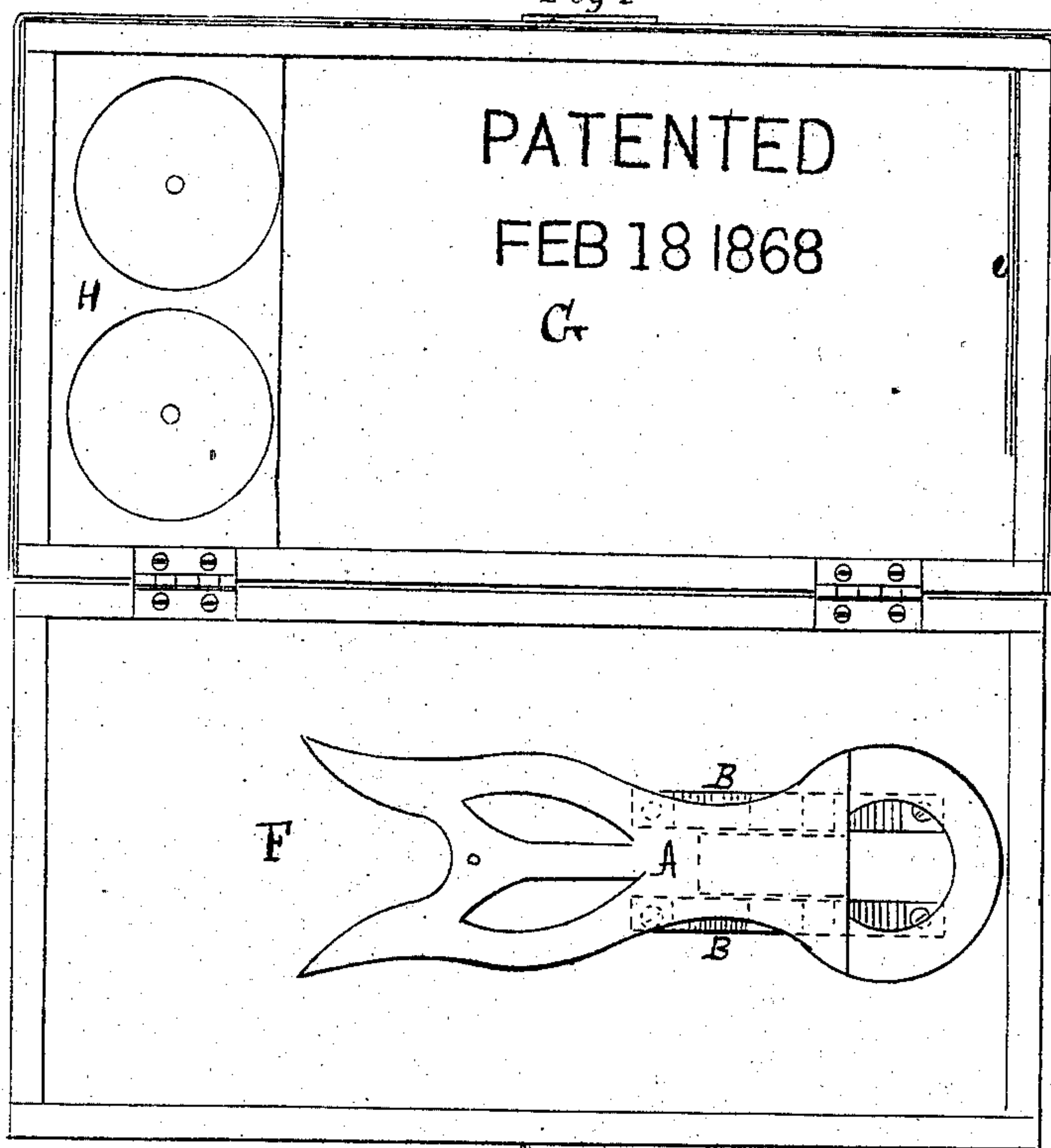


# John Vandercar. Imp<sup>t</sup> in Boot Blacking Apparatus.

Assigned to Thaddeus B. Beecher.

Fig 1



74637

Fig 2 .

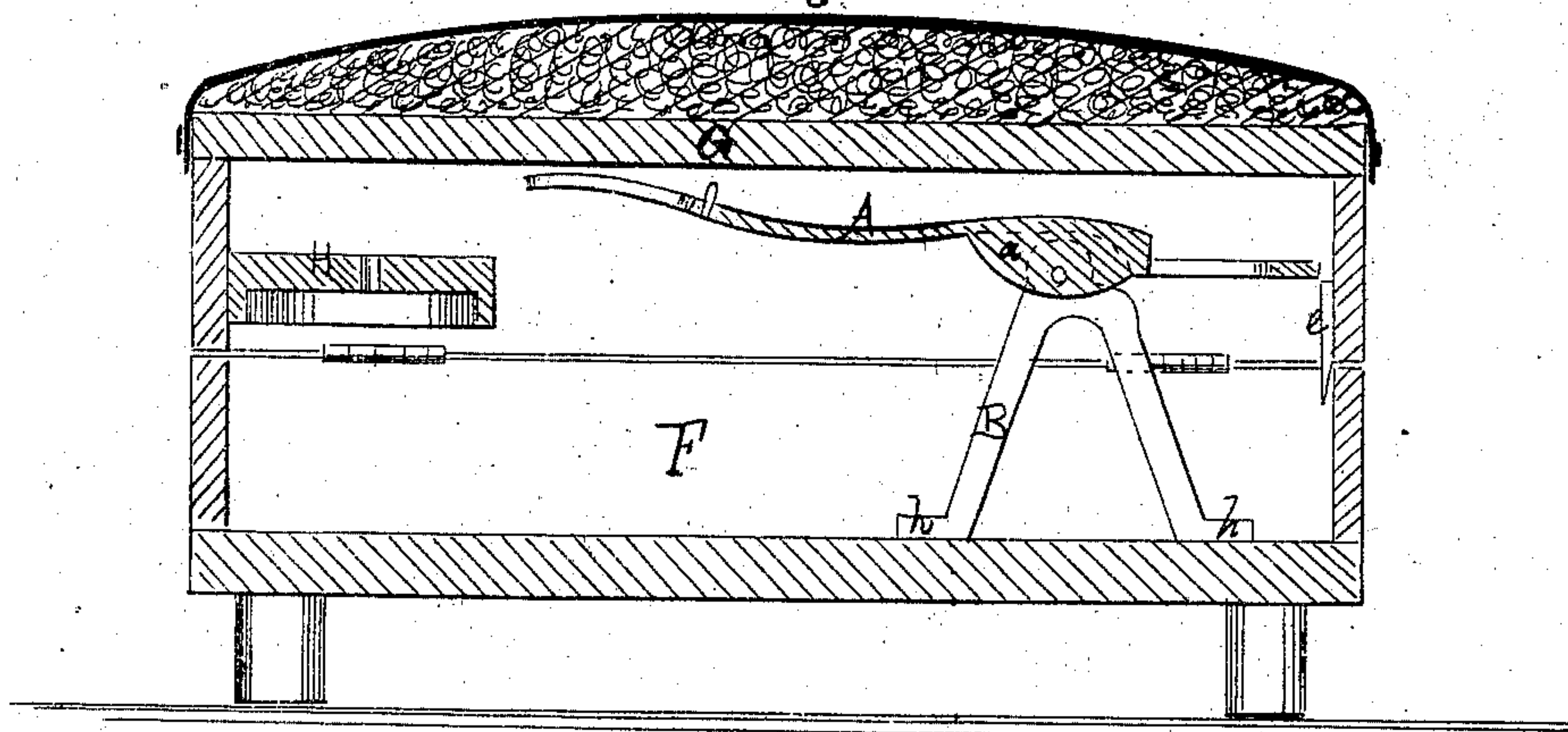
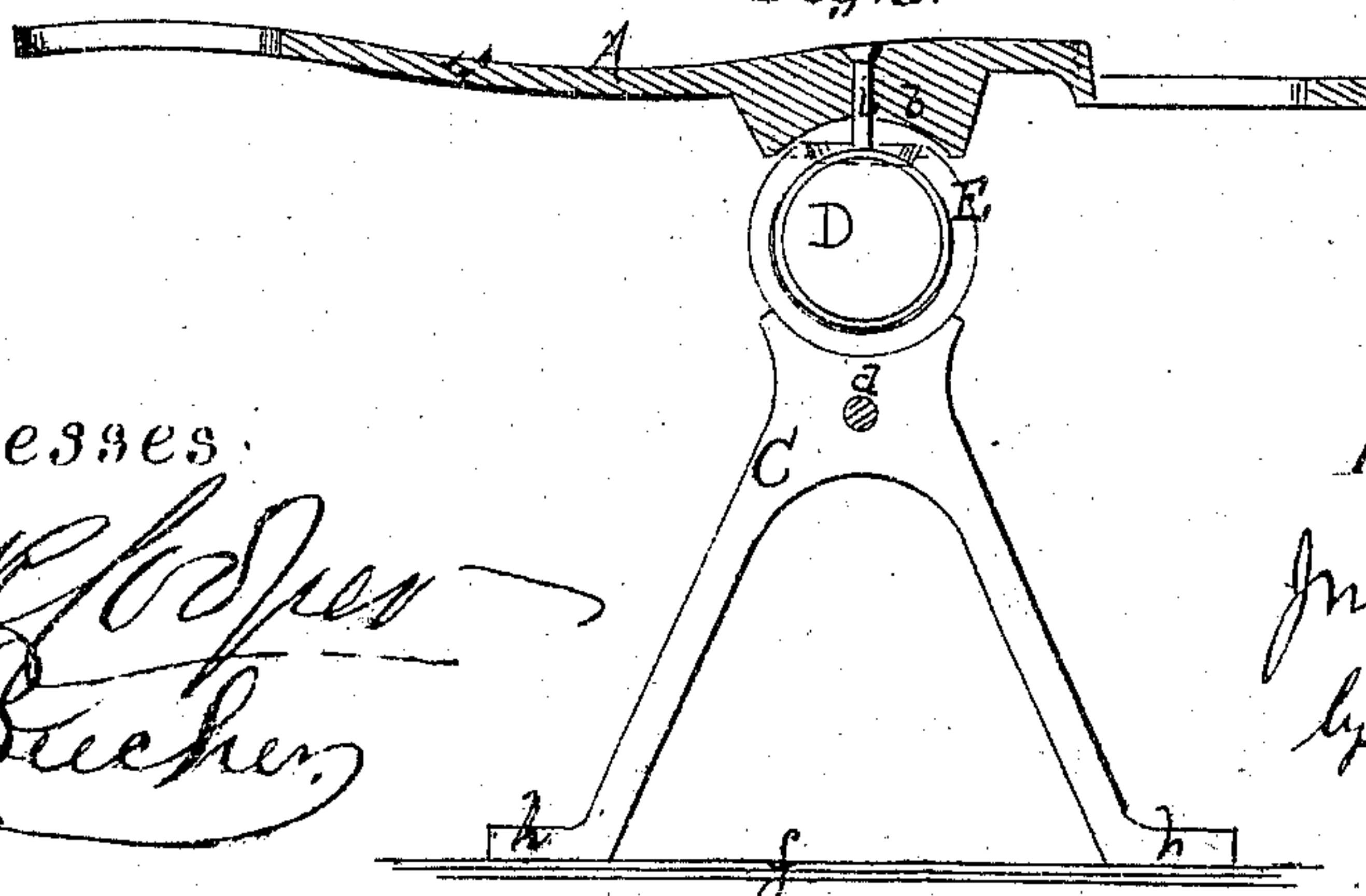


Fig 3.



Witnesses.

*Wm R. Cooper*  
*T. B. Beecher*

Inventor.

*John Vandercar*  
by *H. M. Linsington*  
Attorney



# United States Patent Office.

JOHN VANDERCAR, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO THADDEUS B. BEECHER, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

*Letters Patent No. 74,637, dated February 18, 1868.*

## IMPROVED BOOT-BLACKING APPARATUS.

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, JOHN VANDERCAR, of the city of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Boot-Blackening Apparatus; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawing, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of my invention.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal vertical section thereof, taken on the plane of the line *xx*, fig. 1, showing the foot-rest pivoted to the standard.

Figure 3 is a longitudinal vertical section of another manner of attaching the foot-rest to the standard, namely, by a ball-socket joint.

My invention consists in connecting the foot-rest to the standard by means of a ball-socket joint, whereby the foot may be rocked in order to bring the toe, heel, or either side of the boot in the most convenient position for blacking the same.

In figs. 1 and 2, *A* designates the foot-rest, which, in the present instance, is shaped so as to permit the curvatures of the sole and the heel of the boot to fit snugly thereto, and is also made with a bifurcated forward end to serve the purpose of a boot-jack. And the said foot-rest also carries in the present instance a lug, *a*, at a point which would correspond to the shank of a boot, which lug extends downward. *B B* are two standards, each of which in the present instance consists of two legs provided with feet, *h*, through which screws may pass to secure them to the board or bed-piece on which they are to rest, and these legs or standards are connected together at their tops. The foot-rest is secured to these legs by a pivot which passes through the top of said legs or standards and through the lug *a*, the latter being between the legs or standards. In order to prevent the foot-rest being tilted too far down at the heel, when it is desirable to use the foot-rest as a boot-jack, I cast the standards or legs with a shoulder at their top, against which the foot-rest bears when tilted sufficiently for the purpose just alluded to. It is therefore evident that the foot-rest can be rocked so as to bring the toe or heel up, for the purpose of enabling a person the more readily to reach such parts of the boot for blacking the same. It is intended to make the foot-rest and legs of cast iron, and there being but three pieces, the article can be produced very cheaply indeed.

In fig. 3, *A* also designates the foot-rest, which is shown as similar to that in the two other figures. *C* designates the legs, having feet as in the previous instance. Each pair carries at its top the half of a ball-socket, *E*. The foot-rest carries on its under side a lug, *b*, whose lower face is hollowed out to fit on the top of the socket *E E*, and bear against it whichever way the foot-rest is rocked. *D* is the ball, of a proper size to fit into the socket to constitute a "ball-socket joint," so called, and it is connected to the foot-rest, or rather to the lug *b* by a shank, *i*, extending from one of its sides up to the said foot-rest. The opening in the top of the socket is sufficiently large to allow a proper swing to the foot-rest, before the said shank strikes the sides of the opening, to allow the said foot-rest to be canted sufficiently far on either side to bring that side of the boot, when placed thereon, up to a more accessible position for blacking the same, and also to allow the heel or toe to be rocked sufficiently far for the same purpose. The two legs are held together by a bolt, *d*, or in any other suitable manner to keep the two halves of the socket closed together.

The manner herein described of mounting a foot-rest enables a person to black his own boots with far greater ease than when he places his foot upon a fixed object. He can swing or cant the boot in any direction to bring the most inaccessible parts in a most convenient position to be reached by the brush; and moreover, when blacking his own boots, in order to get at one side, near the shank of the boot, it is necessary to rest the other side of the boot upon something, and thus mar or take away the polish, whereas with the latter form of rest this can be done without bringing the polished side in contact with the object on which the boot rests.

In figs. 1 and 2 I have shown the foot-rest *A B* as secured in a box or blacking-case; *F* being the box, and *G* the cover. This article can have a stuffed top, as shown, and when closed present the appearance of an ottoman. I have shown a scraper, *e*, affixed to one end of the cover, and a receptacle, *H*, for the box of black-

ing and its cover, the latter to contain water. The two latter can be kept in place by a slide arranged to shove over them. The brushes can be placed in the box under the foot-rest. I thus provide a boot-blackening apparatus which can be cheaply constructed, and is ornamental in a gentleman's room.

In fig. 3 I have shown the foot-rest A C secured to a board, *f*, which provides a most simple and cheap apparatus.

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

Connecting the foot-rest of a boot-blackening apparatus or device to its standard-legs or supports by a ball-socket joint, substantially as herein specified.

JOHN VANDERCAR.

Witnesses:

JOHN R. COOPER,

M. M. LIVINGSTON.