

Sellers & Pennock,

Mail Bag,

Nº 1620.

Patented May 25, 1840.

Fig: 1.

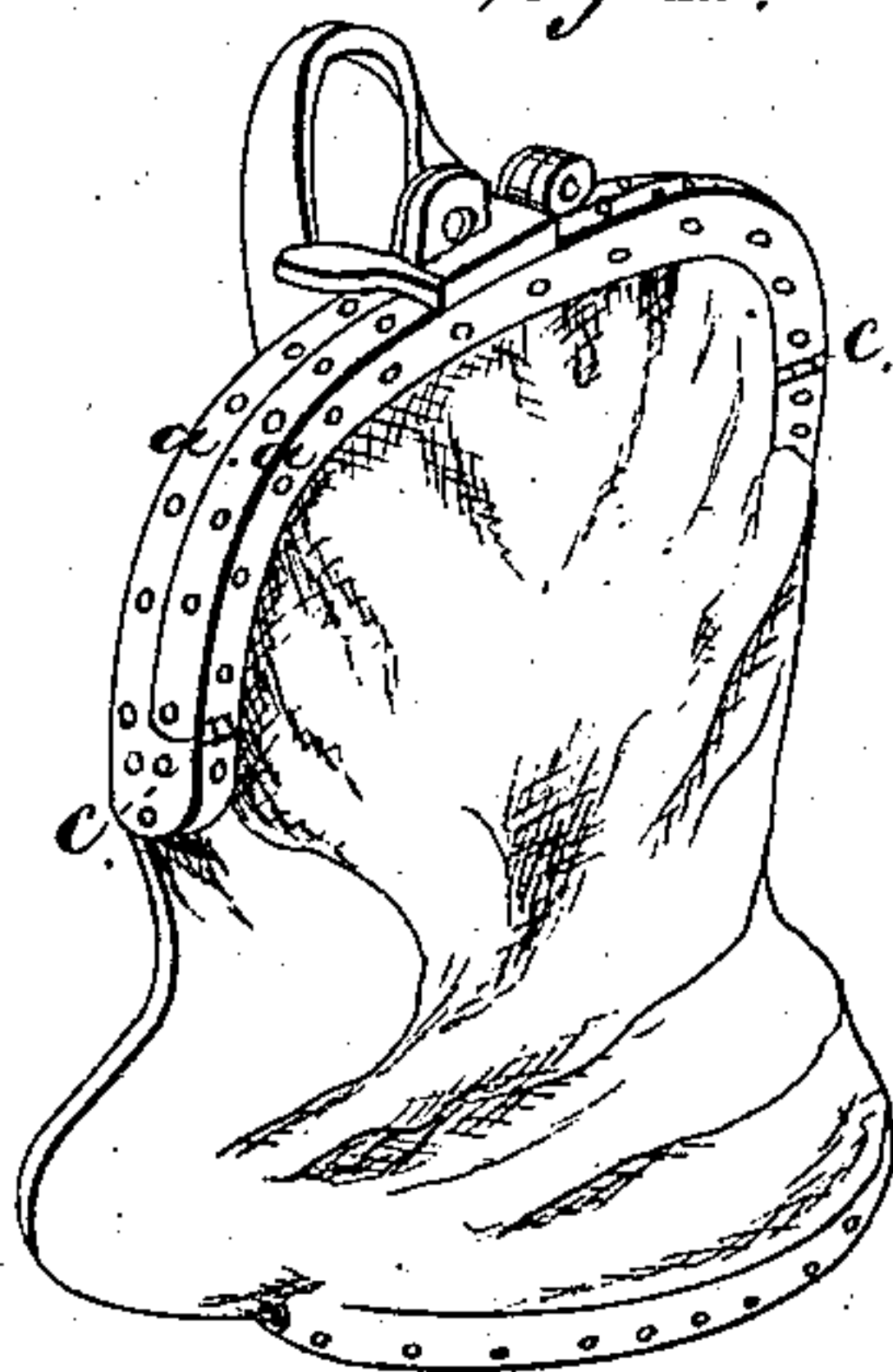
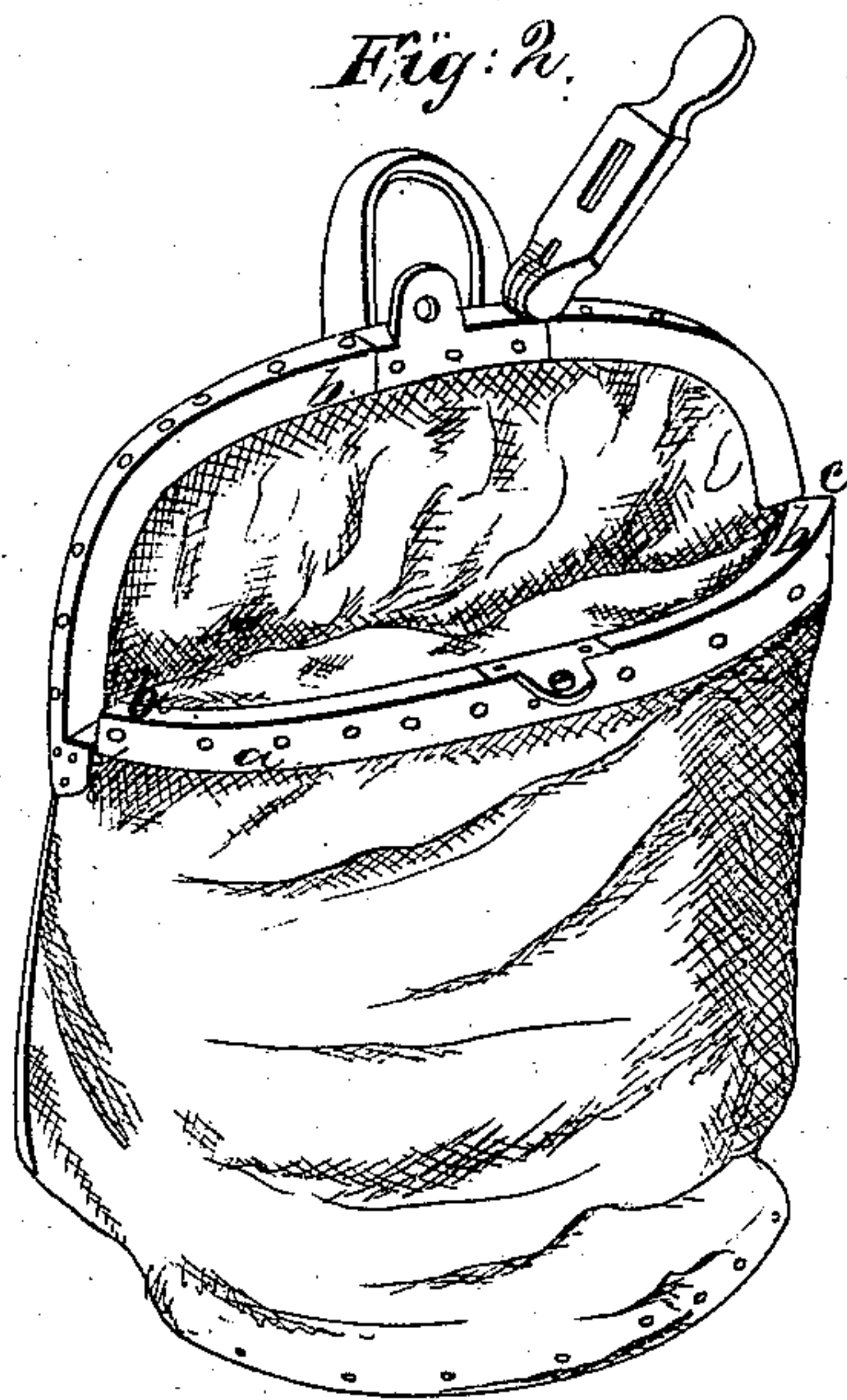


Fig: 2.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,

JAMES SELLERS AND ABRAHAM L. PENNOCK, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE CLASPS OF CARPET-BAGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 1,620, dated May 25, 1840.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JAMES SELLERS and ABRAHAM L. PENNOCK, of the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented a new and Improved Mode of Making the Clasps for Mail-Bags, Carpet-Bags, Valises, and other Articles; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof.

Our invention consists in so constructing the clasp that the same may be formed of hickory, ash, or other kinds of tough wood, instead of forming it of iron, steel, or other metal, as has heretofore been done.

Figures 1 and 2 in the accompanying drawings represent the said clasp as attached to a bag, Fig. 1 showing it as closed and Fig. 2 as open.

In constructing our clasp we take a piece of ash, hickory, or any other kind of wood adapted to the purpose, said pieces of wood being of such length, width, and thickness as may be necessary and suited to the size and kind of bag to which it is to be attached. This piece of wood we boil or steam, so as to enable us to bend it into the form suitable for a clasp, and confine it upon or within a mold for such length of time as may be necessary to cause it to set and retain its form—a process well known to workmen. To convert the wood so bent into a clasp we cut it through longitudinally, so as to form the two

sides of the clasp. We sometimes thus divide it through its whole extent; but in general we cut it to within an inch or two of each end and then divide one side from the other by making a transverse cut from one side to the longitudinal cut first made.

The two parts of the clasp, as shown in the drawings, are represented with one face and edge covered with leather nailed thereon, as at *a a a*.

In Fig. 2 the sides of the clasp *b b* show the wood; *c c*, the transverse cut where the two parts are hinged together when they are divided in that way. *d d* show the form of a hasp and eyes, by the aid of which the bag may be locked up.

What we claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The constructing of a clasp composed entirely of wood, and the adapting the same to and combining it with bags for the conveyance of letters, traveling-bags, or valises, and such others to which it may be adapted, the said clasps being connected together by hinges of metal, by links, or by any flexible material which may be preferred.

JAMES SELLERS.

ABM. L. PENNOCK.

Witnesses:

SAML. H. TROTTER,

SAMUEL HUTCHINSON.