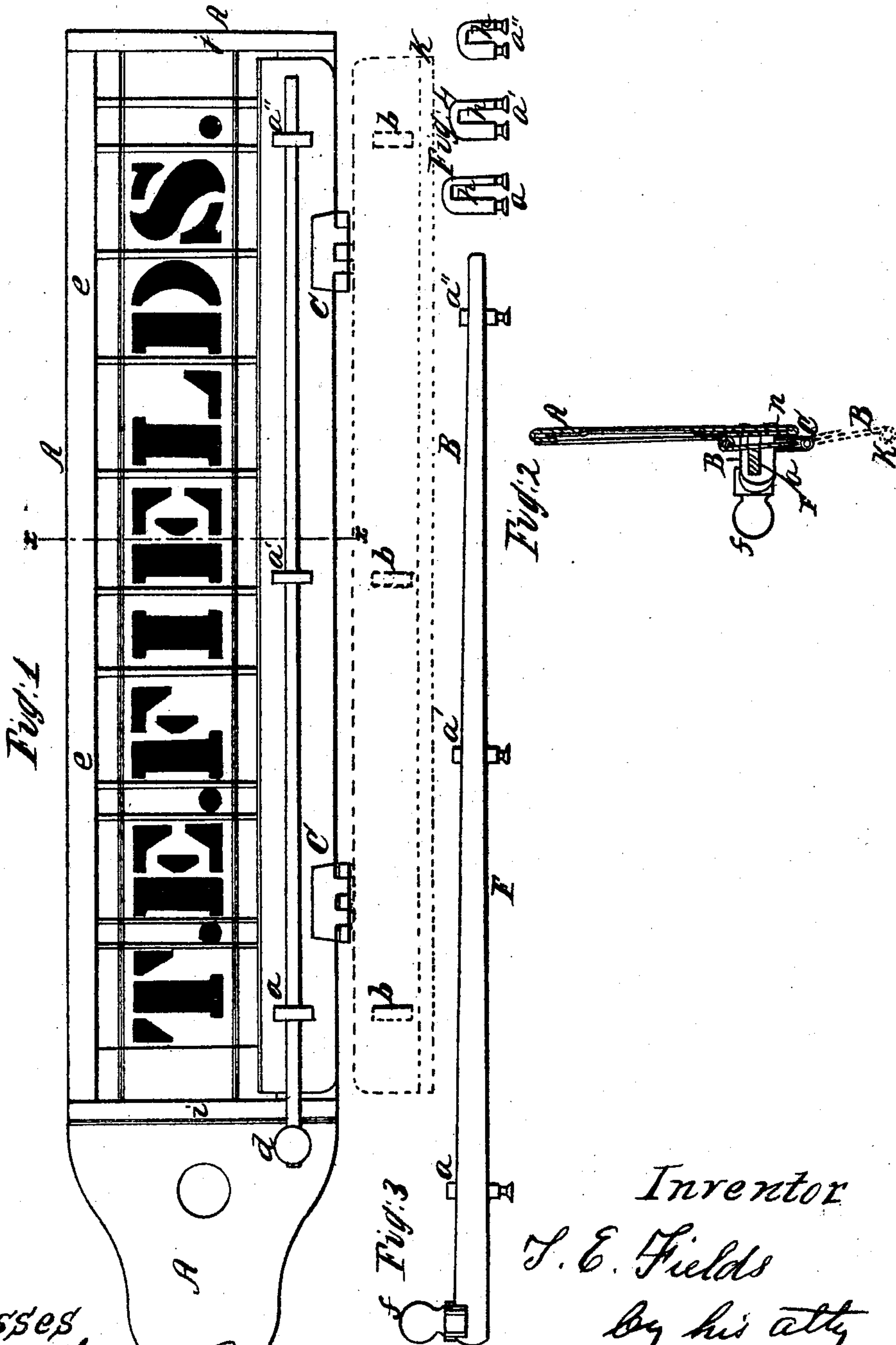


T. E. Fields.

Stencil Plate.

N^o 92,028.

Patented Jun. 29, 1869.



Witnesses
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by his atty
Asa Stout

United States Patent Office.

THOMAS E. FIELDS, OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

Letters Patent No. 92,028, dated June 29, 1869.

STENCILLING-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, THOMAS E. FIELDS, of the city of Louisville, in the county of Jefferson, and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Branding-Apparatus; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings thereof, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention consists in providing a convenient and efficient device, which I call a "folding leaf," hinged to the stencil-plate, and by means of which the letter-plate of a branding-apparatus, for branding letters or figures on any surfaces where they may be desired, may be held securely down upon the stencil-plate, and which may be opened and closed upon the plate, with the requisite force and great facility.

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

In the drawings—

Figure 1 represents a top view of the apparatus, the red lines showing the folding-leaf B thrown back.

Figure 2 shows a cross-section, taken through the line *f f*, the red lines indicating the form of the leaf when thrown back.

Figure 3 shows a side view of the cuneiform rod, and sections of the staples.

I cut out the plate A, of any suitable sheet-metal, and of any desired length and breadth, according to the number and size of the letters which I wish it to hold, and then cut out of the plate enough of the material to leave an opening for the letters, and then a piece of sheet-metal, *j*, is bent over and soldered upon the end of the letter-plate, to strengthen it, and for the last of the series of letter-plates to slip under it and abut against; and on the other, or handle-end, another piece is soldered and bent down, for a similar purpose, for the first letter of the series.

The side E of the plate opposite to the hinge, is also bent down, as shown in the drawing, but space enough left to insert the upper ends of the letters between it and the body of the plate, where they are to be confined.

The hinge-side *n* of the plate is also bent over and soldered down upon the body of the plate, not only to afford sufficient stiffness to the plate on that side, but also to furnish the edge as an abutting-line, to prevent the letters from moving endwise, when the apparatus is in use.

The letters being made of thin plates of metal, each should have one of its sides corrugated, so as to fit upon and over the edge of the adjacent one, in order

that they may not yield laterally, and that they may make joints so closely, that neither brush nor paint may pass between them; and further, that these lapped edges may present prominent points of bearing, by which the folding leaf may securely hold the letters in position.

The folding leaf is simply a flat piece of sheet-metal, with the edge B bent around a wire, for the twofold purpose of giving it stiffness, and of affording a sharp line of pressure upon the letters, to hold them when it is closed upon them.

It turns upon hinges O O, upon the plate A, and is held down upon the letters with almost any required degree of force, by the wedge-shaped rod F, which is made to press upon the folding leaf, by being forced through a series of staples, *a a' a''*, whose form is shown in Figure 4, and whose openings, *h h h*, are graduated in height, to correspond with the slope of the top of the rod F.

The staples are passed through holes punched in the plates A, and their feet riveted on the under side. In making them, a piece is cut out of sheet-metal, by a proper die, and then, with another die, a piece is cut out of that, so as to leave the opening *h*.

When the folding leaf is turned back, any arrangement of letters desired may be made, and the folding-leaf closed down over the staples. Then, by inserting the cuneiform rod F through the eyes of the staples, and pressing against the handle *f*, the leaf may be pressed down as tightly as may be necessary, and the apparatus is ready for the operation of branding.

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

1. The described stencil-plate A, in combination with the described folding leaf B, constructed and arranged and operated substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. The described cuneiform rod F, in combination with the described graduated staples *a a' a''*, constructed and operated substantially as described.

3. The described stencil-plate A, in combination with the described folding leaf B, when both are used in combination with the described cuneiform rod F and staples *a a' a''*, in combination with each other, and constructed and arranged substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 30th day of April, in the year 1869.

T. E. FIELDS. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

J. L. CLEMMONS,

T. H. CAVANAUGH, Sr.