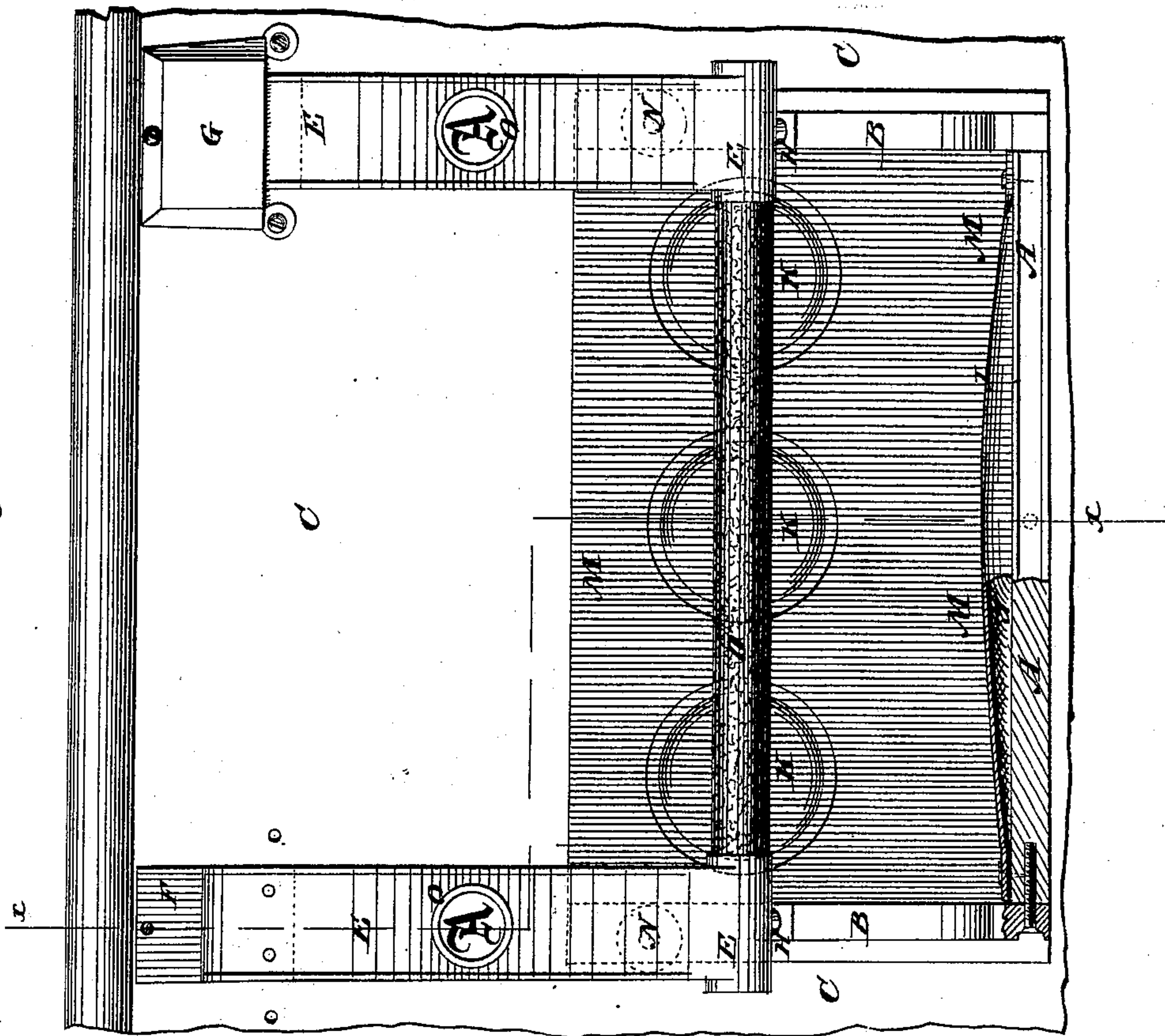
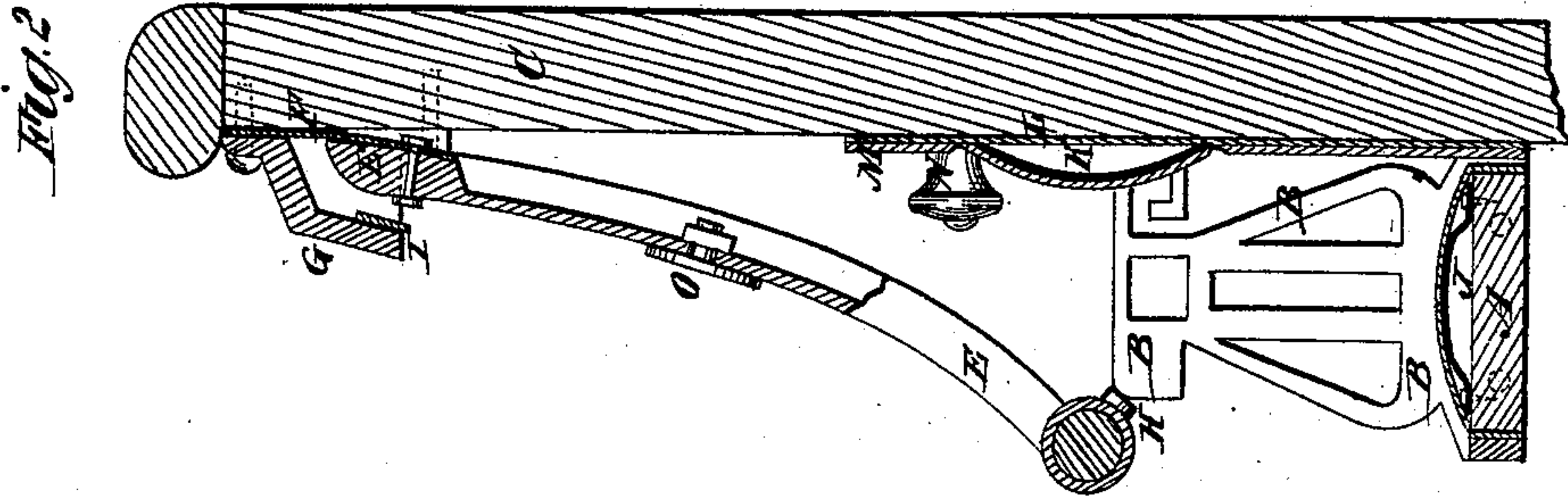


A. R. SHERMAN.
Book-Rack.

No. 200,576.

Patented Feb. 19, 1878.



WITNESSES :

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT R. SHERMAN, OF NATICK, RHODE ISLAND.

IMPROVEMENT IN BOOK-RACKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **200,576**, dated February 19, 1878; application filed January 18, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT R. SHERMAN, of Natick, in the county of Kent and State of Rhode Island, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Book-Racks for Church-Pews, of which the following is a specification:

Referring to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a front view of my improved book-rack, part being broken away, and partly in section, to show the construction; and Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the same, taken through the line *x*, Fig. 1, part being broken away to show the construction.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of this invention is to furnish an improved book-rack for church-pews, which shall be so constructed as to hold the books pressed shut, and at the same time allow the books to be readily put into and taken out of the said rack.

The invention consists in the combination of the shelf, the brackets, the rod, the swinging arms, the springs, and the caps with each other; in the combination of the convexed rubber plates with the shelf of the book-rack; and in the convexed rubber plates attached to the back of a pew, to operate, in connection with the rod and the swinging arms, for holding the books closed, as hereinafter fully described.

A is the shelf, the ends of which are attached to two brackets, B, which are designed to be attached to the back C of a pew. D is a rod, which forms the front rail of the book-rack, and to the ends of which are attached the lower ends of two arms, E.

To the upper ends of the arms E are attached springs F, made of thin sheet-steel, and which are attached to the pew-back C, to hold the arms E down, and at the same time allow them to be raised to put in and take out the books.

The upper ends of the arms E and the springs F are covered by caps G, the cavities of which are made so large as to allow the said arms E to have sufficient play. The lower ends of the arms E rest upon the forward corners of the upper ends of the brackets B, and have rubber knobs H attached to them to strike against the said corners, and thus prevent noise. For the same reason the

inner surface of the caps G, that the arms E strike against when raised, is covered with cloth or rubber I.

The shelf A has a cushion, formed of a convexed plate of rubber, J, attached to it, to adjust itself to and support the edges of the book.

To the back of the pew are attached cushions, formed by attaching convex rubber plates K to pasteboard L, or other substance that has sufficient stiffness to support them. The cushions J and K and the rod D are covered with velvet, plush, or other suitable material M.

N are knobs, placed beneath the lower part of the arms E, to serve as screws for securing the upholstery to the pew-back C, and also as supports to hang fans or other light articles upon. O are ornamental disks, the shanks of which pass through holes in the arms E, and have nuts screwed upon their ends.

The disks O may have the initials of the pew-owner's name formed upon them. The brackets B and the arms E may be made plain, or they may be ornamented to any desired extent.

By this construction the rod D is pressed against the sides of the books by the weight of the arms E and by the force of the springs F, so as to hold the said books closed. The elastic cushions K press against the inner side of the books, so that thinner and thicker books may be held closed by the same rod D.

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

1. The combination of the shelf A, the brackets B, the rod C, the swinging arms E, the springs F, and the caps G with each other, substantially as herein shown and described.

2. The combination of the convexed rubber plate J with the shelf A of the book-rack, substantially as herein shown and described.

3. The convexed rubber plates K, attached to the back of a pew, to operate, in connection with the rod D and swinging arms E, for holding the books closed, substantially as herein shown and described.

ALBERT K. SHERMAN.

Witnesses:

JAMES T. GRAHAM,
C. SEDGWICK.