

A. Bertram,

Wooden Boot and Shoe Shank.

N^o 79941.

Patented July 14, 1868.

Fig: 1.

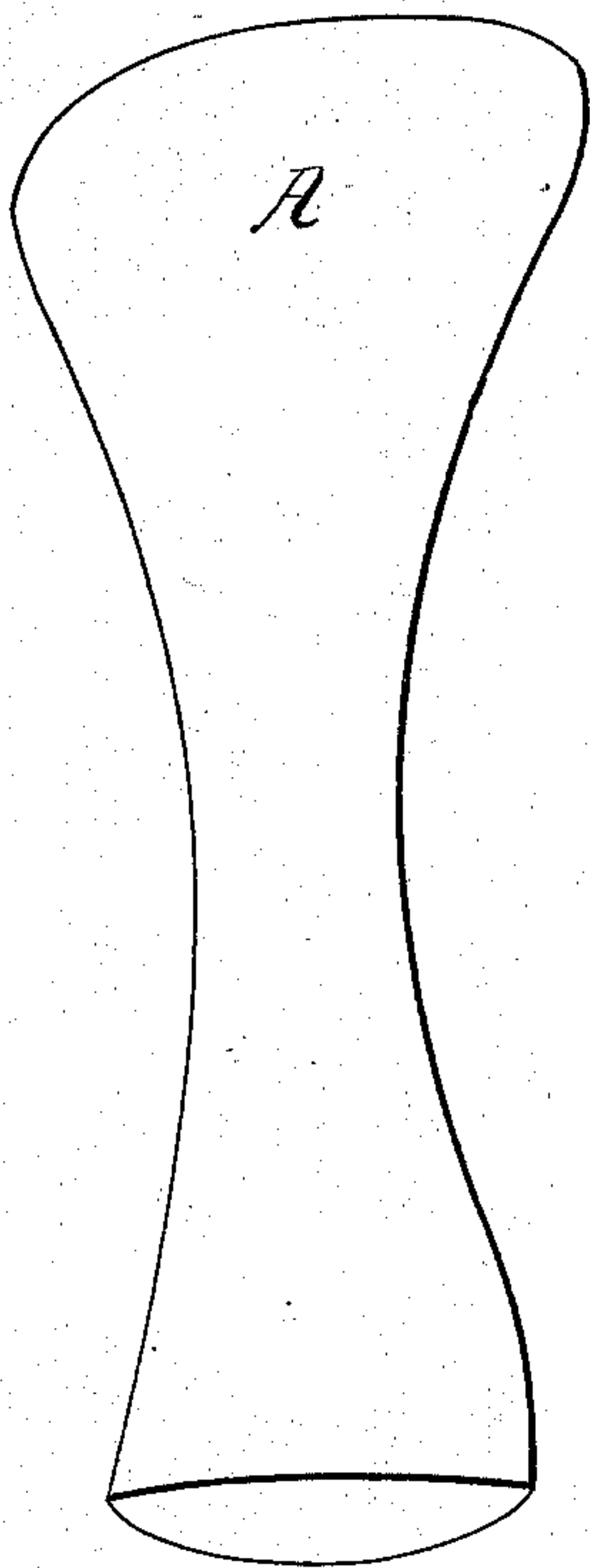


Fig: 2.

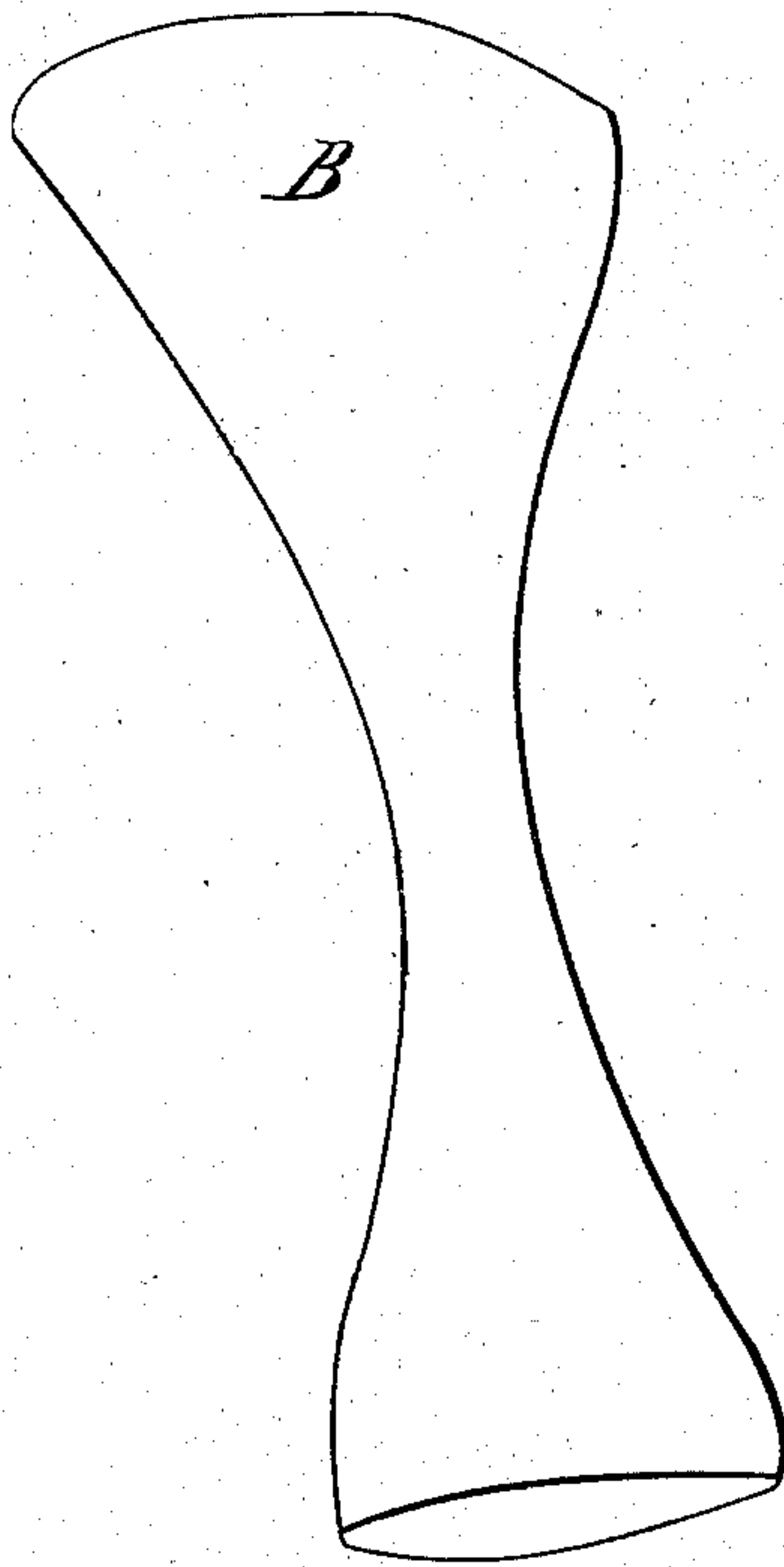
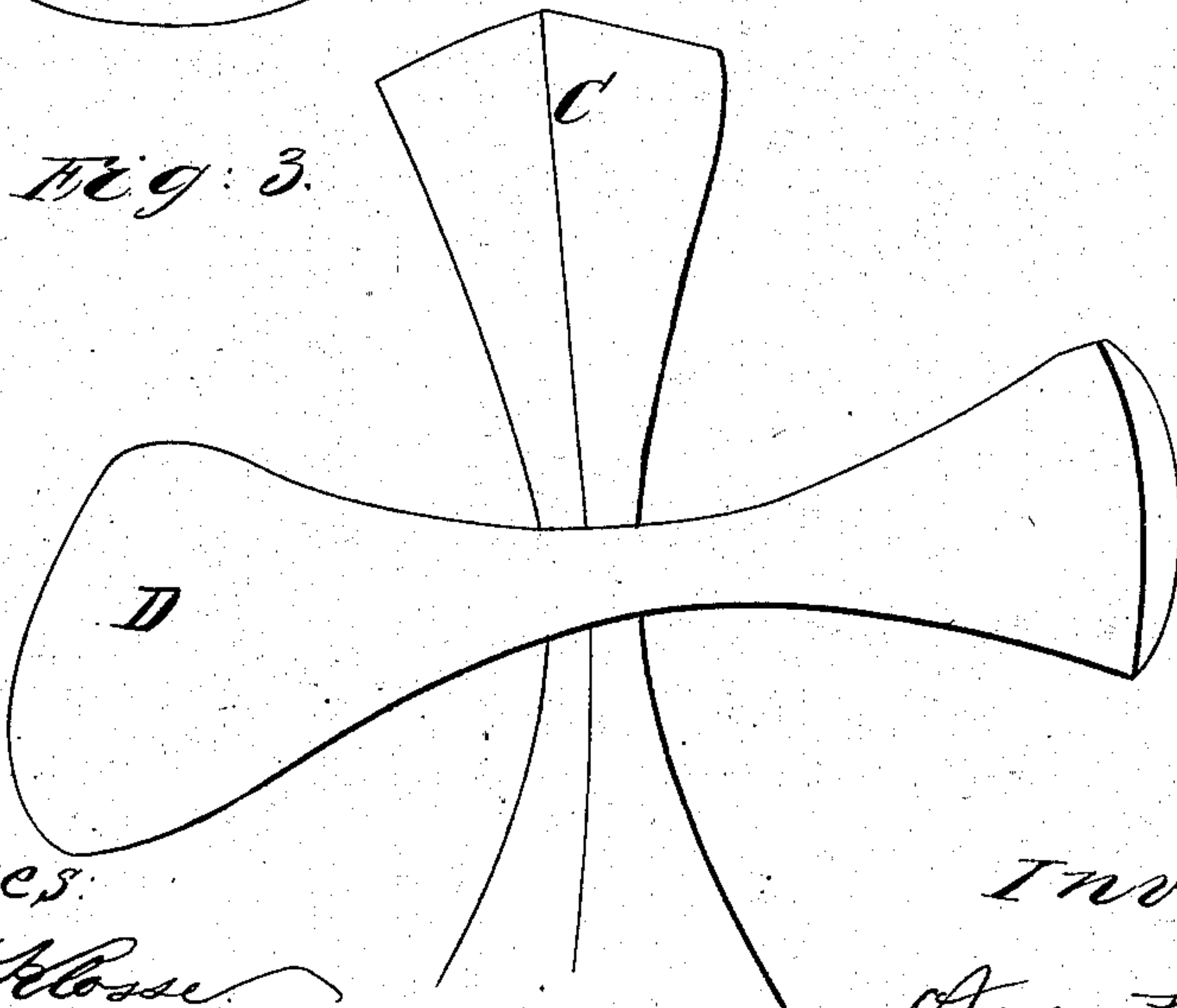


Fig: 3.



Witnesses:
Henry Kloss
Samuel S. Bartlett

Inventor:
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United States Patent Office.

AUGUST BERTRAM, OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA.

Letters Patent No. 79,941, dated July 14, 1868.

IMPROVED BOOT AND SHOE-SHANK.

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, AUGUST BERTRAM, of New Albany, county of Floyd, and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Boot and Shoe-Shanks; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and the letters of reference marked thereon, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of the left shank.

Figure 2 is a view of the right shank.

Figure 3 is a view of the right and left shank crossed.

It is well known, in the manufacture of shoes, that to produce a curve that is both graceful and comfortable, and which is formed by the angular raising of the instep, a shank must be introduced when the shoe is manufactured, and that the shank must of necessity not only be constructed of elastic material, but one that will not blunt the awl when the same is inserted.

The nature of my invention consists in constructing a boot or shoe-shank entirely of wood, hickory or other kindred species. This shank is embedded between the upper and lower surface of the sole.

My invention is entirely free from all the objections incident to the use of the metal shank. In the manufacture of the shoe, should the awl come in contact with the metal, the same will not be blunted or otherwise injured. And in wear, as is often the case, the sole of the shoe becomes thoroughly wet, the metal is liable to rust, which, to a great degree, renders it a disadvantage, rather than an advantage, to the shoe. With my wooden shank all these objections are removed, and from the very nature of the material used, it will readily be seen that when the shank is cut in proper form, by steaming or other suitable means, it can readily be made to adapt itself to the desired shape, corresponding exactly with the contour-formation caused by the recess, be the same regular or irregular.

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

A is the shank of the left side of the foot; B is the shank of the right side of the foot; C D shows the shanks crossed. The angle of the curvature of these shanks is such as is usually used in the manufacture of boots and shoes, but it will readily suggest itself to any one skilled in the art that the same can be so modified and changed as to readily accommodate itself to any formation of the foot, whether regular or peculiar, the point of my invention being simply to furnish a spring-shank for the manufacturer's use, composed entirely of wood, and depending entirely upon the natural elasticity of the material for its ability to conform itself to the curvature of the foot, this being done entirely without the interposition of a metal plate or any other adjunct.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim therein as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

The right and left shoe-shanks A B, of the form shown, when the same are made entirely of wood, and are inserted between the upper and lower surface of the sole, so as to be embedded in the leather, substantially as herein described and for the purpose specified.

Witnesses:

HENRY KLOSSE,

SAMUEL S. BARTLETT.

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