

There is a need for a better mouse trap

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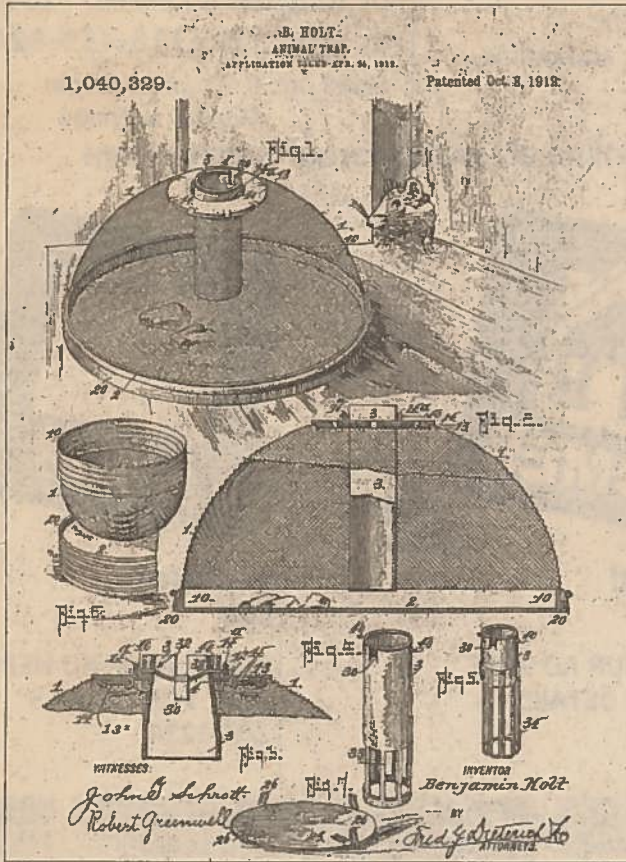
On Oct. 8, 1912 Benjamin Holt received a patent on a trap to catch rodents. As part of the patent which was issued, the following information was provided by Mr. Holt. Here are some excerpts which relate to the illustration he had produced.

"Be it known that I, Benjamin Holt, residing in Albion, in the county of Orleans and State of New York, have invented a new and improved Animal Trap, of which the following is a specification."

"This invention, while relating generally to animal traps, is more especially designed for catching mice or rats and it has for its object to provide a trap of the character stated of a simple and inexpensive construction, easily arranged and set for use and in which the several parts have such shape and cooperative connection whereby they can be readily knocked down and compactly folded or packed for storing and shipping

"Figure 1, is a perspective view of my trap set up as a mouse catcher

"Figure 3 designates the entrance or passage to the interior of the trap and the same, in the simplest form shown in Figs. 1 and 2, consists of a metal tube that is pivotally hung in the upper or entrance end of the cage 1. The tube 3 is of such a length that the lower end hangs closely over the bottom of the cage, as is best shown in Fig. 2 and in such a manner that the rodent in passing down the tube by reason of the tube swinging in the direction in which the rodent attempts to escape from the said tube into the trap of cage 1. By reason of having the exit of the tube 3 extended closely to the bottom 2, it is impossible for the rodent to crawl



under since in making the effort to do so it would constantly swing the lower end of the tube away from itself and out of position for escape there through."

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The above description was witnessed by Lyman S. Linson and C.H. Dean. Copies of this patent could be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C.

Benjamin Holt who resided on South Clinton Street in Albion is listed as a Stone Cutter in the 1911

Orleans County Directory. He is known to have had several patents on other devices including a facing machine for apple barrels.

Years ago rodents were especially pesky varmints around granaries and feed bins in barns. Many different kinds of traps were invented by clever and imaginative people such as Benjamin Holt. Indeed, there was great need for a better mouse trap.

C.W. Lattin is the Orleans county historian. *Bethinking of Olde Orleans* appears every Thursday in *The Journal-Register*.