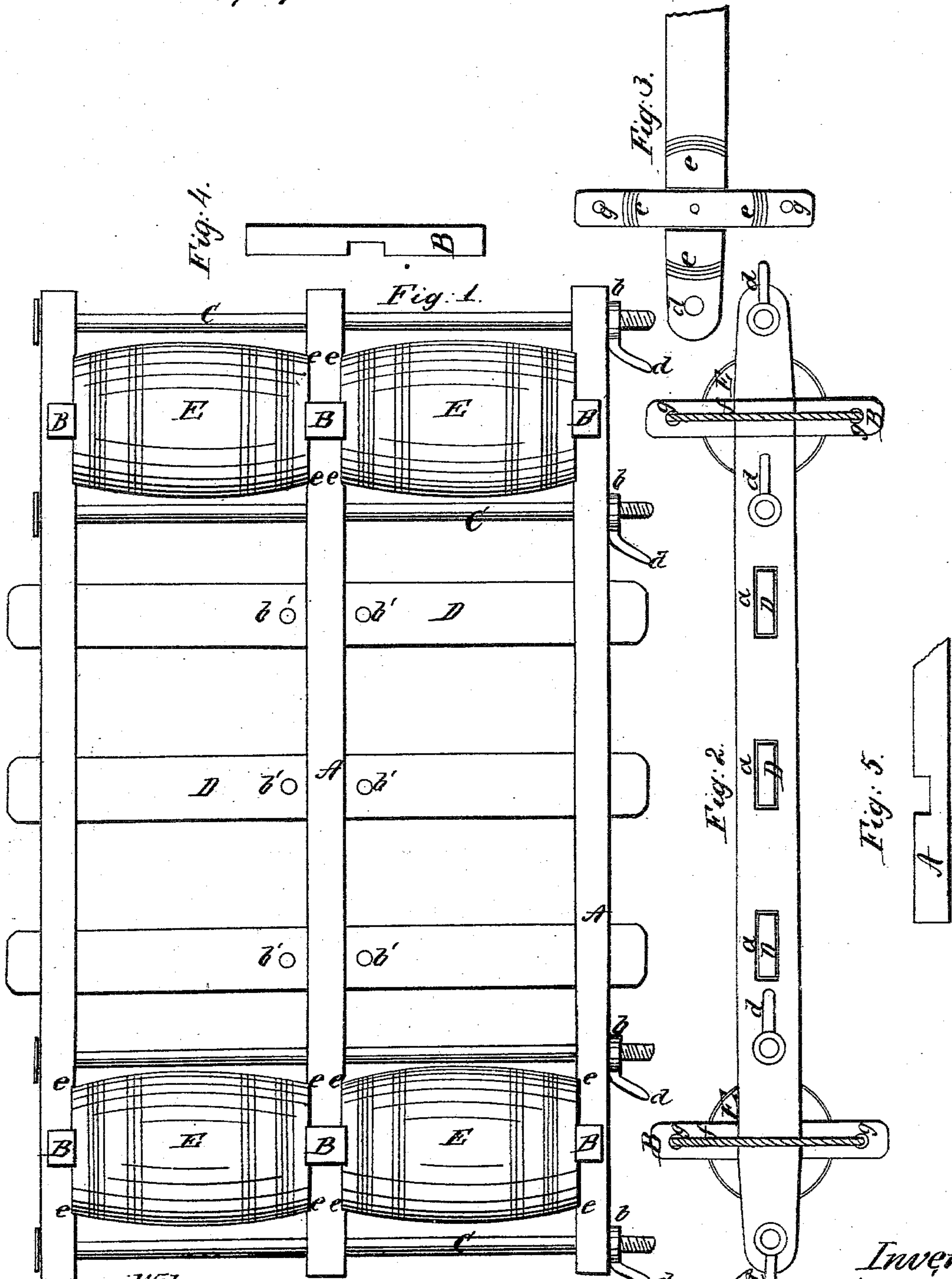


*C. W. Wailey*  
*Life Preserving Raft.*  
*Nº 62,909.      Patented Mar. 12, 1867.*



*Witnesses.*  
*Geo. M. Gill*  
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*C. W. Wailey*  
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# United States Patent Office

C. W. WAILEY, OF NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

Letters Patent No. 62,909, dated March 12, 1867.

## IMPROVEMENT IN LIFE-PRESERVING RAFTS.

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, C. W. WAILEY, of New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana, have invented a new and useful Life-Preserving Raft; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this application.

My invention has for its object the production of a life-preserving raft, which shall be simple in its construction, and at the same time require but little space on board vessels.

I am fully aware that very many inventions have been made having for their object the preservation of life upon the water, and that many of them have been used with comparative success.

Similar letters of reference denote like parts in the different figures.

Figure 1 is a plan-view of my invention.

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the same; and

Figures 3, 4, and 5 are detailed views, showing the manner in which the parts are fitted together.

A A A are three simple bars or scantling, constructed as shown, with cross-pieces, B B B, (the bars and cross-pieces having one or more concentric V-shaped grooves, *c c*, &c., to receive the chime of the barrels,) mortises, *a a a*, and holes, *b b b*, &c., for the reception of the bolts C C C C, which are provided at one end with a screw-thread of any sufficient length to be adapted by washers to suit barrels of different lengths, provided with hand-nuts, *d d d d*, capable of being turned by the hand. D D D are three slats, which are made capable of being passed through the mortises, *a a a*, &c., with pin holes, *b'*, at the points designated. E E E E are ordinary barrels, such as are used for carrying provisions, whisky, wine, &c., and *e e e*, &c., are several V-shaped grooves, parallel to each other, to receive the chimes of barrels of different diameters. *f f* are guard-ropes, cut to the proper length beforehand. The several parts, except the barrels, are stored away in bundles, and when at any time it becomes evident that the vessel must be abandoned, several men can, in a very few moments, easily construct a life-preserver or raft, which will be strong and durable, and upon which they stand a better chance for safety than any other now known or used. Four oars or a sail may be put up with the bundles, which are tied up with the ropes which are used for guard-ropes. When it is necessary to make the raft or life-preserver, all that it is necessary to do is to place the three bars upon the deck, empty four barrels, (barrels, however, may be constructed especially for and carried with the raft,) and place the chimes within the V-shaped grooves, put the rods and slats in their relative positions, when the whole is tightened by means of the hand-nuts; the ropes are then passed through their bearings and secured, when the whole is ready for use. It will be seen that, if desirable, many of these rafts may be lashed together, thus securing additional safety. The cross-pieces are lapped on to the bars A A A in such manner as may seem best. I prefer to secure them, as shown, by mortising, as they are then capable of being held in place when the whole framework shall have been tightened by the screw-nuts *d d d d*, &c. Various and sundry rope-handles may be provided at different points.

I do not wish to limit myself to the exact number of barrels or pieces described, as it is evident that I may deviate in this respect without departing from the spirit of my invention. One or more of the barrels may be provided with water-tight lids for the purpose of carrying breadstuff; they may, however, carry sufficient fresh water without altering them at all. It will be seen that, should the raft be overturned by a heavy sea, the opposite side will be exactly similar to the one just submerged, and the openings through which the fresh water or provisions are conducted, will then be below the surface of the water. This evil can, however, be easily overcome, as all that is necessary is simply to turn the hand-nuts *d d d*, &c., in a reverse direction; the framework is thus lessened sufficiently to admit of the barrels being turned in the V-shaped grooves, and at the same time not allowing them to become disengaged from the framework. Four ordinary forty-gallon whisky barrels thus secured, will sustain easily a weight of twelve hundred (1,200) pounds or more, and at the same time contain a full supply of water and provisions for several days. This same principle may be advantageously employed in the construction of pontoon bridges.

Having fully described the construction and arrangement of my improved life-preserver, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A life-preserving raft, embracing the combination of the bars A A A with cross-pieces B B B, &c., (so grooved as to receive the chime of a barrel,) and mortises *a a a*; the slats D D D with pin holes and pins, the ropes *f f*, the bolts C C C C, with hand-nuts *d d d d*, and the barrels E E E E, all arranged and constructed as specified for the purpose hereinbefore set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 23d day of October, 1866.

C. W. WAILEY.

Witnesses:

C. F. MCGILL,

GEO. W. MCGILL.