

Cork (as in a horse's shoes)

OED: Irregular form of [calk](#)

Calk: To provide (a shoe) with a calk or calkin; to rough-shoe – for example:

1624 T. Scott tr. *2nd Pt. Vox Populi* 46 As many..as would suffice for sixe or eight thousand horse all calked sharpe and frost-nayled of purpose for trauaile ouer the Ice.

1776 in *New Jersey Archives* (1901) 2nd Ser. I. 166 A chestnut sorrel mare,..shod before, shoes are steel corked.

1806 Webster *Compend. Dict. Eng. Lang.* *Cork, v.t.*,..to form sharp points or shoe with points.

1817 T. Dwight *Trav. New-Eng. & N.-Y.* (1821) II. 217 The clay.., unless a horse is corked, is dangerous both to him and the rider.

1829 *Virginia Lit. Museum* 16 Dec. 419 *To cork*, to shoe a horse with points—or with frost nails.

1739 December 4 (Tuesday). Mr. Williams bought my Calves and agreed to give me 50 shillings for one and 30 shillings for the other. He Shod my Mare round and cork'd her for the Winter.

1760 February 21 (Thursday). Deacon Tainter returns from Boston with a Team. His Horses took a start in Framingham and he is wounded sorely in both his Leggs, by the Horses kicking him with their Corks.

1768 December 12 (Monday). Mr. Gleason new setts and corks my mares Shooes: for I know not what is before me.