

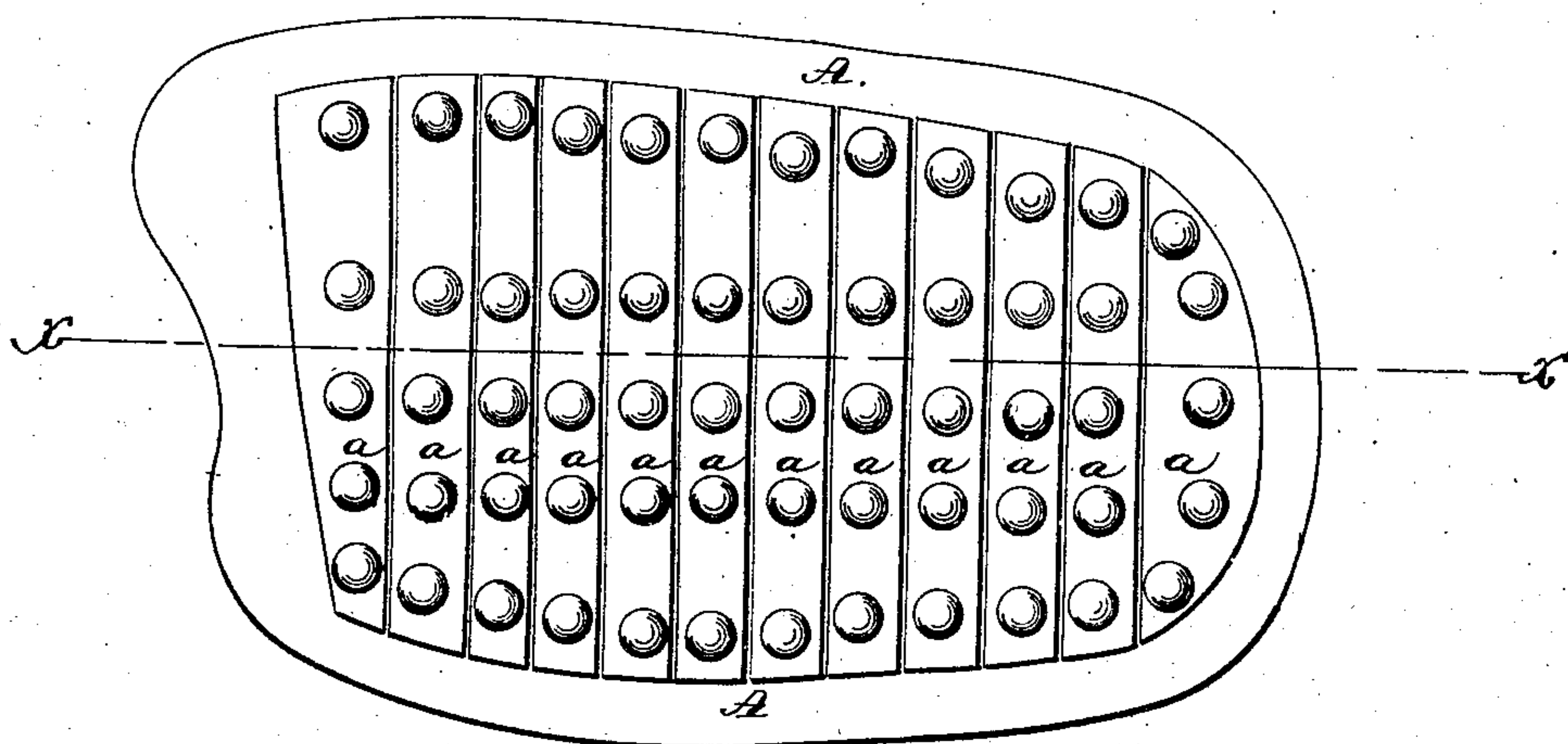
*E. Blakelee,*

*Shoe Sole,*

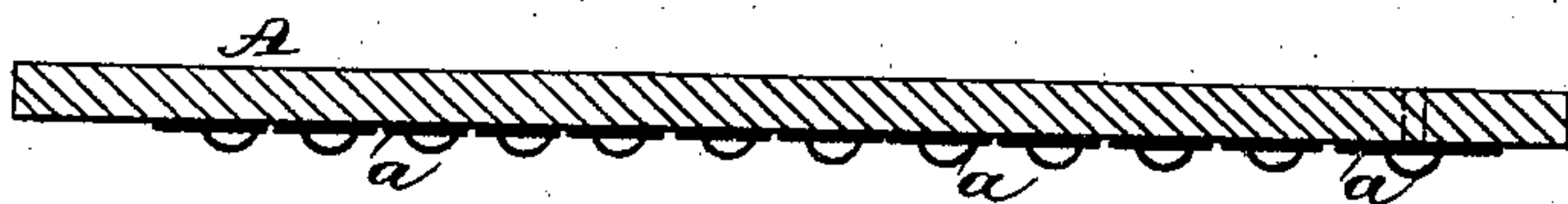
*N<sup>o</sup> 60,466.*

*Patented Dec. 18, 1866.*

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Witnesses:*

*M. A. Heine*

*John H. Shumway*

*Inventor:*

*Erastus Blakelee*  
*By his Attys*

*John E. Earle*

United States Patent Office.

IMPROVEMENT IN METAL PLATED SOLES.

ERASTUS BLAKESLEE, OF PLYMOUTH, CONNECTICUT.

Letters Patent No. 60,466, dated December 18, 1866.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, ERASTUS BLAKESLEE, of Plymouth, in the county of Litchfield, and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Metal Plated Soles; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a view of the outside of the sole; and in

Figure 2, a section on line *z z*.

My invention relates to an improvement in plating soles of boots and shoes with thin metal, and my invention consists in the peculiar manner of plating, whereby the original flexibility of the leather is retained.

To enable others skilled in the art to construct and use my improvement, I will proceed to describe the same, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

From ordinary sole leather I cut the sole, whether it be half sole or whole sole, A, of the usual form and the proper size for the boot or shoe to which it is to be applied. Upon the outside of the sole thus formed, I secure narrow strips of sheet metal, *a*, covering the sole nearly to the edge, as seen in fig. 1. These strips I secure by oval-headed or other nails extending through the sole, and riveted upon the inside. The strips being narrow and running crosswise of the sole, the sole retains the same flexibility that it had before the application of the plate. By thus plating the sole, I am enabled to plate the soles before application to the boot or shoe. Soles for boots and shoes have been plated by applying thereto a plate in a single piece nearly covering the sole, which makes the sole very stiff and uncomfortable for the wearer; or India-rubber soles have been plated, the plate being cut so as to cover the edge of the sole and leave portions of the face of the sole exposed, as in the patent of Edward G. Kinsley, October 8th, 1861, which is but little less rigid than the single plate, and very little if any protection to the face of the sole.

I do not therefore broadly claim a metal plated sole, but what I do claim as new and useful, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

Plating soles for boots and shoes with strips of metal, when the said strips are formed and arranged so as to completely cover the face of the sole, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

ERASTUS BLAKESLEE.

Witnesses:

JOHN E. EARLE,  
M. A. HINE.