

JOHN ADAMS.

Improvement in Life Preserving Mattress.

No. 125,779.

Patented April 16, 1872.

Fig. 1.

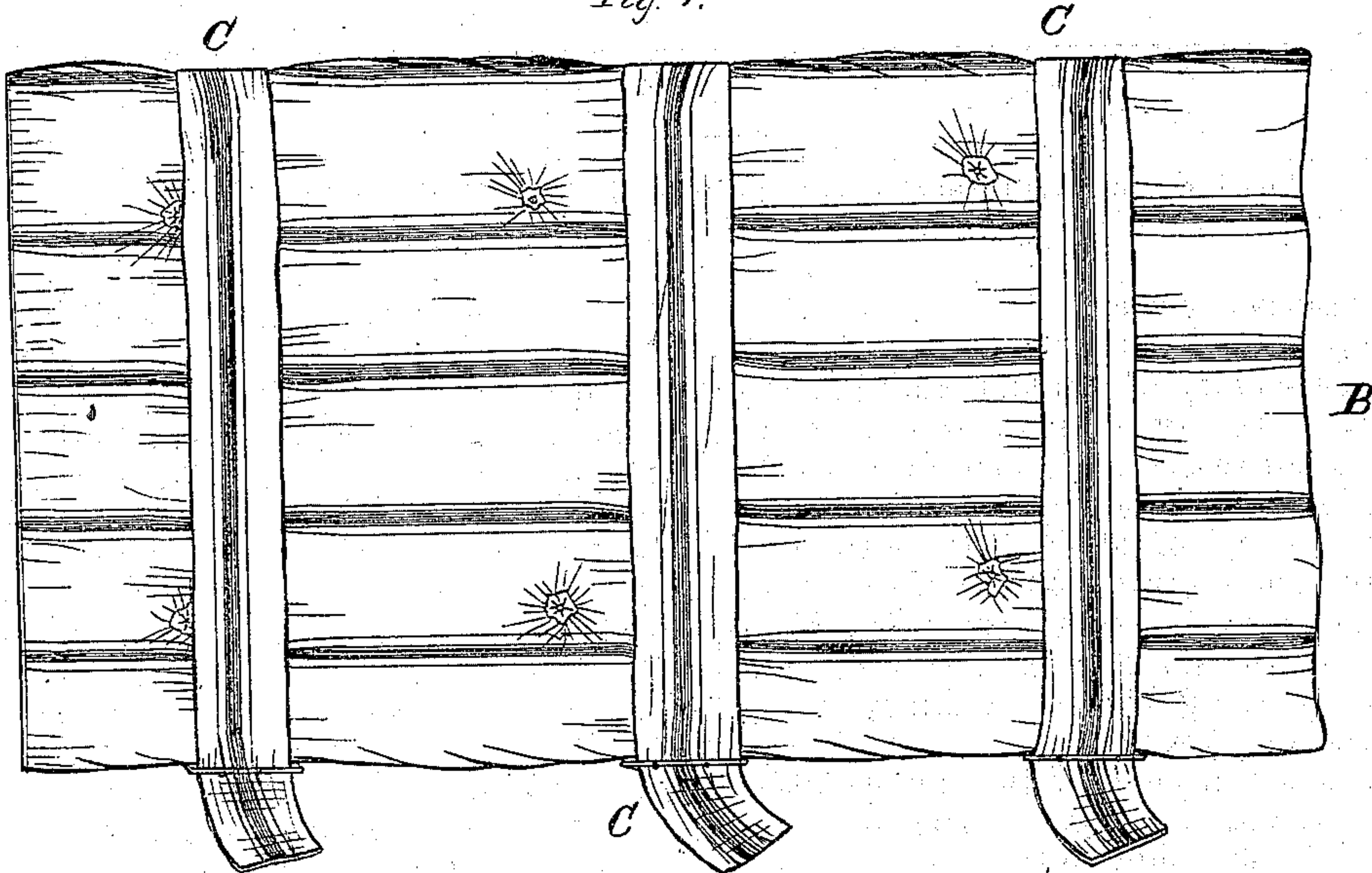


Fig. 2.

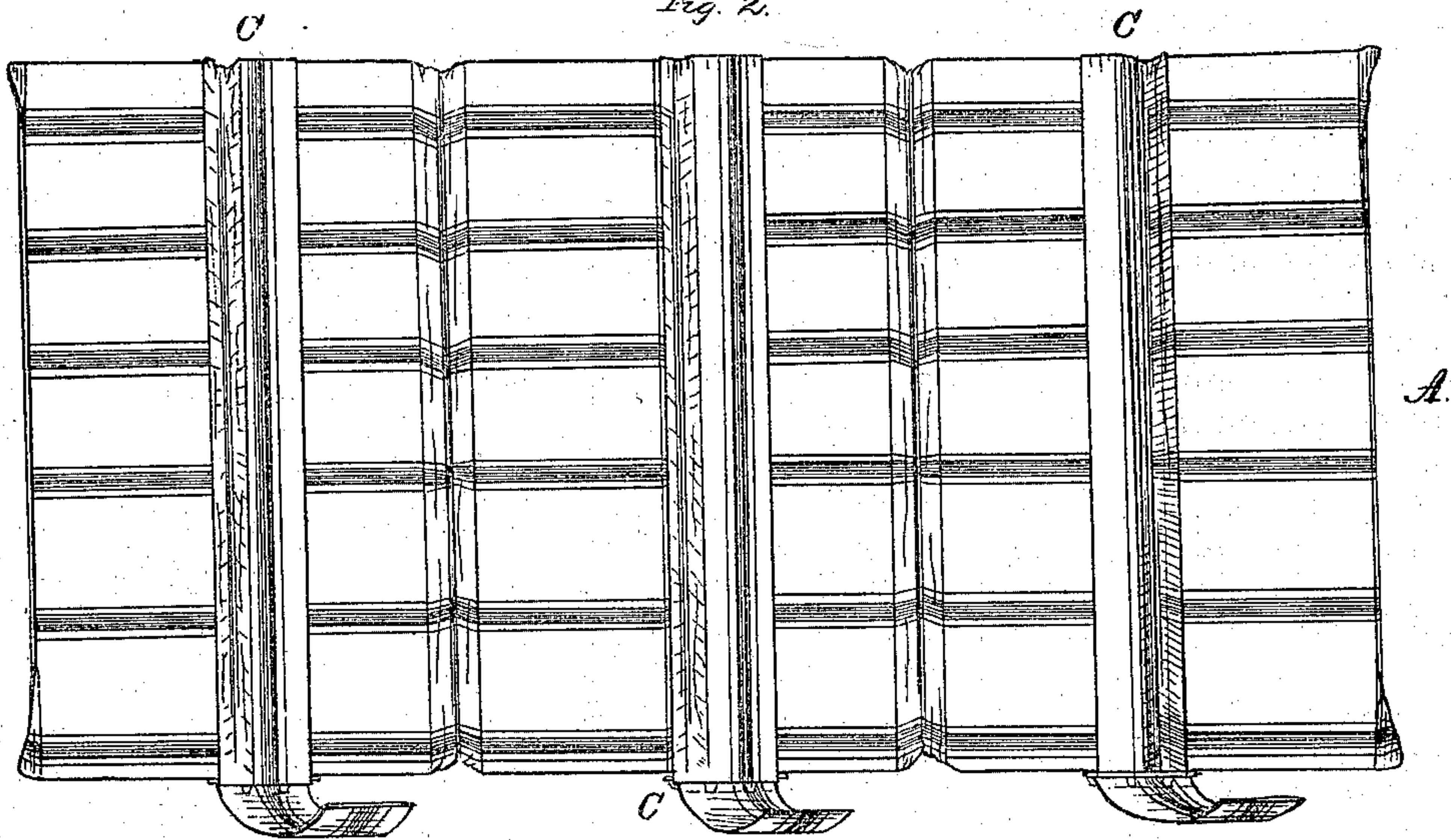
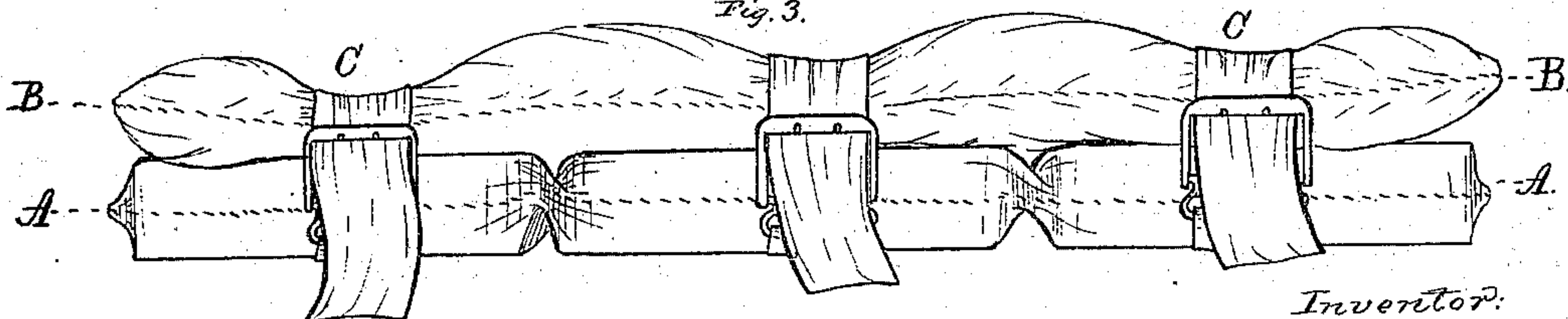


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

Jacob B. Schiedt  
Percy V. Kneass.

Inventor:

John Adams.  
by John A. Diersheim,  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN ADAMS, OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY.

## IMPROVEMENT IN LIFE-PRESERVING MATTRESSES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 125,779, dated April 16, 1872.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN ADAMS, of Gloucester, in the county of Camden and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improved Life-Preserving Mattress; and I do hereby declare the following to be a clear and exact description of the nature thereof, sufficient to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to fully understand and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a top view of the device illustrating my invention. Fig. 2 is a bottom view thereof. Fig. 3 is a side view.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

My invention consists of a single mattress, of the ordinary form and construction of a bed or sleeping mattress, in connection with a buoy-mattress, and transverse straps which unite the two parts in one compact bundle, and afford holds for the hands and feet of the occupant.

Referring to the drawing, A represents a mattress or float, constructed of a suitable sack or bag containing cork blocks or shavings, or other proper buoyant substance. B represents an ordinary bed-mattress, having cork, hair, or other filling, and placed on top of the mattress A. The two are held together by a series of straps or bands C, which, in the present case, extend around the two mattresses. The compound mattress thus formed should be of such size that it will fit the bedstead, berth, bunk, or place to which it is applied.

It will be seen that the mattress constitutes a comfortable bed. The occupant will be aware that he rests or sleeps on a life-preserver, although apparently of the form of an ordinary bed-mattress, and which is immediately within reach.

In cases of accident or danger the occupant lifts the compound mattress from its place by

means of the straps C and throws it overboard. He can rest thereon the full length of his body and place his feet between one of the straps C and the top of the mattress. If desired, he can place his body under the middle strap. The other strap affords ready means for holding on by his hands. In this manner said occupant can remain securely on the mattress. The upper mattress will set out of water, and thus keep the occupant above its level, and in cases of rough water protect him against entire submersion.

The bed-mattress is easily detachable for cleansing or reversing purposes. In such cases it is only necessary to loosen the straps C, and the buoyant mattress need not be disturbed.

I am aware that a floating mattress is not new, and that the same has been constructed of a series of mattresses strapped together, and arranged in sections and tiers, forming a buoyant raft, the entire raft consisting of numerous jointed pieces, which bend with the motions of the waves, and is intended for and adapted to be used only as a raft; but my invention is always doubly prepared or ready, either as a sleeping mattress or a life-preserver, and within the control of the occupant of the bed or berth.

I, therefore, claim as an improvement—

The life-preserving mattress herein described, consisting of the combination of the ordinary bed or sleeping mattress B, the buoyant mattress A, and the transverse straps C extending around the two parts A B, thus uniting them in one compact bundle, and affording holds for the hands and feet of the occupant, all constructed, arranged, and operating as described.

The above signed by me this 16th day of October, 1871.

JOHN ADAMS.

Witnesses:

JOHN A. WIEDERSHEIM,  
PERCY V. KNEASS.