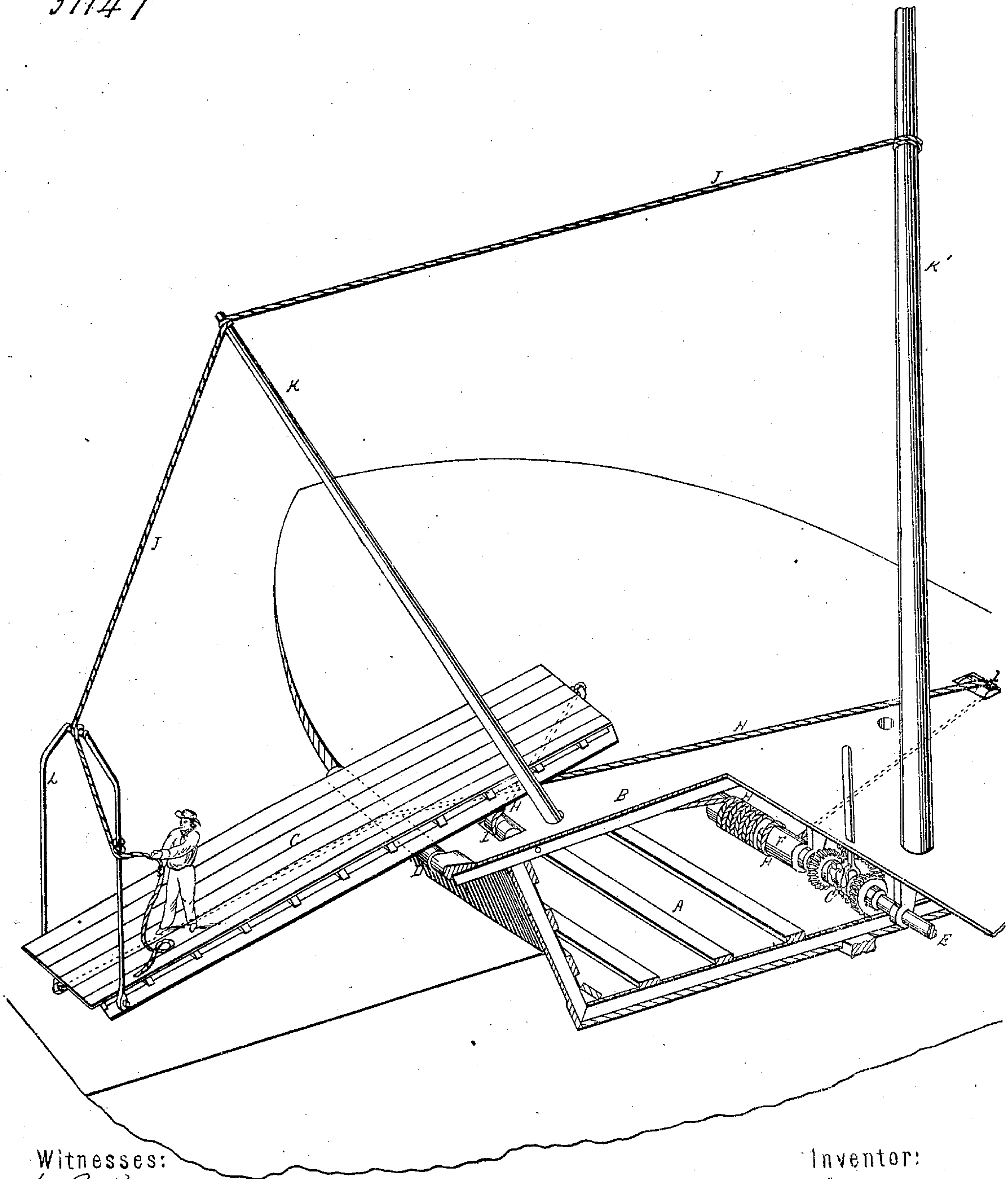


A. J. Bell.
Steam-boat Staging
Patented Jan 22. 1861.

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31147



Witnesses:
W. R. Bell
Octavio Knight

Inventor:
Knight Brothers Atty
for A. J. Bell

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

A. JOHN BELL, OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY.

STEAMBOAT-STAGING.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 31,147, dated January 22, 1861; Reissued June 29, 1875, No. 6,509.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, A. JOHN BELL, of Ashland, Boyd county, Kentucky, have invented a new and useful Steamboat-Staging, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the annexed drawing, making part of this specification.

The object of this invention is a more rapid easy and effective means of shipping and unshipping the stage planks from steam water crafts, and consists in a mode of operating said planks by connection with one of the steam engines employed to work or load the vessel.

In the accompanying representation of the stem of a steamboat furnished with my improvements A and B are portions of the hull and deck.

C is the stage plank.

D is one of two gunwale rollers which serve to ease the passage of the plank over the edge of the boat.

E is a shaft driven from the hoister or other steam engine upon the boat. F is a drum which can be driven from said shaft E in either direction or be entirely disconnected therefrom by means of a clutch movement G. Ropes or chains H, from the drum F pass over rollers I in the deck, and being crossed underneath the plank C, are attached to opposite ends thereof in manner shown. The outer end of the plank is supported by a cord J which extending from a boom and

derrick K K' is secured by a pulley or other running attachment to a bow L which rises from the plank.

The operation is as follows: As the boat is nearing the bank or landing place, a deck hand mounts the plank and seizing the cord J, at the word given the clutch G is thrown in gear and as the plank is moved out by the windlass, the operator lets the cord slip so as to maintain the proper presentation of the plank in approaching the shore. For shipping the plank all these movements are of course reversed.

Such an attachment by diminishing the time required for shipping and unshipping the plank will obviously cause a material saving in detention of the boat.

It will be seen that a plank, thus operated by power can be made available as a spar for easing off the vessel from a shoal or bank.

I claim as new and of my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The arrangement of staging C, power windlass E F G H I, and supporting apparatus J K L, the whole being constructed and operating together substantially as and for the objects set forth.

In testimony of which invention, I hereunto set my hand.

A. JOHN BELL.

Witnesses:

GEO. H. KNIGHT,
FRANCIS MILLWARD.