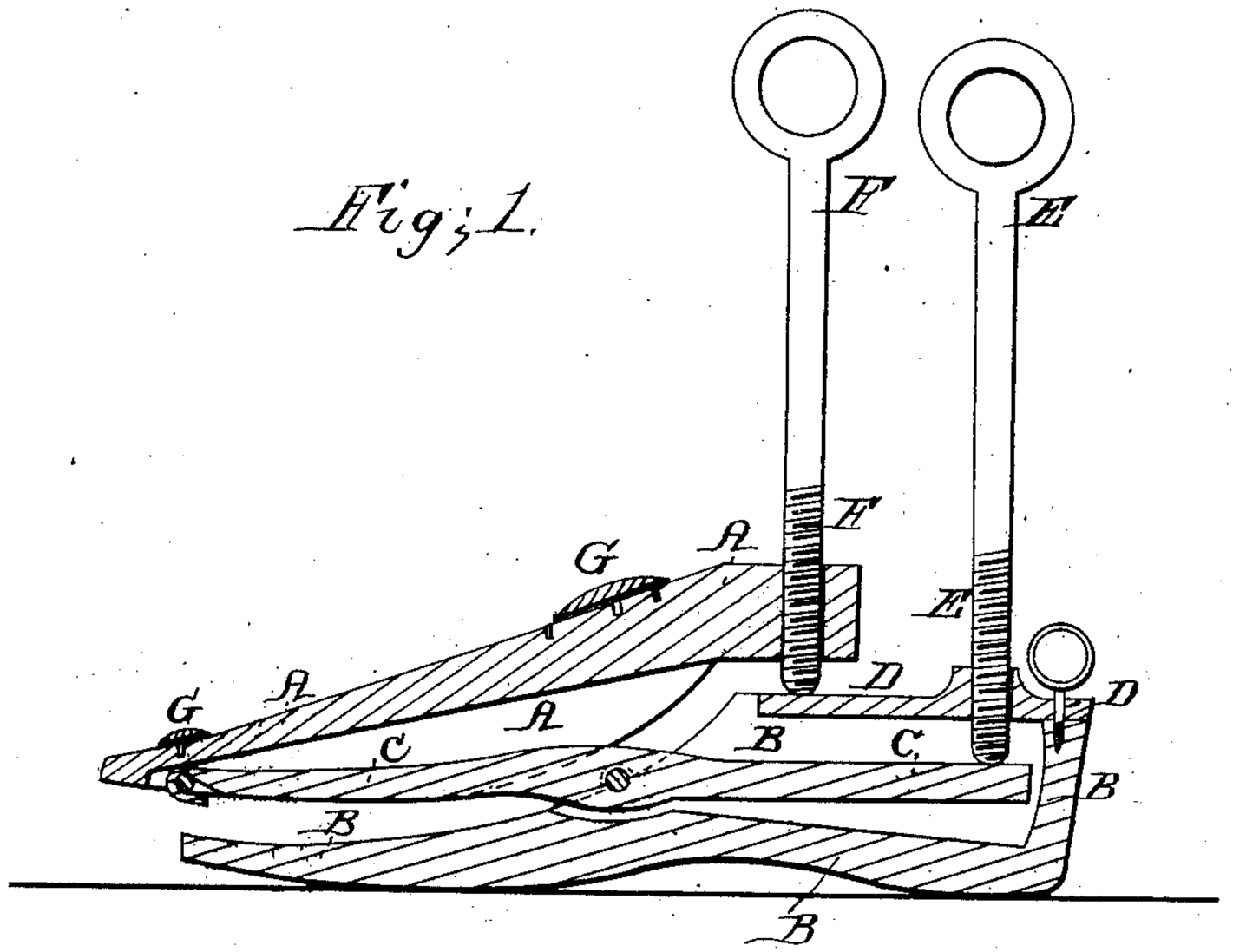
W. Frederick,

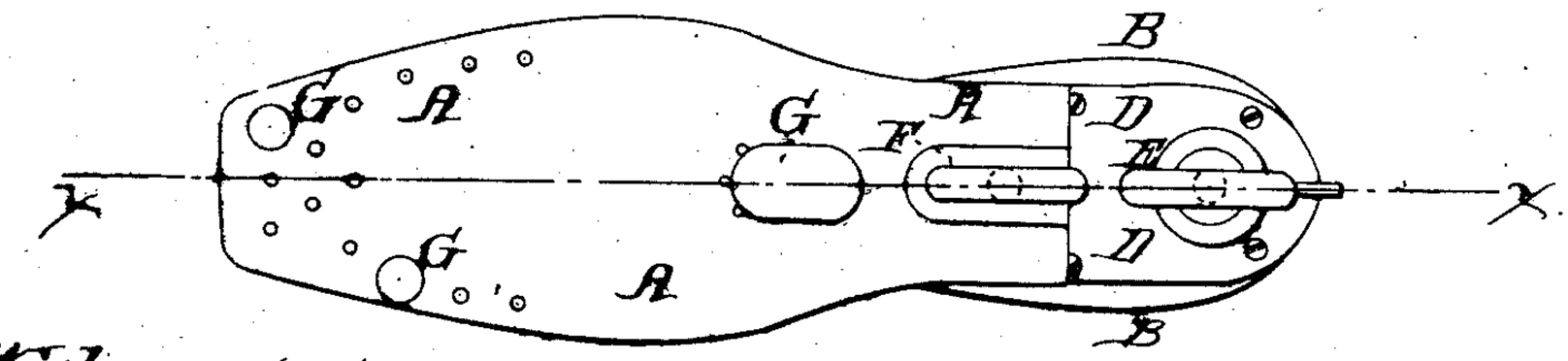
Boot Tree,

No. 76,431, Patented Apr. 7, 1868.

Fig; 1.



Fig; 2.



Witnesses;

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Wm Tremmi

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WILLIAM FREDERICK, OF POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA.

Letters Patent No. 76,431, *dated April* 7, 1868.

IMPROVED BOOT AND SHOE-STRETCHER.

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, WILLIAM FREDERICK, of Pottsville, in the county of Schuylkill, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and improved Boot and Shoe-Stretcher; 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, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section of my improved stretcher, taken through the line *x x*, fig. 2.

Figure 2 is a top view of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

My invention has for its object to furnish a simple and convenient instrument for stretching the toe and instep of boots and shoes, either at the same time or separately, as may be desired or necessary; and it consists in the combination of a lever and screw with the upper and lower parts of the last, as hereinafter more fully described.

A is the upper, and B is the lower part of the last, which two parts are so formed as to fit each other exactly. The lower side of the upper part A is hollowed out for the reception of the lever C in such a way that the sides of said part may project down at the sides of said lever, as shown in fig. 1. The rear part of the lower part B is chambered out for the reception of the rear end of the lever C. D is a plate covering the chamber in the rear part of the lower part B, and which is screwed fast to the upper edges of the said part B. The plate D has a hole through it for the passage of the screw E, which said hole has a screw-thread cut in its sides, into which the screw E fits. The lever C is pivoted near the middle of the last to the sides of the part B, or to ears attached to said part; and its forward end may be pivoted or hinged to the forward end of the upper part A, as shown in fig. 1; or, if desired, the forward end of the lever may be left free, and the forward ends of the parts A and B connected to each other by a double hinge. The construction first described is the one that I prefer. E is a screw, having a long shank, upon the lower end of which a screw-thread is cut, fitting into the hole in the plate D.

By screwing the screw E down, its lower end comes in contact with the upper side of the rear end of the lever C, depressing it, and raising the forward end of said lever. This forces the forward ends of the parts A and B apart, stretching the toe of the boot or shoe to any desired amount.

F is a screw, having a long shank, with a screw-thread cut upon its lower end. The screw F screws down through a hole in the rear part of the upper part A, and by screwing it down with its lower end against the plate D, the rear end of the part A will be forced up, stretching the instep of the boot or shoe. G are bunions, having short stems upon their lower sides, fitting into holes formed in various parts of the upper part A, so that their positions may be shifted as desired.

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

The combination of the lever C and screw E with the parts A and B of the last, substantially as herein shown and described, and for the purpose set forth.

WILLIAM FREDERICK.

Witnesses:

THOMAS I. FITZSIMMONS,

JOHN C. CONRAD.