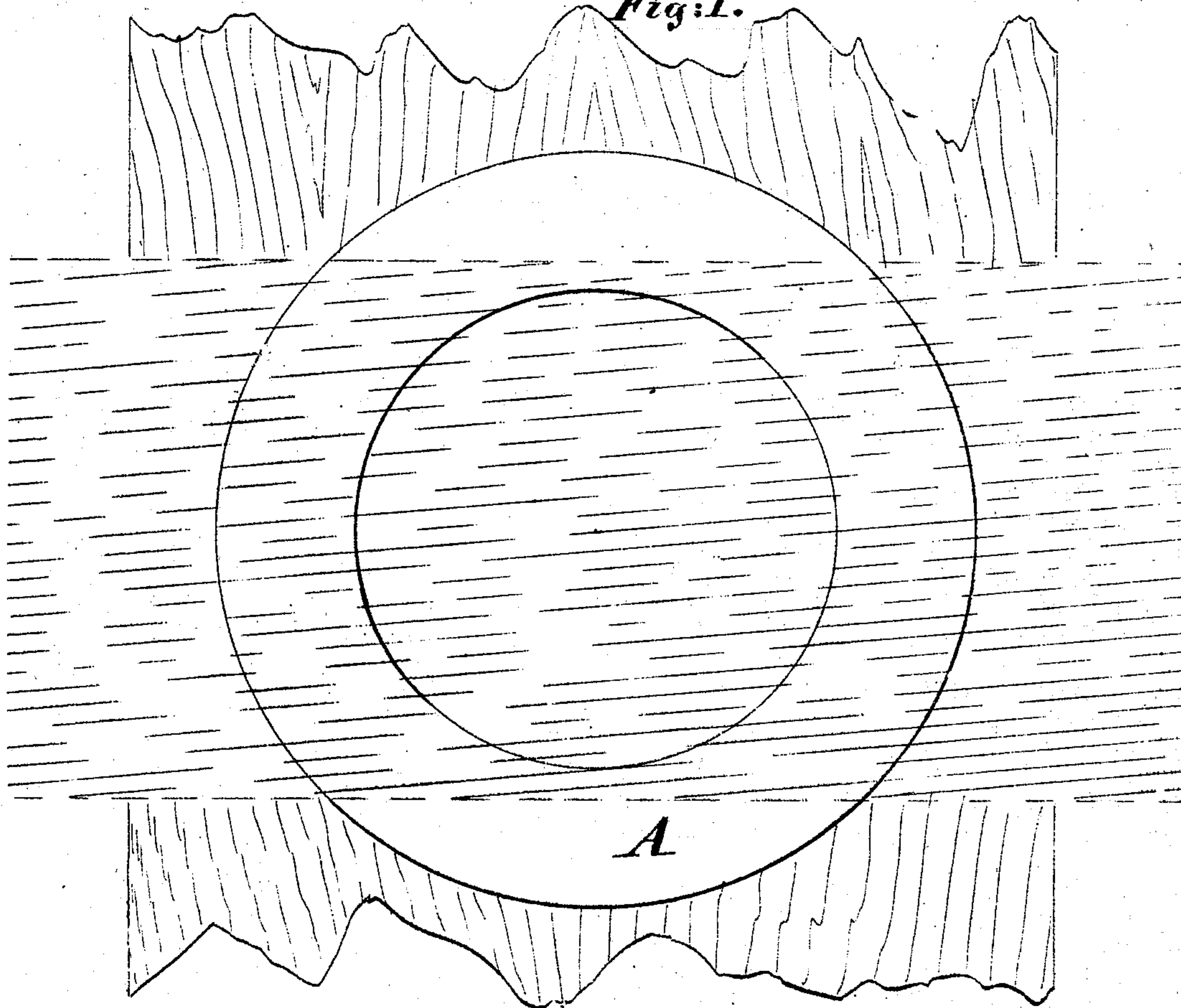


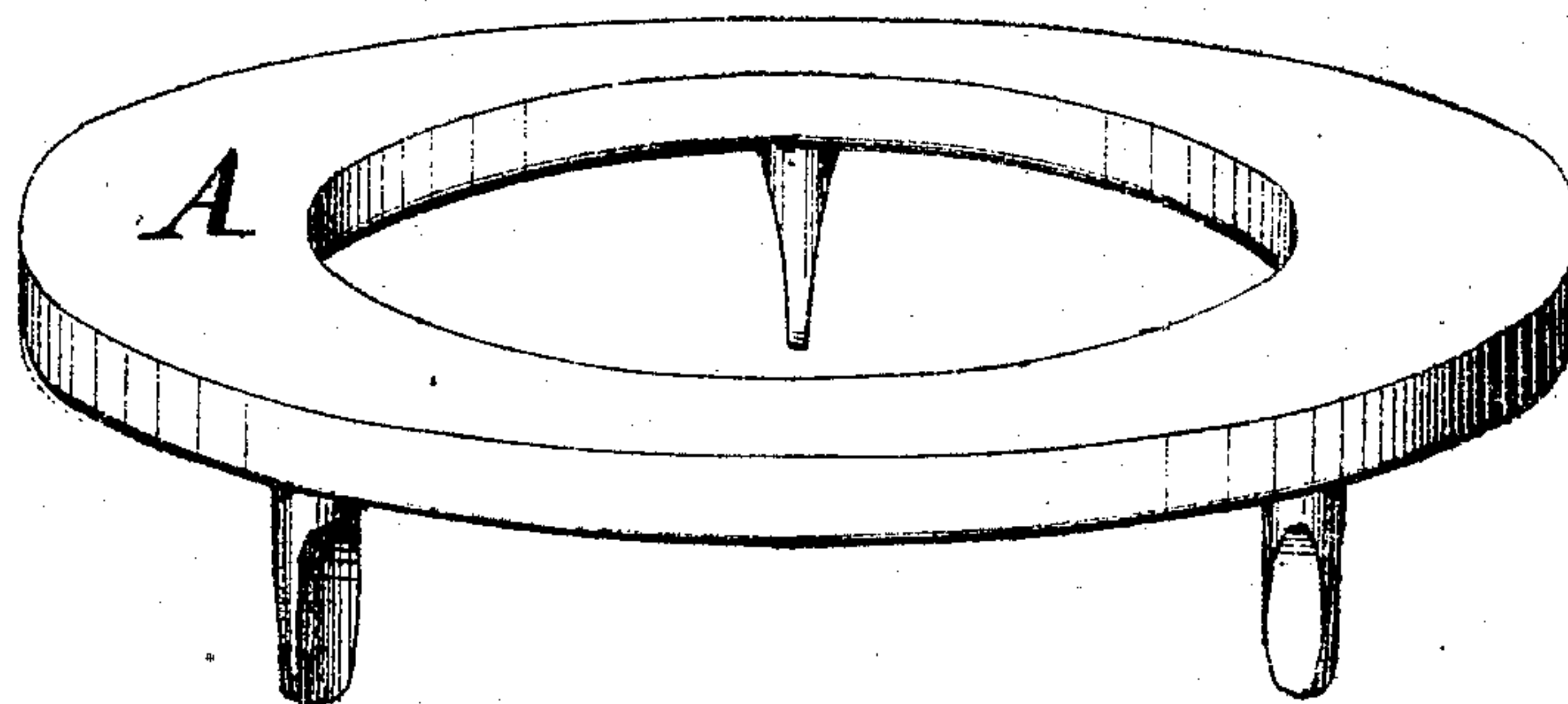
**E. Myrick, Bearing Plate for R.R. Rails.**  
118266

PATENTED AUG 22 1871

*Fig:1.*



*Fig:2.*



**Witnesses:**

*M. Vorlaender*  
*Wm. G. C. Smith*

**Inventor:**

*E. Myrick.*

**PER**

*Wm. L.*  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELIJAH MYRICK, OF AYER, MASSACHUSETTS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BEARING-PLATES FOR RAILWAY RAILS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 118,260, dated August 22, 1871.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ELIJAH MYRICK, of Ayer, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Metallic Bearing for Railroad Rails; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification.

It is the object of this invention to provide means for preserving the ties or sleepers of railroads; and it consists in a metallic plate of any form disconnected entirely from the chairs and from the rail, except so far as it affords the latter a bearing, as it will be hereinafter more fully described.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 represents a top view of the bearing-plate with sections of the tie and rail, both the latter being shown in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the bearing-plate detached.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

In this example of my invention I show an annular plate provided with lugs or teeth, (more or less in number,) or a rib or ribs on its under side, which lugs penetrate the tie and keep the

plate in place; but I do not confine myself to any particular form; the plate may be an oval or of other shape. The rail is spiked down to the tie outside of the plate. It has been observed that railroad ties decay first under the rail. The wood becomes more or less disintegrated or "shivered," allowing water to be not only absorbed but retained beneath the rail. This causes oxidation of the iron and speedy decay of the wood.

A is the plate, which is placed directly beneath the rail and on the tie, separating the latter from the wood and receiving the full bearing of the rail. By this means the ties are preserved at least double the usual period of time.

This bearing-plate is adapted to various other purposes than separating the rail from the tie of railroads. It may be used for bridges and platform-timbers, and for separating cross-timbers, for the purpose of diminishing the actual bearing-surface, and allowing water or moisture to be absorbed by the atmosphere.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The plate A, having lugs on the under side thereof, applied as and for the purpose specified.

ELIJAH MYRICK.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. MABEE,

ALEX. F. ROBERTS.