

W. J. NEILL.

Spring-Shanks for Boots and Shoes.

No. 145,963.

Patented Dec. 30, 1873.

Fig. 1.

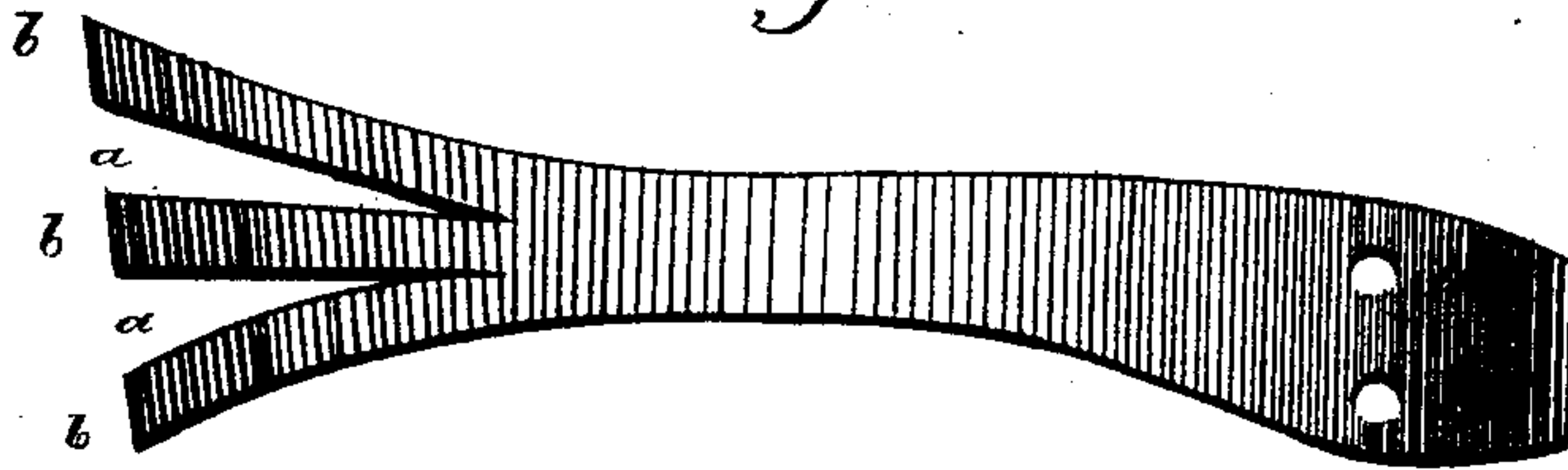


Fig. 2.

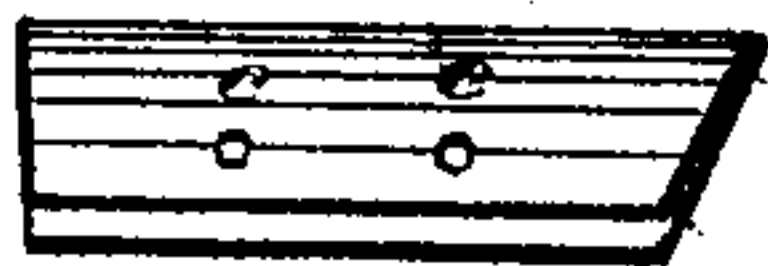
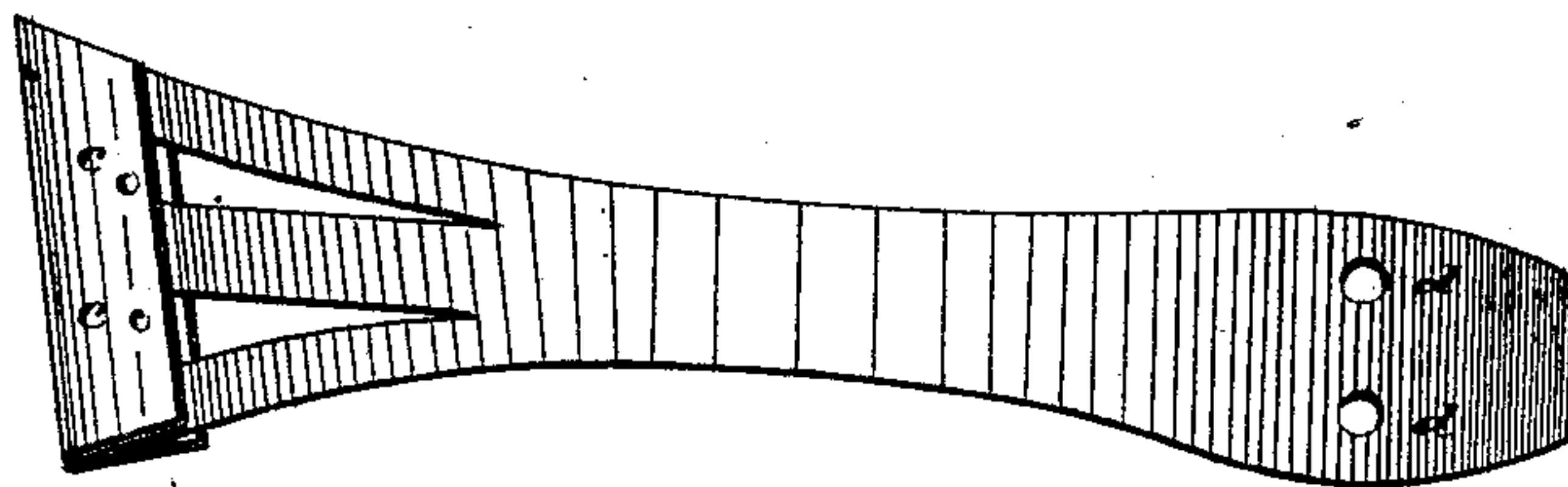


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

J. M. Partholau

H. A. Kerichall

Inventor:

Wilson J. Neill

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILSON J. NEILL, OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS
RIGHT TO ROBERT D. MASON, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN SPRING-SHANKS FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **145,963**, dated December 30, 1873; application filed
April 21, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILSON J. NEILL, of Lawrence, Kansas, have invented a Spring-Shank for Boots and Shoes.

My invention consists of an improvement in spring-shanks for boots and shoes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 shows my shank without the metallic tip, (hereafter described,) and made wide at its front point, so as to nearly fill up the space between the seams, thus more readily keeping it in its proper place; but, in order to give it the desired elasticity, I cut out one, two, or more pieces of metal, *a a*, as shown, so as to retain the desired width, and yet reduce its strength, as desired.

Fig. 2 is a metallic tip pressed into proper shape to fit upon the points *b b b* of Fig. 1, as shown in Fig. 3. Said tip is fastened by tacks

or pegs to the inner sole of the boot or shoe through holes *c c*, so that, being made fast at the back end *d d*, and being continually pressed down and springing up by the action of the foot in walking, the front end slides backward and forward in the tip, which receives the friction, and thus prevents the shank cutting through the leather, as is sometimes the case with old-style shanks, it being also weakened by slotting, as described. It has a tendency to accommodate itself to any shape of shank in boots or shoes without ripping the same.

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

A spring-shank for boots and shoes, when made wide at the front point and slotted, for the purposes set forth.

WILSON J. NEILL.

Witnesses:

J. M. BARTHOLOW,
H. A. KENDALL.