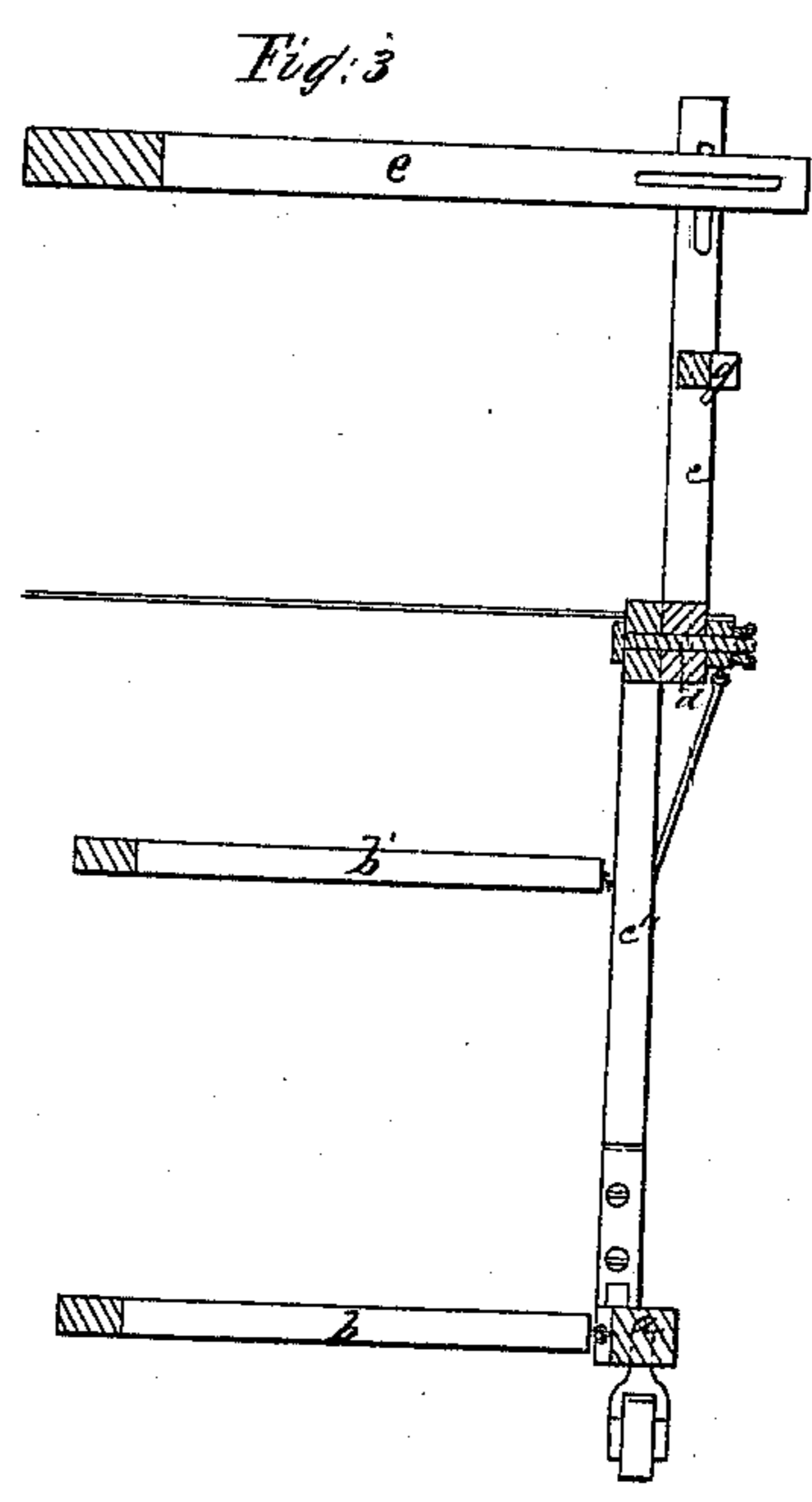
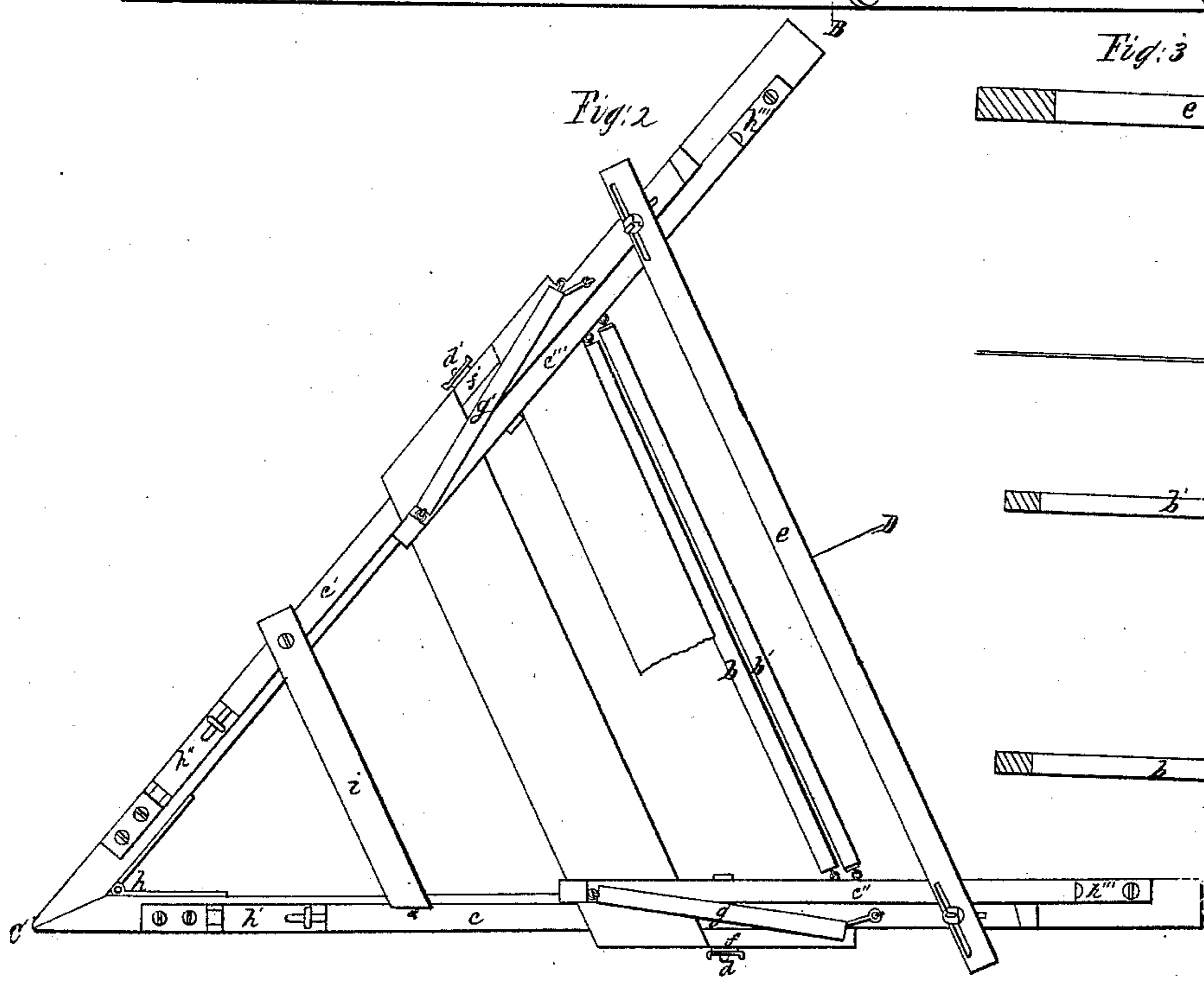
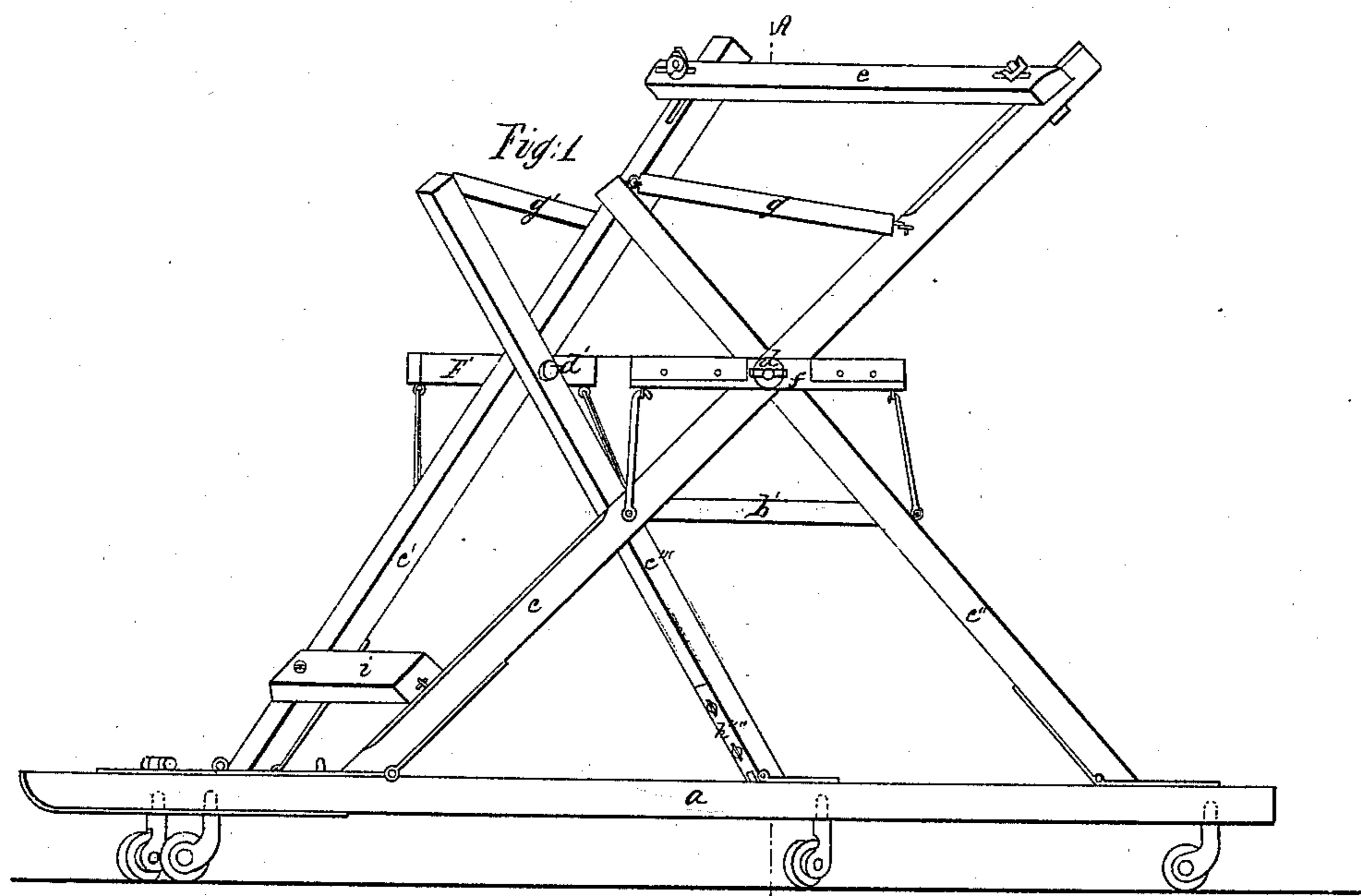


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App. for Supporting Skaters, &c.

N^o 86,699.

Patented Feb. 9, 1869.



Witnesses
 Geo. R. Bickbaum
 Thos. D. Gedwick

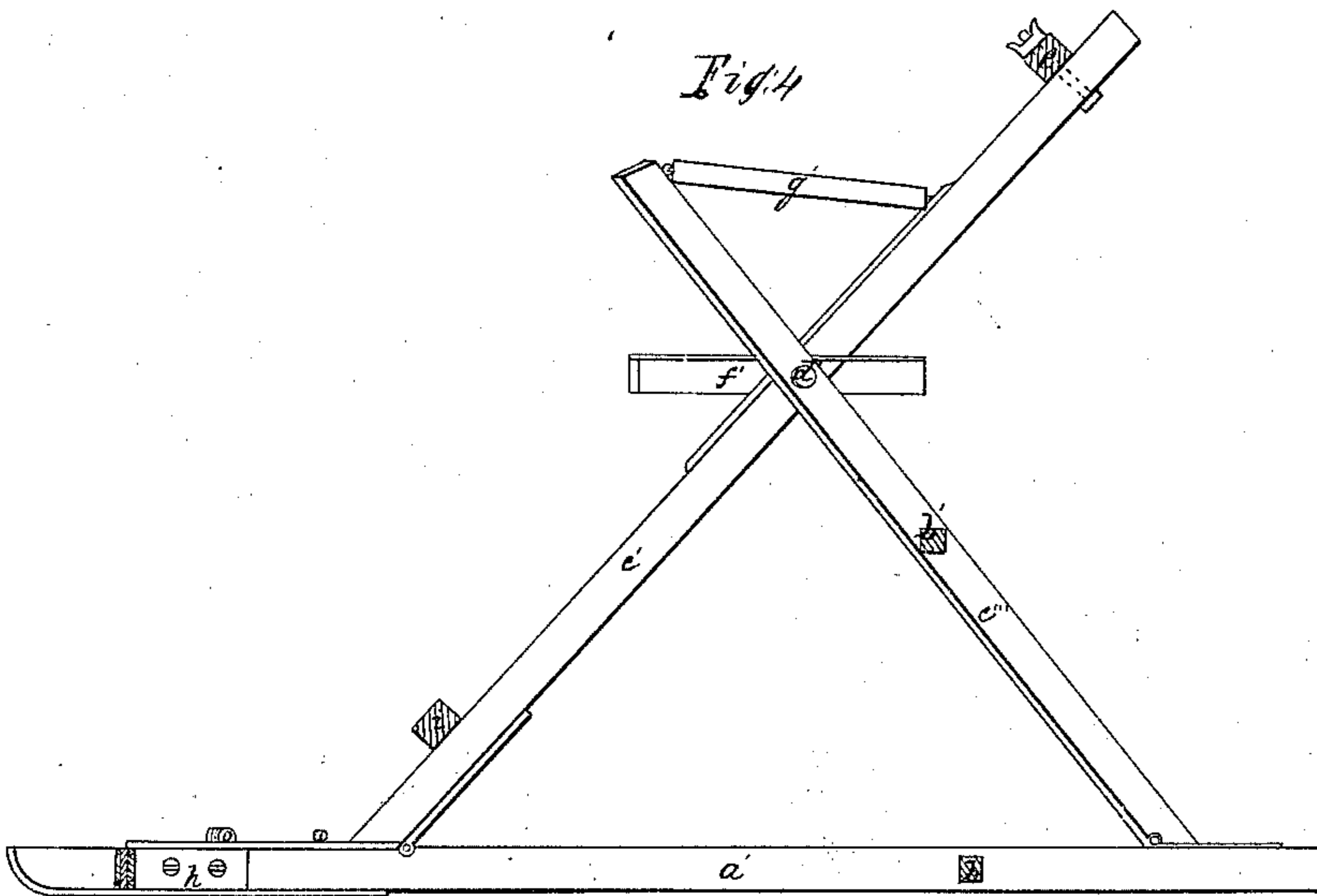
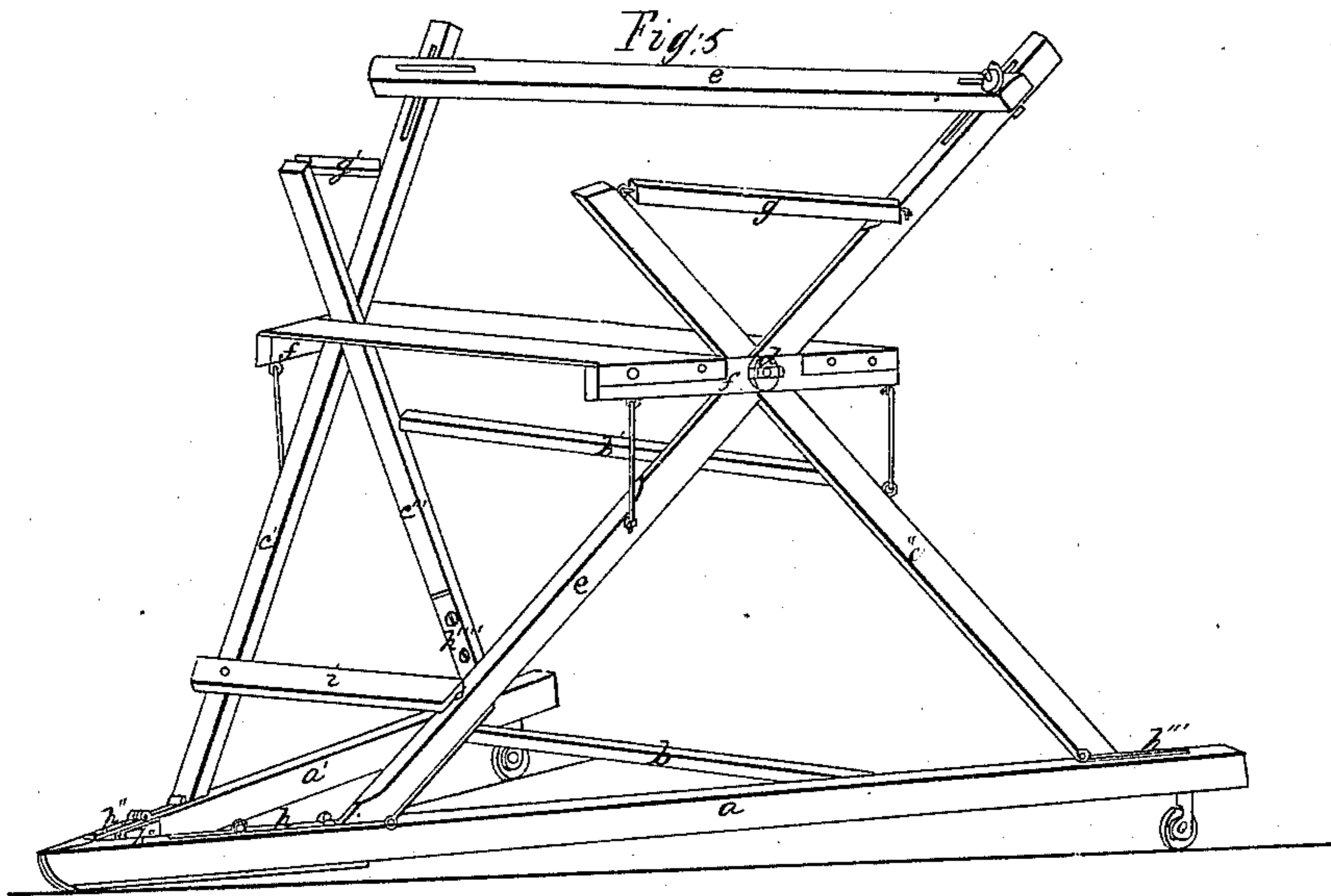
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P. H. I. SCHOPP, OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

Letters Patent No. 86,699, dated February 9, 1869.

APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING SKATERS AND INVALIDS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

Be it known that I, P. H. I. SCHOPP, of Louisville, in the county of Jefferson, and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and useful Machine for the Support of Skaters and Invalids, which I call supporting-sleigh; and 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 the specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal elevation.

Figure 2, a ground plan.

Figure 3, a transverse section.

Figure 4, a longitudinal section.

Figure 5, a perspective view.

The supporting-sleigh is constructed of the following parts:

a a', two beams, meeting diagonally, connected by hinge *h*, thus forming an acute angle, and kept apart by a horizontal brace, *b*, the opposite ends of the beams to be far enough apart to afford room for the motions of the skater, or operator.

On these beams rest the inclined bearers *c c' c'' c'''*.

These bearers, forming an acute angle with the beams *a a'*, are fastened to them by hinges, *h' h'' h'''*, assisted by keys *k k'*.

They cross each other, and are kept together by screw-bolts, *d d'*.

They are kept apart principally by a horizontal brace, *b*.

On the upper end, they are provided with a slit.

Resting on both upper ends of those bearers, and kept to it by adjustable screw-bolts, is the cross-piece *e*, also provided with a slit.

By the means of those slits, and in connection with the screw-bolts, the cross-piece *e* can be adjusted, by the person operating, to the most convenient height.

Attached by the screw-bolts *d d'* to the main bearers *c c'*, are the horizontal pieces, *f f'*.

From these pieces, across the frame, strong cloth, or a net-work of ropes may be stretched, to form a seat for one or more persons. To keep the seat steady, iron hooks are provided.

The horizontal pieces *g g'* serve partly as braces to the bearers, principally as supports to the arms of the seated person.

The cross-piece *i* serves, also, to keep the bearers steady; principally, it is intended as a support to the feet of the seated person.

The beams *a a'* are provided with shifting-rollers, to facilitate the motion in every direction. Part of the beams, in front, are covered with iron plates, to overcome friction on ice.

The "seat" may be dispensed with, at pleasure.

The whole may either be built of strong wood, (hinges and screws to be of iron,) or entirely of wrought-iron, in proportions and sizes to suit persons of different ages.

For convenient transportation and storage, the pieces of the frame are so arranged as to be folded upon, or alongside of each other.

Whenever the frame is set up, and it should be desired to fold the same, the mode of operation is as follows:

First, the cloth, or net-work, stretched across, is to be untied at the one side next to one of the horizontal pieces *f f'*.

Second, pieces *g g'* to be unhooked, and placed on top of bearers *c' c''*.

Third, horizontal piece *f* turned alongside of bearer *c*.

Fourth, the cross-piece *i* to be turned on top of bearer *c'*.

Fifth, the cross-piece *e* to be unscrewed on one side, and to be turned on top of bearer *c*.

Sixth, the horizontal brace *b'* to be unhooked, and placed alongside the beam *a'*.

Seventh, the horizontal brace *b* to be unhooked, and turned alongside of beam *a*.

Eighth, keys *k k'* to be turned parallel to the long sides of the beams.

Ninth, the horizontal beams partly to be turned on their hinge.

Tenth, the inclined bearers *c c'* are then to be lifted, turned on their hinges, and laid flatly on top of the beams *a a'*.

Eleventh, the cloth to be wrapped around the frame, and the whole to be kept together by leather strips.

The usefulness of my invention is manifold.

First, it is intended as a support for young skaters, especially for ladies. In this case, the seat may be dispensed with, and the entire frame constructed so light as to be easily carried along to the skating-pond.

Second, in combination with its character as a support to the skater, it may be used as a pleasure-sleigh, with the seat attached, and constructed of sufficient strength to bear one or more persons in its seat. When used on the ice, the front rollers are dispensed with.

Third, with four rollers attached, it may be used in the rink by "roller-skaters."

Fourth, it may also be used in hospitals, or in the sick-room, for invalids, or convalescent persons, to be wheeled about in the open air. When its further use is no longer required, it can easily be stored away without taking in much space.

Its principal use, however, will be on the ice. To afford a better opportunity to follow the graceful movements of the skater, and yield to the slightest pressure in any direction, I have adopted in my invention the triangular form, with the acute angle in front, the bearers *c c' c'' c'''* being in the same vertical plane with the beams *a a'*.

By this arrangement, and in combination with the shifting-rollers behind, the skater, or operator, will be enabled to force the supporting-sleigh to yield more easily to his will, and turn the curves easier than with the sleighs at present in use on the ice.

What I claim as new and useful is—

1. The combination and arrangement of the different parts of the frame of the supporting-sleigh.
2. The mode of folding compactly the various parts of the frame of the supporting-sleigh.

P. H. I. SCHOPP.

Witnesses:

GEO. R. EICHBAUM,
THOS. D. SEDGWICK.