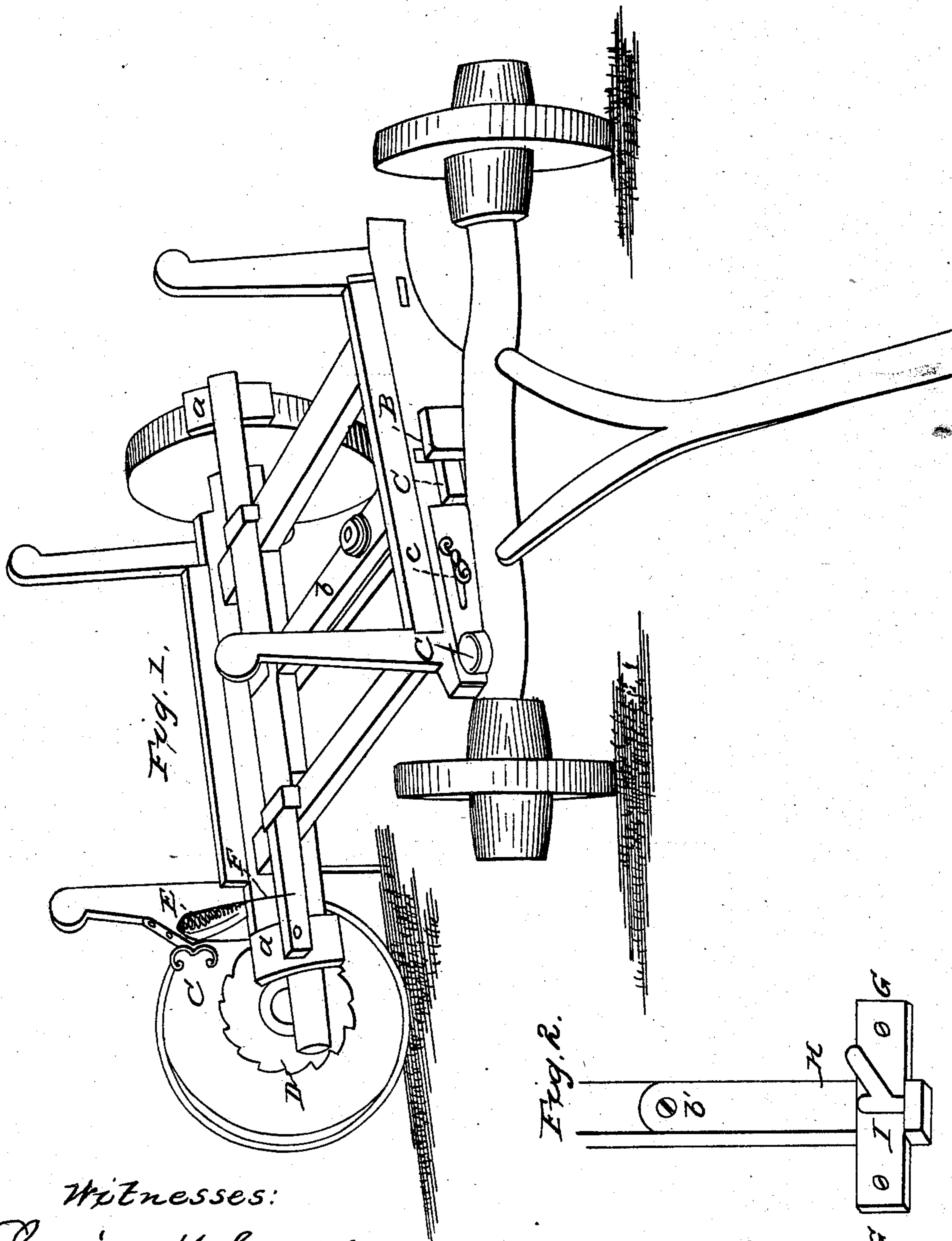


B. F. WHEELER.

Wagon Brake.

No. 74,462.

Patented Feb. 11, 1868.



Witnesses:

Charles H. Smith
Remy Canal

Inventor:

Benjamin F. Wheeler.

United States Patent Office.

BENJAMIN F. WHEELER, OF CALAIS, VERMONT.

Letters Patent No. 74,462, dated February 11, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN WAGON-BRAKE.

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, BENJAMIN F. WHEELER, of Calais, in the county of Washington, and State of Vermont, have invented a new and improved Self-Acting Brake for Carriages and Sleds; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention, one of the hind wheels being removed to show the construction.

Figure 2 is a perspective view, showing the under side of the rocker-plate.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the two figures.

This invention relates to an improved self-acting carriage-brake, and it consists in providing the brake-bar with a handle or bar, extending to the forward bolster or rocker, and so connected to the reach and king-bolt that, as the hind wheels of the wagon are pressed forward, the bar will slide upon the reach, and the brake-shoes be brought in contact with the hind wheels. It also consists in a latch or catch attached to the forward bolster for controlling the operation of the brake, and in the means employed to prevent the backing of the carriage in ascending a hill.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

I construct the wagon with one, two, or three reaches, connecting the hind wheels with the rocker, as represented in the drawings. Beneath the rocker there is a rocker-plate, with a hole in the centre of the same, about one inch by about three inches, through which the king-bolt, that is attached to the handle of the brake, passes. The brake extends across the reaches, in front of the hind wheels, with dogs about one or two inches distant from each wheel, represented by the letter *a* in the drawings. A handle extends from the middle of the brake to within a few inches of the rocker, and beyond a hole in the middle reach, corresponding in size and shape with the hole in the rocker-plate, and a strap of iron or other metal, about two and a half to four inches wide, extends from near the end of the wooden part of the handle through the rocker, and down round between the rocker and rocker-plate, back as far as the other end of the strap, and a bolt passes through the hole in the reach above mentioned, connecting the two ends of the strap, and is represented by the letters *b B* in the drawings. The strap projects about two inches in front of the rocker, when the brake is not operating upon the wheels. A movable wedge or key, represented by the letters *C c C* in the drawings, is attached to the front of the rocker in such a manner that it may be slid into the hole between the strap and the rocker, to facilitate the backing of the carriage, by preventing the operation of the brake. The strap plays back and forth in the rocker to the extent of the hole in the rocker-plate, thereby causing the brake to operate. The letters *G G* represent the rocker-plate, the letter *I* represents the hole in the rocker-plate, and the letter *H* the king-bolt. On the inside of one of the hind wheels I put a rag-wheel, represented by the letter *D* in the drawings, with a dog, represented by the letters *e E*, to prevent the carriage from running back, when I desire to go up-hill, to which dog I attach a spiral wire, represented by the letter *F*, to regulate the dog by means of the brake.

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

1. The movable handle of the brake, in combination with the slotted central reach metal loop and strap *B b*, forward slotted rocker and the king-bolt, and slotted rocker-plate, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

2. In combination with the above, I claim the sliding key *C c C*, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

3. In combination with a wagon-brake, the rag-wheel *D*, dog *E*, and coiled spring *F*, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

BENJAMIN F. WHEELER.

Witnesses:

ORAMEL H. SMITH,
RODNY LAND.