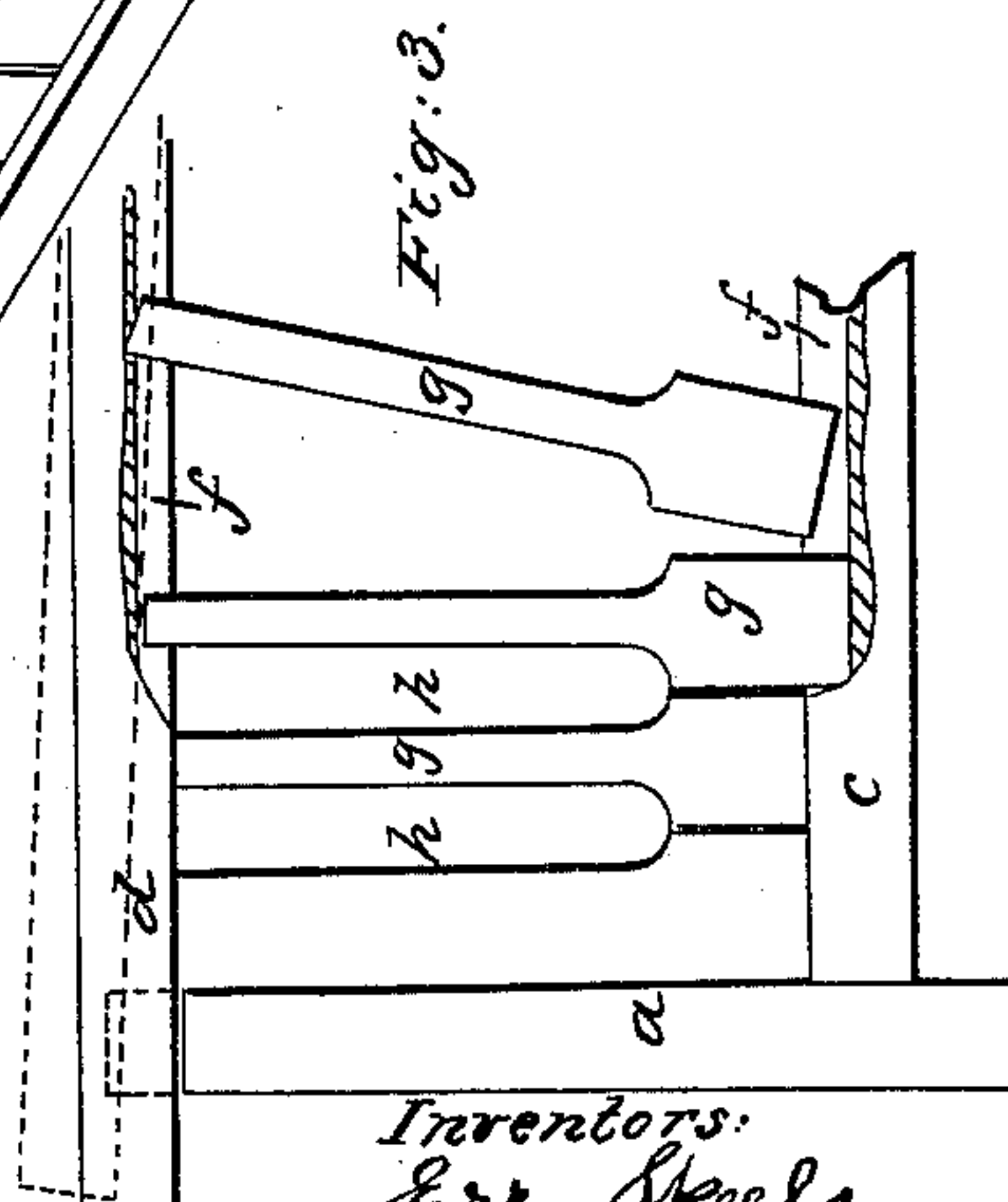
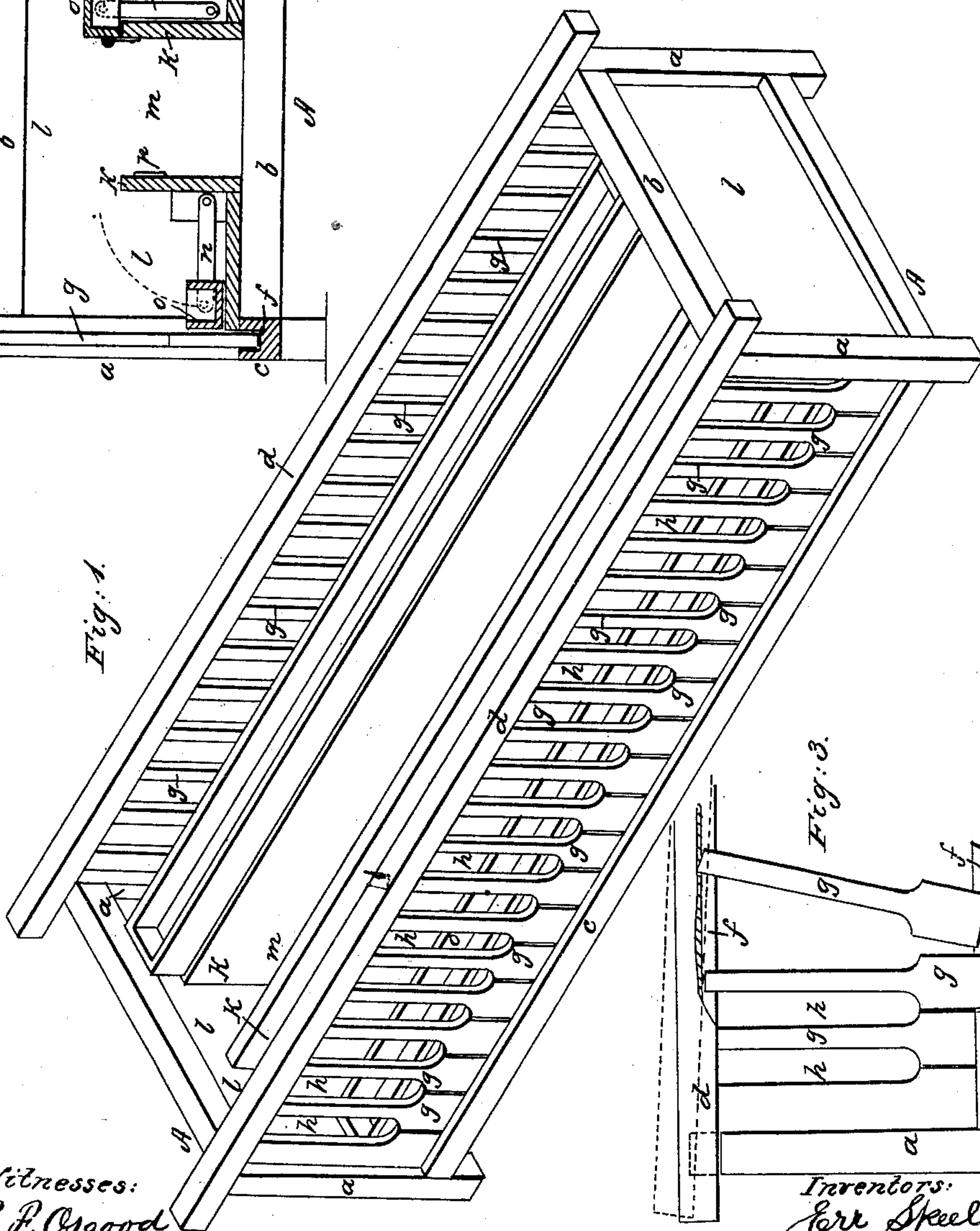
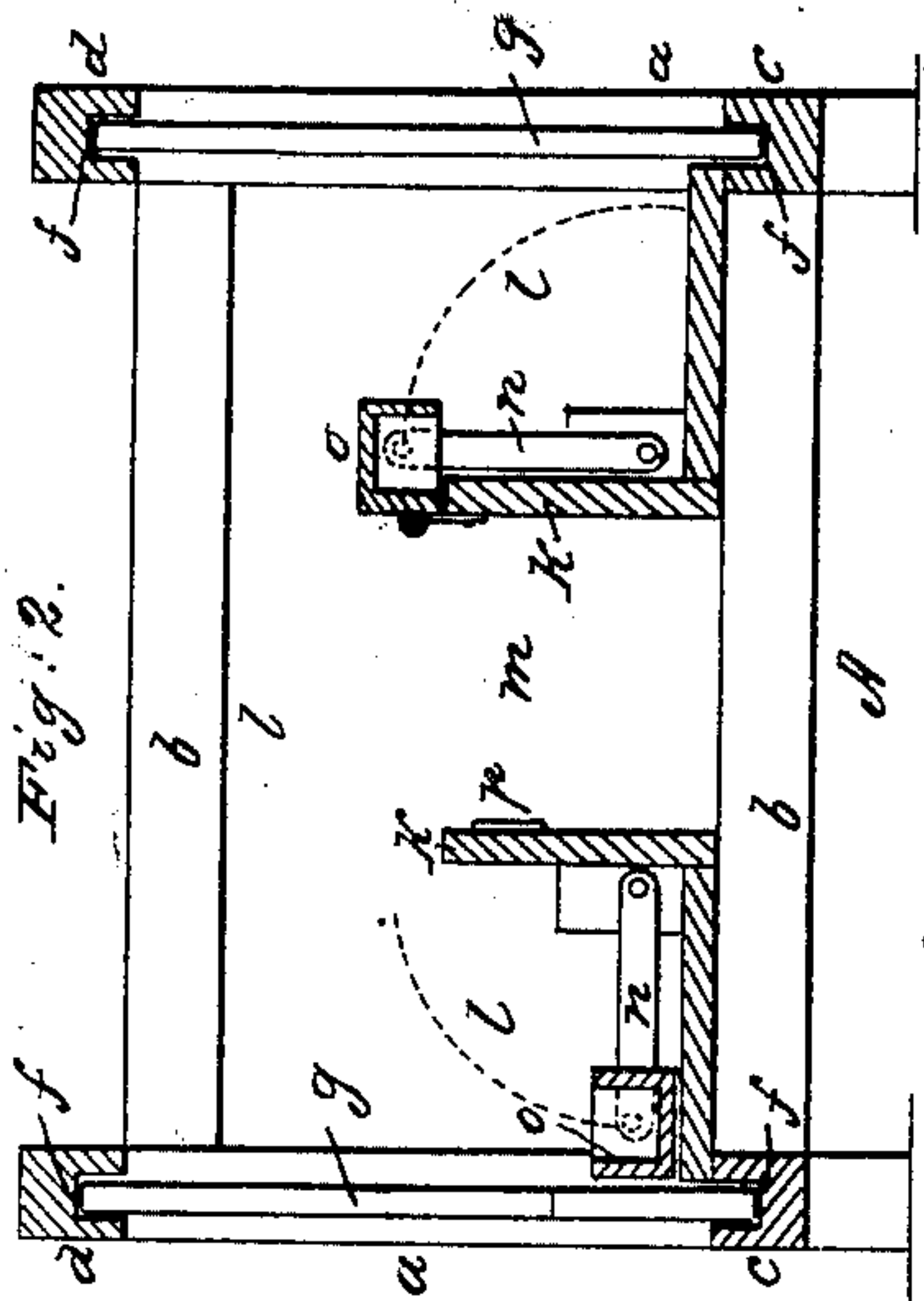


E. & D. SKEELS.

Sheep Rack.

No. 57,985.

Patented Sept. 11, 1866.



Witnesses:
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J. A. Davis.

Inventors:
E. & D. Skeels.
By J. F. Fraser & Co. Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERR SKEELS AND DWIGHT SKEELS, OF SPRINGWATER, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN SHEEP-RACKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 57,985, dated September 11, 1866.

to whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, ERR SKEELS and DWIGHT SKEELS, of Springwater, in the county of Livingston and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Racks for Feeding Sheep; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of our improved rack; Fig. 2, a vertical cross-section of the same; Fig. 3, a side elevation of a portion of the rack.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Our invention consists in the particular construction of the rack, whereby it is easily put together or taken apart, and in the employment of a special arrangement of grain-troughs and boards, forming a central alley, for the purpose of feeding without difficulty from the sheep.

A suitable frame, A, is provided, consisting of posts *a a*, cross and side beams, *b b c c*, and plates *d d*. The plates are connected with opposite posts by mortises and tenons, or in some equivalent way, so as to be removable.

The under side of the plates and the upper side of the side beams, *c c*, are provided with longitudinal grooves *f f*, in which fit the ends of removable slats *g g g*. The bottoms of these slats are made to abut to hold in place; but at a proper height the sides are cut away, so as to make openings *h h* of sufficient size to admit the heads of the sheep.

The ends of the rack are covered by boards *i i*, which may or may not have a door, as desired, though under ordinary circumstances it is not necessary.

The space inside the rack is divided by boards *k k* into three longitudinal compartments, *l l m*, the two outer ones serving the purpose of racks proper to receive the hay, while the inner one, *m*, answers simply for an alley or passage for the attendant in feeding.

At the inner corners of each compartment *l* are jointed arms *n n*, connecting in a similar manner at the opposite end to a longitudinal grain-trough, *o*. The length of the arms *n n* is such that when turned up, as at the right

hand in Fig. 2, the trough will simply rest upon the edge of the board *k*, where it is retained by a hook and catch, *p*; but when turned down, as at left hand, Fig. 2, the trough will be thrown out against the slats *g g*. This method of hinging the troughs to the arms allows the troughs to be inverted as well as turned right-side up. By thus securing the slats in place in the grooves *f f* of the timbers *c d* we are enabled to make the device portable by taking it apart at any time and packing it in a compact form; and not only this, but the parts can be applied much more expeditiously than if nailed fast, and it is much more effective.

It is only necessary to fit the lower ends of the slats in the groove of beam *c*, and then shut the plate down over them. Thus, if any one slat becomes broken or injured, it can be readily replaced. The lower ends of the slats abutting fill the whole space, and while the sheep are allowed to insert their heads in the openings there is no danger of misplacement of the slats.

By the employment of the central alley, *m*, with the racks *l l* on each side, the attendant is enabled to feed the sheep either with hay or grain without interference or crowding from them. He has simply to step over the end of the rack into the alley, when he is free from all molestation.

In ordinary sheep-racks the feed is inserted from the outside, and, in supplying grain especially, the animals in their eagerness crowd around the attendant in such a manner as not only to seriously impede his action, but frequently to spill the grain. No difficulty can occur from this source in this arrangement.

When the sheep are fed with hay the grain-troughs are turned bottom upward over the boards *k k*, and secured there in such a manner that the hay and dirt cannot enter them, as shown at the right hand in Fig. 2. In feeding with grain the attendant, standing on the inside of the rack, turns the trough over on the board *k*, right-side up, and then fills it properly from end to end. He then simply turns it back against the slats in the position shown at the left hand in Fig. 2, where the sheep can easily reach it. By this arrangement not only is the attendant out of reach of the animals, but the latter commence to eat

at the same moment, and therefore the food is equally distributed.

We are aware of no arrangement where the grain-troughs are employed in connection with a central alley, where the attendant has ready access to the grain-troughs, and can distribute the feed and turn them back at once without molestation.

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

1. The construction of racks for feeding sheep with the sides made up of removable slats *g g*, fitting in grooves *f f* of the timbers *c d*, and retained in place by abutting and filling the

space at the bottom, the whole operating in the manner and for the purpose specified.

2. The combination and arrangement of the grain-troughs *o* and hinged arms *n* with the boards *k k*, forming a central alley, in the manner and for the purpose herein set forth.

3. The special construction and arrangement of the portable sheep-rack, as herein specified.

ERR SKEELS.

DWIGHT SKEELS.

Witnesses:

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