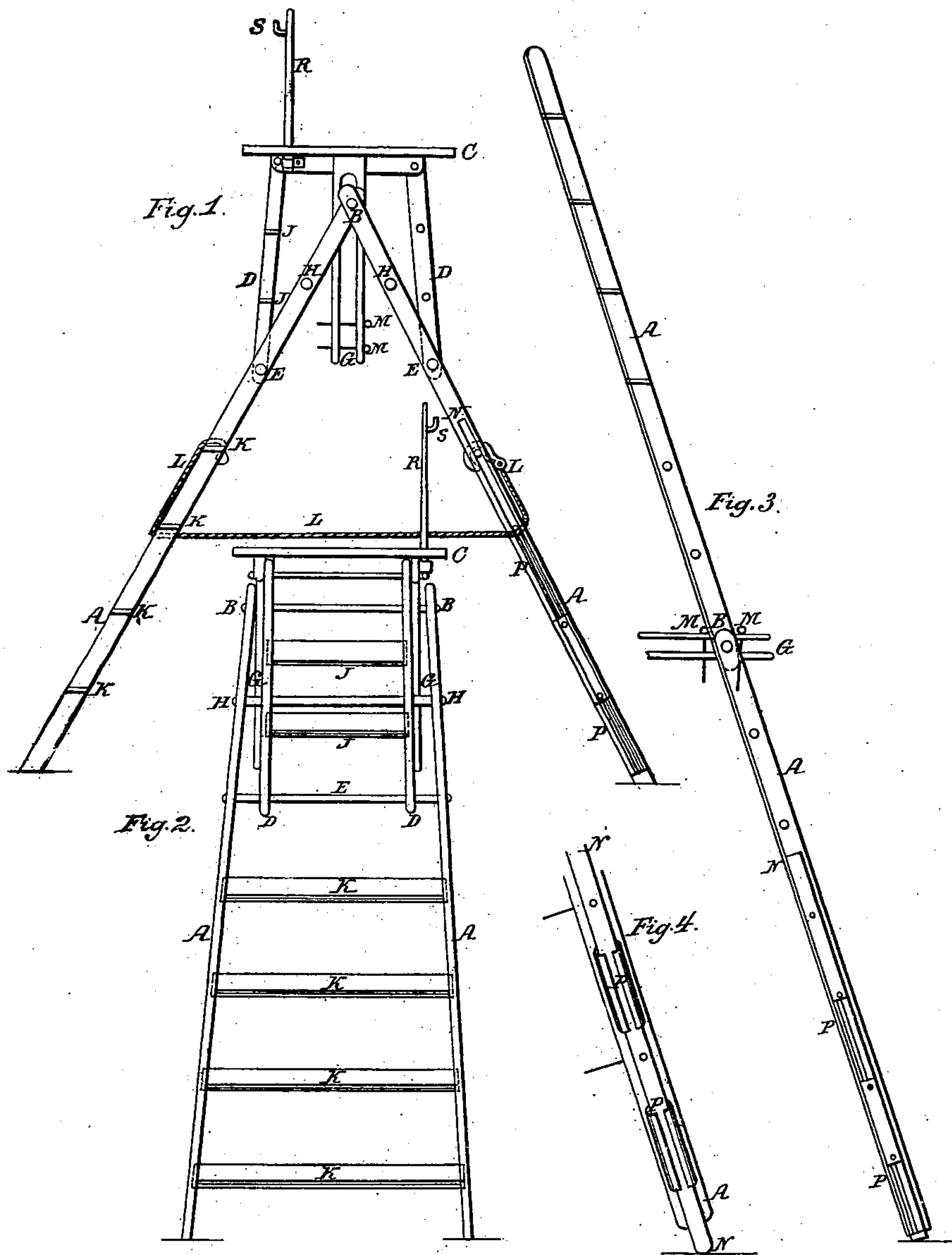


M. L. SMITH.  
LADDER.

No. 96,495.

Patented Nov. 2, 1869.



Witnesses.

A. C. Klink  
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J. F. Reigart.

# United States Patent Office

MARTIN LUTHER SMITH, OF BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN.

Letters Patent No. 96,495, dated November 2, 1869.

## IMPROVEMENT IN LADDERS.

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, MARTIN LUTHER SMITH, of Battle Creek city, county of Calhoun, and State of Michigan, have invented new and useful Improvements in Ladders, that I style the "Extension Step and Fruit-Ladder;" and I do hereby declare the following to be an exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a side elevation of the ladder.

Figure 2, a front view, showing the steps of the same.

Figure 3, a side view of the ladder, when extended, showing the steps at the top part, the brace at the centre, and the extension slides at the lower end.

Figure 4 shows the lower end of the side of the ladder, and the construction of the guides in which the extension-piece slides up and down, to regulate the length of the one side or ends of the ladder, to adjust it to a level.

The nature of my invention consists in the improvements in ladders, constructed and arranged as hereinafter described.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it, as follows:

A represents the frame or upright pieces of the ladder, operating on a centre round, B, so as to allow the ladder to be spread apart or close it together.

C is a square platform at the top, for the workman to stand upon.

It has four legs, D D, that are pivoted to and supported by two rounds, E E.

Between the legs D, at the right and left side of the platform C, are two forked legs G, that rest upon the centre or top round B, and are adjustable, so as to rest upon the next round H, on either side of the ladder, so that the platform C may be moved on either side of the round B.

The one side of the platform has rounds to step upon, but the opposite side has steps J, to conform with the flat steps K of the ladder, so as to ease the feet, and enable a fruit-picker to use the ladder with more comfort and safety.

L is a rope or cord, attached to a step at one side, and has a hook on the extremity of the rope, for the purpose of allowing the rope to be passed under any one of the steps J, thence across under a round on the opposite side, and then hooked on to one of the upper rounds, so as to brace the ladder at any angle required.

When the ladder is extended, the ends of the forked legs G are fastened to the centre round by two pins M M, by which means the ladder is securely held in its extended position.

N N are two sliding strips, operating in guides P P, on the outer sides of the frame A, for the purpose of lengthening the frame of the ladder, to preserve the level of the ladder to conform with the inclination or unevenness of the ground, and prevent the ladder from upsetting; also to bring the ladder, when required, against the house, while the opposite side of the ladder is made to conform with the inclination of the ground.

R is an upright post at top, to give support to the workman.

It has a hook or bracket, S, at the top, for the purpose of suspending a paint-pot or fruit-basket, for the greater convenience of the workman.

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

The construction of the platform C, with its forked legs G, pins M, post R, and hook S, when arranged as herein described and for the purposes set forth.

MARTIN LUTHER SMITH.

Witnesses:

J. FRANKLIN REIGART,  
EDM. F. BROWN.