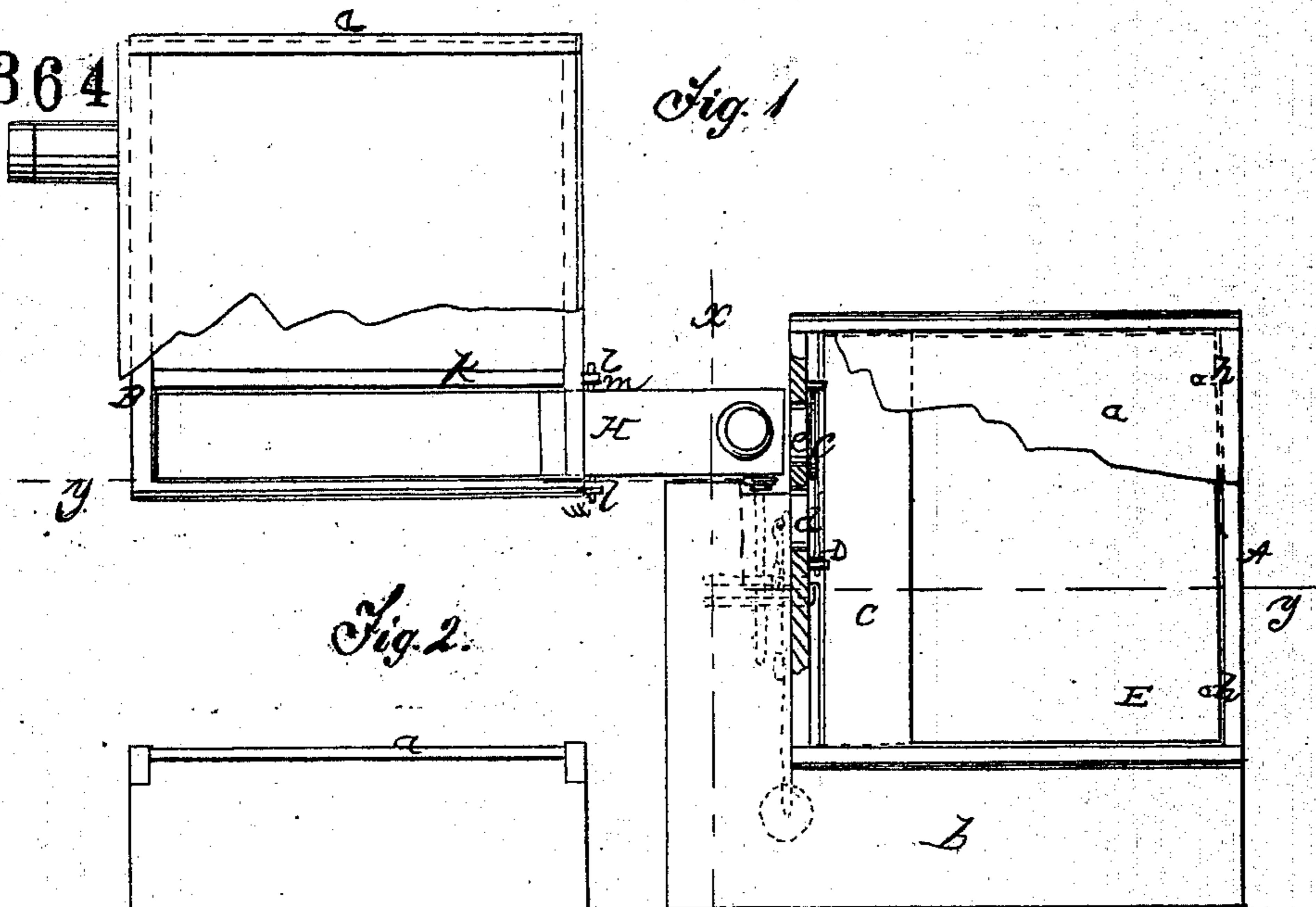


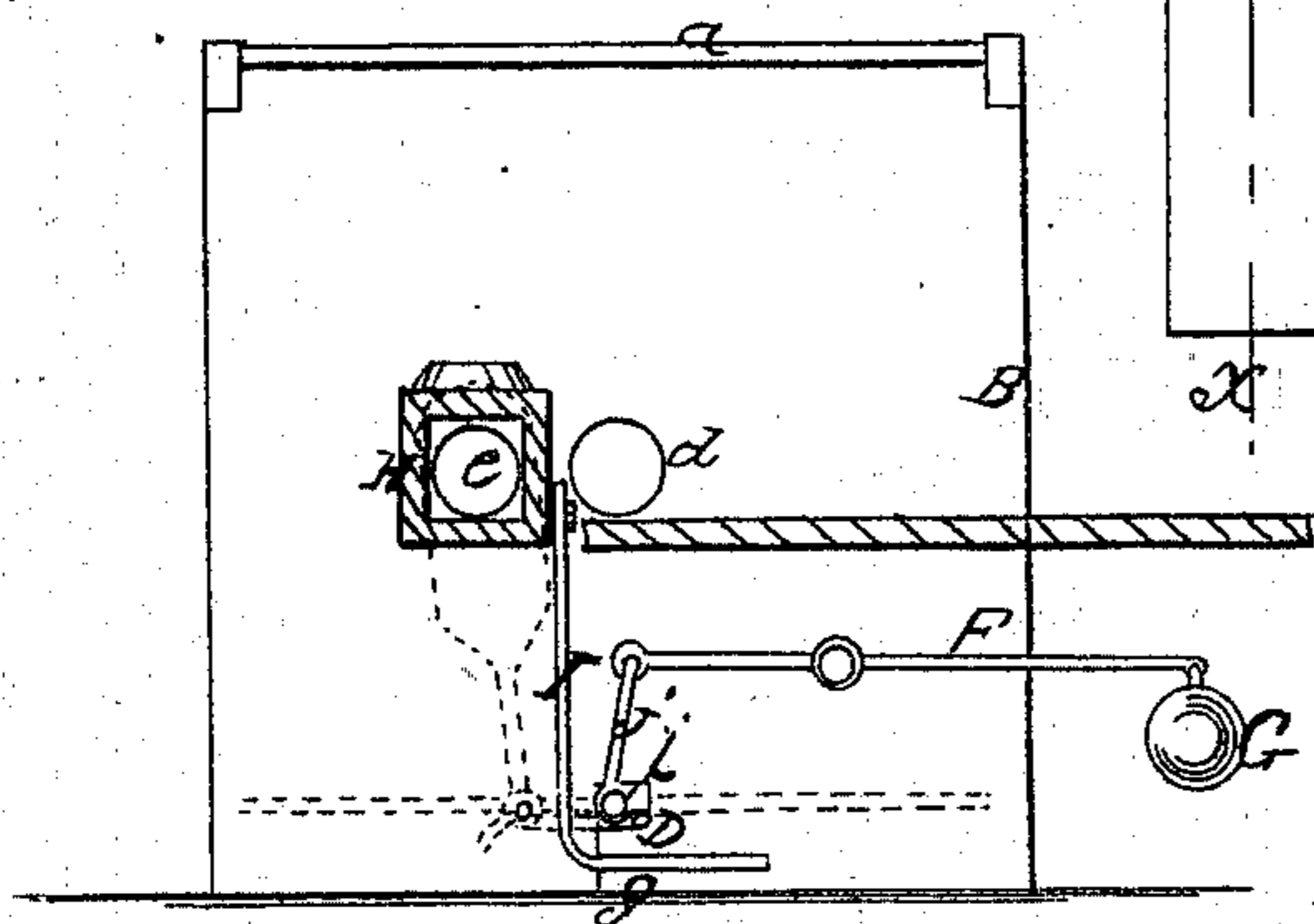
PATENTED

*J. W. Churchill's Animal Trap.* NOV 26 1867

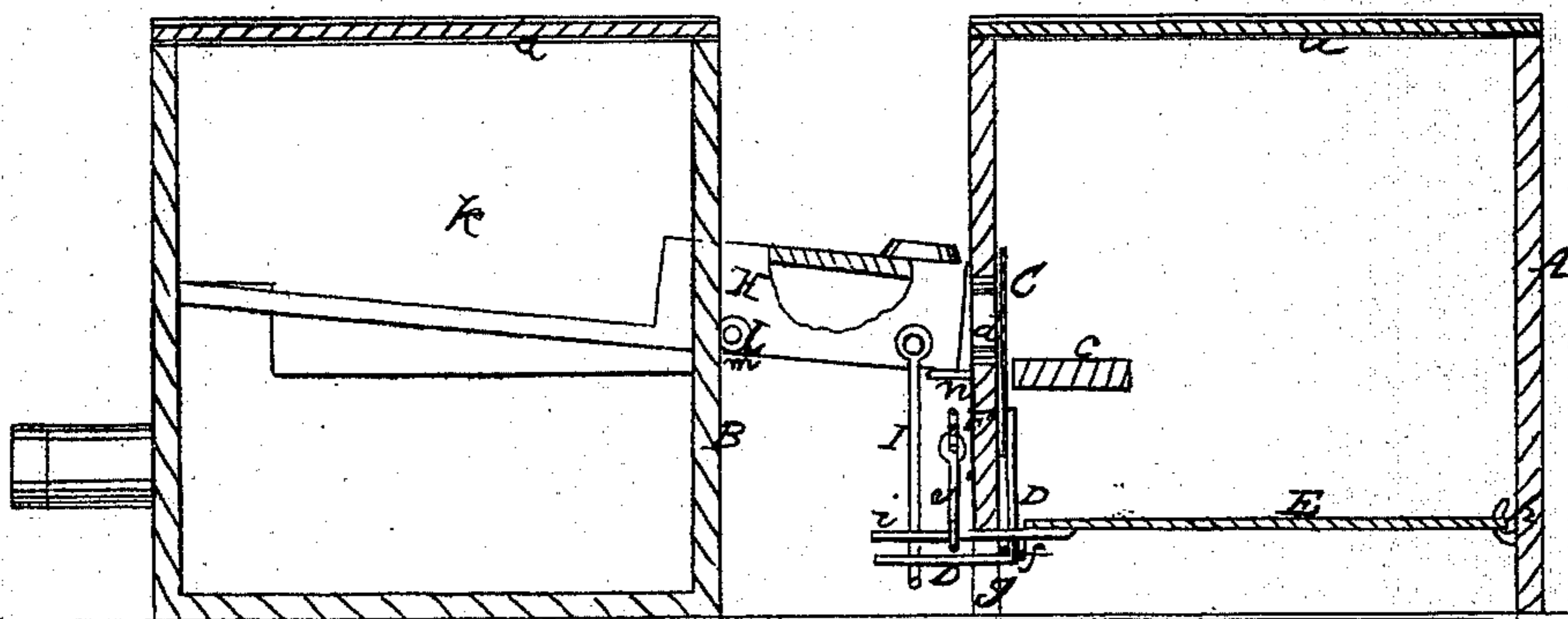
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*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



Witnesses,  
*Thos. Trushe*  
*W. Brown*

Inventor.  
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Per *Mumford*  
*Attorneys*

# United States Patent Office.

J. W. CHURCHILL, OF PITSTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

*Letters Patent No. 71,364, dated November 26, 1867.*

## IMPROVED ANIMAL-TRAP.

*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, J. W. CHURCHILL, of Pittston, in the county of Luzerne, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and improved Animal-Trap; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

This invention relates to a new and improved animal-trap, of that class which are commonly termed self-setting; and it consists of a peculiar construction and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter fully shown and described, whereby a very simple and efficient trap of the class specified is obtained. In the accompanying sheet of drawings—

Figure 1 is a plan or top view of my invention partly in section.

Figure 2, a transverse vertical section of the same, taken in the line *x x*, fig. 1.

Figure 3, a longitudinal vertical section of the same, taken in the line *y y*, fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A B represent the boxes, of quadrilateral form, and secured to a base-piece, so as to be permanently connected together. These boxes may be provided with sliding glass tops *a a*, and one of the boxes A has a platform, *b*, secured to the exterior of two of its sides, and a platform, *c*, is placed within box A at one side, a hole, *d*, being made in one side of said box to admit of an animal passing through it into the box from the platform *b* to platform *c*. Besides the hole *d*, there is another one, *e*, of the same size, made in the same side of the box; and C is a door or slide by which either of the holes *d* or *e* may be covered or closed, one being open when the other is closed. The lower end of the door or slide C is connected to the upper end of a bent lever, D, which works on a pivot, *f*, and has its lower part extending through a notch, *g*, in the lower edge of the box A. The bottom of this box A is composed of a platform, E, hinged or jointed at *h*, and it has a rod, *i*, attached to its free or disengaged end, which rod extends through the notch *g*, and passes through the lower end of a link, *j*, the upper end of the latter being connected to a pivoted bar, F, which has a weight, G, on its outer end; the weight G having a tendency to keep the hinged bottom E raised to its fullest extent. The box B has a partition, *k*, fitted vertically within it, said partition extending down below a tilting or balance passage, H, one end of which is directly in front of the hole *e* in the side of box A. This passage is provided with pivots or journals *l*, which are fitted in bearings *m*, attached to box B, the passage H passing through a hole in B, and extending the whole length of the chamber formed by the partition *k* in B. The passage H in B is not covered, nor is it required to be; it is only covered at the exposed part between A B. The exposed end of the passage H has a pendent-rod, I, attached, the lower end of which is bent so as to project underneath the ends of the rod *i*, and bent lever D, (see figs. 2 and 3.)

When the trap is first set, the door *c* is over the hole *e*, which is in line with the passage H, and the animal can pass from platform *b* through the hole D upon platform *c*, and then return again; in fact pass in and out from box A without any difficulty whatever. This prevents suspicion, and the animal being reassured, will spring from platform *c* down upon the bottom E, in search of food, which may be placed on E or in any portion of box A or B. In springing on the bottom E, the door C is closed over the hole *d*, by the action of the rod *i* on the bent lever D, and egress from box A is not allowed the animal, which immediately passes into H, the hole *e* being uncovered as *d* is covered. The animal, in passing through H, tilts, by its own gravity, the uncovered end of H within box B downward, the outer end of H being thereby elevated, and the lower end of the rod *i* raising the rod *i*, and the lower end of the bent lever D, so that the door C will be thrown back over the hole *e*, and the platform E elevated, the hole *d* being uncovered to admit a succeeding animal. The animal, as the passage in box B is depressed or tilted down, jumps into the large compartment formed by the partition *k*, a notch being made in the lower edge of the partition *k* to admit of the animal passing through. The outer or covered part of the passage H tilts downward as soon as the animal jumps off from its uncovered part, the covered part being slightly the heaviest, and resting against a stop, *u*. The weight G of rod I serves as a counterpoise for the platform.

It will be seen, therefore, that the device is self-setting, is simple in construction, and economical to construct.

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

1. The pivoted passage H, arranged in relation with the two boxes A B, the door C, and the two holes *d e* in box A, substantially in the manner as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The hinged platform E, counterpoised as shown, and provided with the rod *i*, in combination with the pendent-rod I attached to the passage H, and the bent lever D, to which the door C is attached, all being arranged to operate in the manner substantially as and for the purpose specified.

3. The platforms *b c*, in combination with the two holes *d e*, and the passage H, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

J. W. CHURCHILL.

Witnesses:

JAMES SEARL,

W. H. STETLER.