my brass plaque. Does anyone out there want to trade?

