

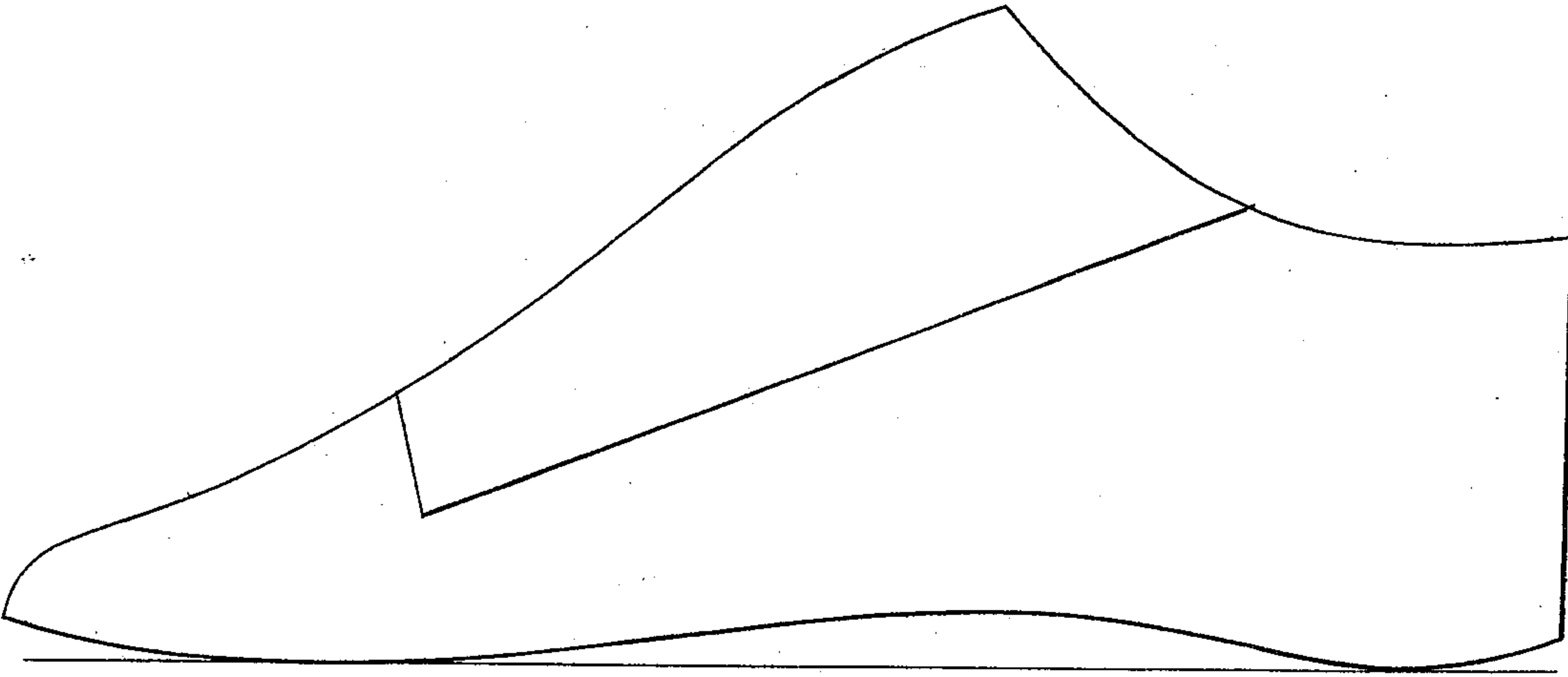
MARGARET C. MOULTON.

LASTS.

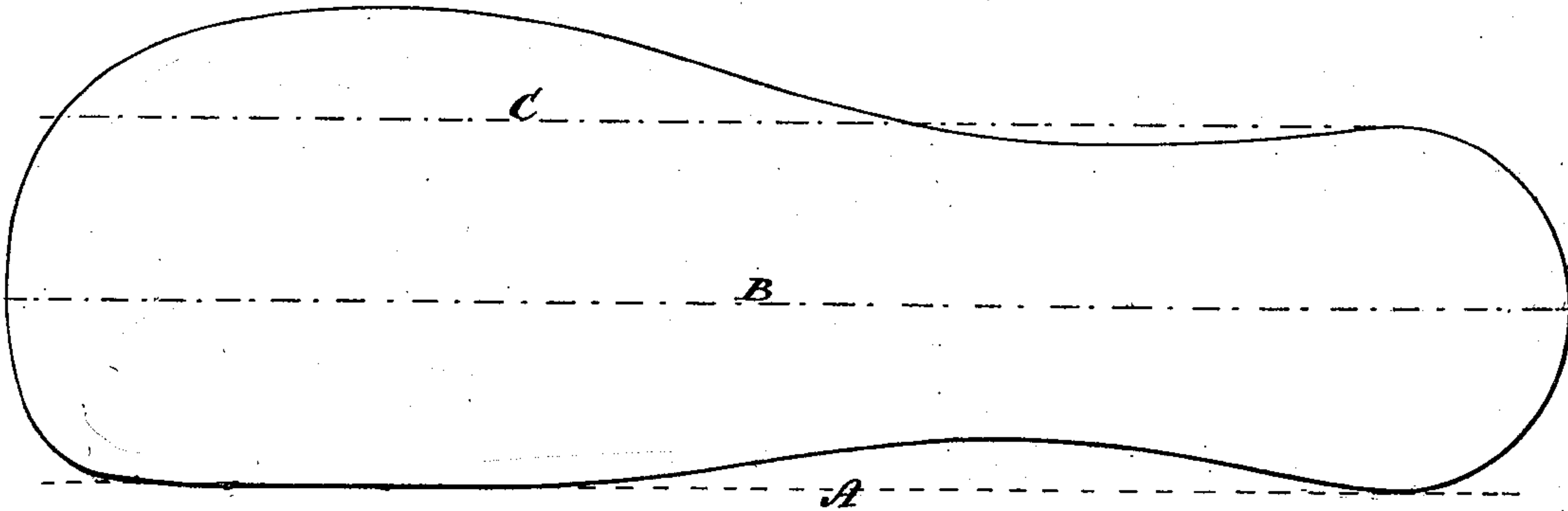
No. 174,635.

Patented March 14, 1876.

*Fig. 1*



*Fig. 2*



Witnesses:

*E. Wolff*  
*C. Sedgwick*

Inventor:

*Mrs. M. C. Moulton*

PER

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

MARGARET C. MOULTON, OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

## IMPROVEMENT IN LASTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **174,635**, dated March 14, 1876; application filed February 15, 1873.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, Mrs. MARGARET C. MOULTON, of Independence, in the county of Jackson and State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Lasts for Boots and Shoes, of which the following is a specification:

The object of this invention is to provide a last for constructing boots and shoes in such form that the boot or shoe made thereon will not cramp or distort the foot; and to this end it consists in forming the last so that the inside line from the heel to the end of the great toe shall be parallel with a line running through the center of the foot from heel to toe, excepting where the last is hollowed out on the bottom at the hollow of the foot. The outside line of the last is first curved inwardly near the heel, and then outwardly to a point on the outer side of the ball of the foot; and thence runs parallel with the central line of the last to the end of the little toe; and thence curves inwardly to the center line at the end of the long toe. By this method the last is made to spread entirely to the right for the right foot, and to the left for the left foot, and after attaining its full width at the ball of the foot it continues of uniform width from the ball to the end of the little toe, and thence narrows down to the end of the long toe.

Figure 1 is a side view, and Fig. 2 is a view of the bottom of a last, made according to my invention.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A represents a line tangential to the heel, and parallel to the line B, the latter line passing through the center of the last from heel to toe. C is a line also parallel with B, to indicate the spread of the last and conse-

quent form of the shoe. The spread of the sole from a central line in the widest part is, therefore, outward instead of inward, as boots and shoes are now made.

Fig. 2 represents the outline of the natural foot before it has been cramped or distorted by any artificial appliances. A boot or shoe made in this form is natural to the natural foot. The toes are not cramped and turned under or distorted in shape, and the wearer is allowed all the advantages for balancing and locomotion which nature intended he should have, besides his tread will be square, and the boot or shoe will not be inclined to run down or to one side like boots and shoes of ordinary construction, which tire and weaken the ankle. A boot or shoe made upon a last of this description, being natural to the foot, will wear much longer than when made in the ordinary way.

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

As a new article of manufacture, a last which spreads entirely on the outside, the inside edge being no farther from the central line at the ball of the foot than at the heel, and said inside edge being straight after passing the hollow of the last to the end of the big toe, the outside edge narrowing from the heel to the middle of the foot, and thence spreading outwardly to a point on the outer side of the ball of the foot, and thence curving inwardly to the central line, as described, and for the purpose set forth.

Mrs. MARGARET CHITTENDEN MOULTON.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. GATES,  
SARAH D. GATES.