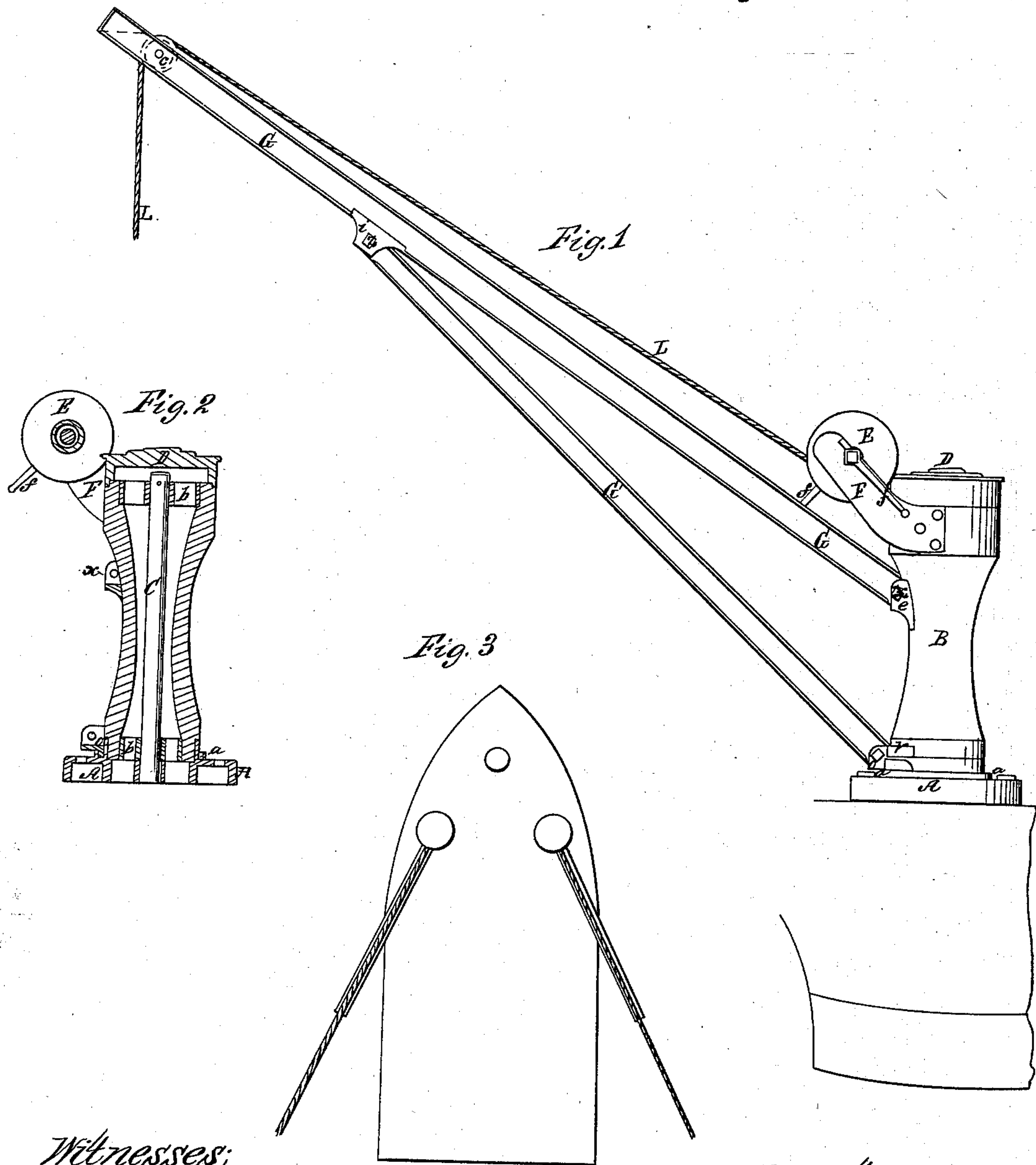


*E. Fairbanks,*

*Derrick,*

*No. 49,340,*

*Patented Aug. 8, 1865.*



*Witnesses:*  
*J. M. Clark*  
*N. C. Sandale*

*Inventor:*  
*Edward Fairbanks,*  
*by J. G. Clayton*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD FAIRBANKS, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF  
AND LEVI BOWEN, OF SAME PLACE.

## IMPROVEMENT IN OYSTER-DREDGES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 49,340, dated August 8, 1865.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD FAIRBANKS, of Baltimore city and county, in the State of Maryland, have invented a new and useful Winder for Oyster-Dredges; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference thereon marked.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation. Fig. 2 is a vertical section. Fig. 3 shows mode of operating the winder.

The nature of my invention consists in the mode of combining and arranging a revolving standard, with a reel and adjustable crane-arms, so as to produce a machine well adapted to the purpose of winding in oyster-dredges.

The common way of dredging for oysters is to let the dredge-line pass over the side of the vessel as she sails along until the dredge is filled, the line passing over the gunwale of the boat and drawing against a stanchion opposite the winder, so that the rope may be wound at right angles with the winder. The axis of the winder being parallel with the keel of the boat and the line dragging over the side, it is usual to require the labor of six men to heave the dredge, and then when it is raised to the edge of the boat it requires great exertion of strength to lift the dredge into the vessel to empty, the dredge and oysters weighing some three or four hundred pounds.

In the drawings, A is the cast-iron bed-plate, some twenty inches in diameter, which is to be secured by bolts to the deck near the bow of the vessel. Fig. 3 shows the position, it being best to use two of my improved winders, locating them forward near the mast, and each winder a little to one side of it, at such an angle to the vessel that the dredge-line, as it passes astern over the sheave of the crane, shall clear the side of the boat. This bed-plate is provided with a circular groove, *a*, on the upper surface, in which the foot of the crane-brace revolves and is guided.

B is the revolving vertical cast-iron cylindrical standard, some sixteen inches in diameter at the largest part and about thirty-four inches high. The lower end of this standard is turned with a shoulder so as to fit and revolve in the bed-plate A.

*b b* are cast-iron brace-bearings placed inside of the hollow standard at its upper and lower ends.

C is the axle of the standard, which passes easily through the bearings *b*, and is keyed fast to the plate A.

D is the cast-iron metallic cap, which gives a finish to the top of the standard.

E is the reel upon which the dredging-line L is wound. It revolves in brackets F extending from the top of the standard B, and is provided with two cranks, *f f*, by which the reel is wound and the standard is turned.

G G' are the crane-arms. At the outer end of arm G (which is about eleven feet long) is a patent sheave, *c*, over which the dredge-rope passes. The inner end of this arm sits in a cast-iron step, *e*, bolted to the standard a little below the brackets F. *x* is a bolt for keeping the arm in its step. About three feet from the outer end of the arm G is bolted a cast-iron step, *i*, for the reception of the outer end of the brace G', which is retained therein by a keeper-bolt, *z*. The lower end of the brace G' is provided with a cast-iron foot, *o*, curved so as to fit and revolve in the groove *a* of the bed-plate. Two studs, *v v*, on the lower end of the standard, immediately under the step *e*, serve to steady the inner end of brace G'.

By means of my improved winder three men can manage a dredge better and more rapidly than can six men by the old method. After they have wound in the dredge up out of the water, so as to be above the edge of the boat, they revolve the standard by means of the cranks until the dredge is brought around so as to be over the vessel, when it is emptied.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination and arrangement of a reel with a revolving standard and crane-arms, when so arranged as to compose a winder for oyster-dredges, substantially in the manner and for the purposes described.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of July, 1865.

EDWARD FAIRBANKS.

In presence of—

V. C. CLAYTON,  
JO C. CLAYTON.