

GRIFFITHS AND ANOTHER V. HOLMES, BOOTH  
& HAYDENS.

*Circuit Court, D. Connecticut.*

June 27, 1881.

1. RE-ISSUE NO. 5,067—SUSPENSION RING FOR  
BUSINESS CARDS—NOVELTY—VALIDITY.

Re-issued letters patent No. 5,067, granted H. S. Griffiths,  
September 24, 1872, for improved suspension rings for  
business cards, *held, invalid* for want of *novelty*.

Complainant's device, consisting of a ring of thin sheet metal  
having a shank or bottom piece provided with sharp spurs,  
which are pushed through the card and turned down  
on the opposite side, *held, anticipated* by the Twitchell  
umbrella fastener, being a ring of sheet metal with spurs,  
which are pushed through the India-rubber band which  
serves to keep a folded umbrella in place, the ring  
attaching the end of the band to a button or hook.

In Equity.

*John Van Santvoord*, for plaintiffs.

*Geo. E. Terry* and *J. J. Coombs*, for defendant.

SHIPMAN, D. J. This is a bill in equity to restrain  
the defendant from the infringement of re-issued letters  
patent of September 24, 1872, to Josephine Cary and  
Clementine Griffiths, assignees of Harry S. Griffiths,  
for an improved suspension ring for business cards, so  
that 155 they can be easily hung against a wall. The  
original patent was issued to said H. S. Griffiths, May  
5, 1868. The device consists of a ring of thin sheet  
metal, having a shank or bottom piece provided with  
sharp spurs, which are pushed through the card and  
turned down on the opposite side. These spurs are  
made like those of the little article in common use as  
a paper fastener. The novelty of the patented device  
was anticipated by an umbrella fastener, called upon  
the trial "Twitchell's Umbrella Fastener," which was  
made by the American Ring Company, of Waterbury,  
Connecticut, for some years, beginning in the summer  
or fall of 1865, and which is still in common use. This  
fastener is a ring of sheet metal, with spurs, which are

pushed through the India-rubber band which serves to keep a folded umbrella in place. The ring attaches the end of the band to a button or hook. The suspension ring is like the umbrella fastener, except that the former has a longer shank than the latter, because it is a matter of convenience that after the spurs have been fastened to the card the whole circumference of the ring should be unoccupied, so as to permit it to be easily slipped upon a nail. This is an obvious matter of construction, and the necessary change requires only mechanical taste and skill. Substantially the same article is used for two objects, and the new use is quite analogous to the purpose for which the article was previously used. The bill is dismissed.

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