

To the Honourable the Representatives of the Freemen of
the State of Delaware in General Assembly met

The Petition of Oliver Evans of the County of
Newcastle respectfully sheweth

That during the late War your Pe-
titioner at considerable expence & labour in various experi-
ments made for the purpose of forming a Machine (perhaps
entirely new) to make Wood & Cotton Card Teeth, was at
length able to bring his very Desirable Intention to such per-
fection as to finish a Machine which would feed itself and
completely make one thousand Card Teeth in one minute.
— as well as a Machine for Pritching the Holes in the Lea-
ther with great exactness & Dispatch, for the purpose of
fixing the Card Teeth in. And ^{that} other Persons are now
likely to have equal emolument with himself by making
Said Machines from his Pattern Selling them and causing them
to be used. — Your Petitioner further sheweth that he
is altogether convinced that he can erect the following Machines
(not yet extant) to be of use in Merchant Mills viz. a Ma-
chine to break the slyeaten grain in the Wheat, to break the
lumps of Dust, to shell the white Caps, & break the garlic,
So as to render all these things more easily & completely sepa-
rated by means of the Screen & Fan, a Machine to convey
the Meal as fast as ground from the Stones to fall on the up-
per left, a Machine to attend the bolting Hopper with
regularity, all or either of which he conceives will very much
lessen the labour & consequently the Expences of the Milling Bu-
siness — But he taking into Consideration the expence and la-
bour attending the inventing, contriving, and erecting, the above
mentioned Machines, supposes it would exceed any private emolu-
ment likely to be derived to himself, unless he had some ex-
clusive right to make, and cause to be used, Said Machines —
Therefore

Therefore your Petitioner prays your Honours to grant
him his Heirs and Assigns an exclusive right to make
vend and cause to be used Said Mill Machines as well as
the Machine first mentioned for making Card Teeth that hath
the singular property of feeding itself for the Term of
twentyfive years or such time as your Honours may
think proper — And your Petitioner

as in duty bound

will ever Pray &c

Redclay Creek,
Jan^y 16th 1786



P^{er} Jan^y. 1786.
of Oliver Evans.

Jan^y. 18. read. →

Jan^y. 27. read
and referred to

W^m. Garrett,

W^m. Broom,

W^m. Hyatt. →

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