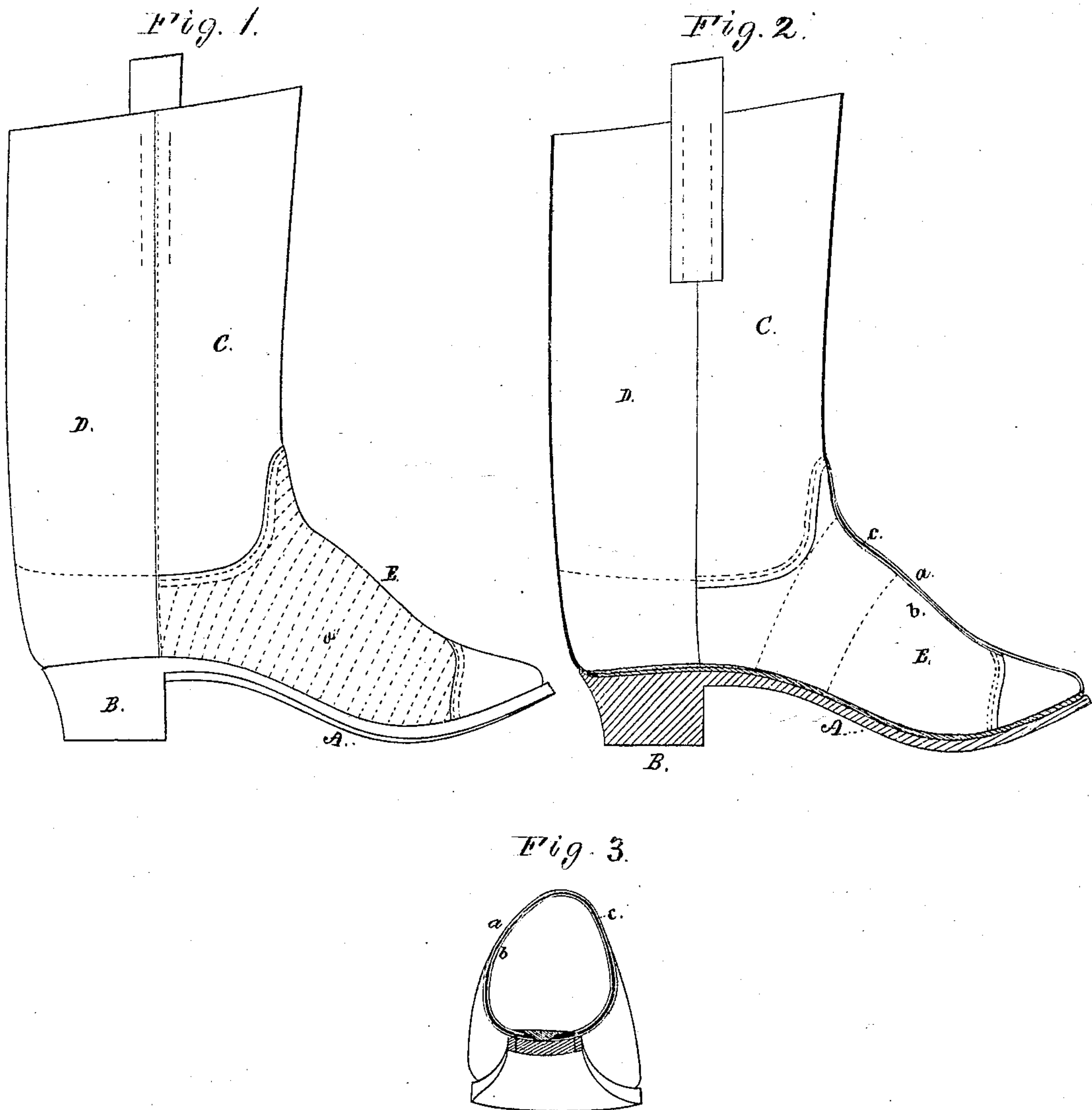


M. CRANE.

Improvement in Cloth Boots.

No. 132,387.

Patented Oct. 22, 1872.



Witnesses.
Geo Gray
J. C. Hale

Milo Crane.
by his attorney.
F. T. Hale.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MILO CRANE, OF EAST SOMERVILLE, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND ALEXIS TORREY, OF NORTH WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN CLOTH BOOTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **132,387**, dated October 22, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MILO CRANE, of East Somerville, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Boots; and do hereby declare the same to be fully described in the following specification and represented in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 denotes a side elevation of a boot constructed in accordance with my invention; Fig. 2, a central and longitudinal section; and Fig. 3, a transverse section taken through the instep-supporting band.

My invention is specially designed for that class of "opera boots" in which the front or vamp portion is composed of two layers of cloth stitched or quilted together. The object of my invention is to remedy an objection incident to this class of boots as heretofore constructed.

It is a fact well-known to boot-manufacturers and those who have worn boots of this peculiar character and construction, that, owing to the stretchy or expanding nature of the cloth, the strain of the instep upon the same while walking or in use soon so stretches or enlarges the cloth as to render the same loose and flappy, and thus causes the foot of the wearer to work or slip in the boot; such enlargement not only injuring the appearance of the boot but often causing great discomfort to the wearer. My invention is intended to obviate these evils and preserve the boot in its normal proportions.

My invention consists in interposing between the layers of cloth, and so as to extend over the instep, a narrow supporting-band, composed of a fabric or material capable of withstanding the "thrust" or strain of the instep, and thus maintain the integrity of the cloth and preserve the desired contour and shape of the boot.

In the said drawing, A denotes the sole, and B the heel, of the boot; C is the front of the leg portion; and D, the back thereof—such

being formed in the usual manner of leather. E is the vamp or part which covers the instep and the frontal portion of the foot, such part being connected with the leg part C in the ordinary way. The vamp is composed of two pieces of cloth, *a b*, which are to be quilted or stitched together. Before this operation I insert between the two portions (or the outer and the lining) a narrow band, *c*, (of about one inch in width) and so as to extend transversely across the vamp and directly over the crown or arch of the instep. This band I make of a flexible non-elastic fabric, for instance "webbing" such as used for boot-straps; or the same may be made of a material or materials possessing more or less elasticity; but in all cases the material or materials used should be of such nature as to resist the strain of the instep and preserve the cloth in, or approximately in, its normal state. As the method of uniting the upper and the soles does not differ from that ordinarily employed, no description thereof is deemed necessary.

I do not claim an overshoe or other covering for the foot made of rubber, cloth, or other suitable material, combined with a spring united with the same, and arranged around or partly around the opening in the shoe, such being for the purpose of allowing the material of which the shoe is composed to yield to the pressure of the foot when introduced into the shoe, and when on to spring back and clasp or fit the foot, as I am aware that such is not new.

Having described my invention, what I claim is—

As an improved article of manufacture an "opera boot," provided with an instep-supporting band, of the character described, interposed between the outer and inner portions of the cloth vamp, substantially in manner and for the purpose hereinbefore stated.

MILO CRANE.

Witnesses:

F. P. HALE,
F. C. HALE.