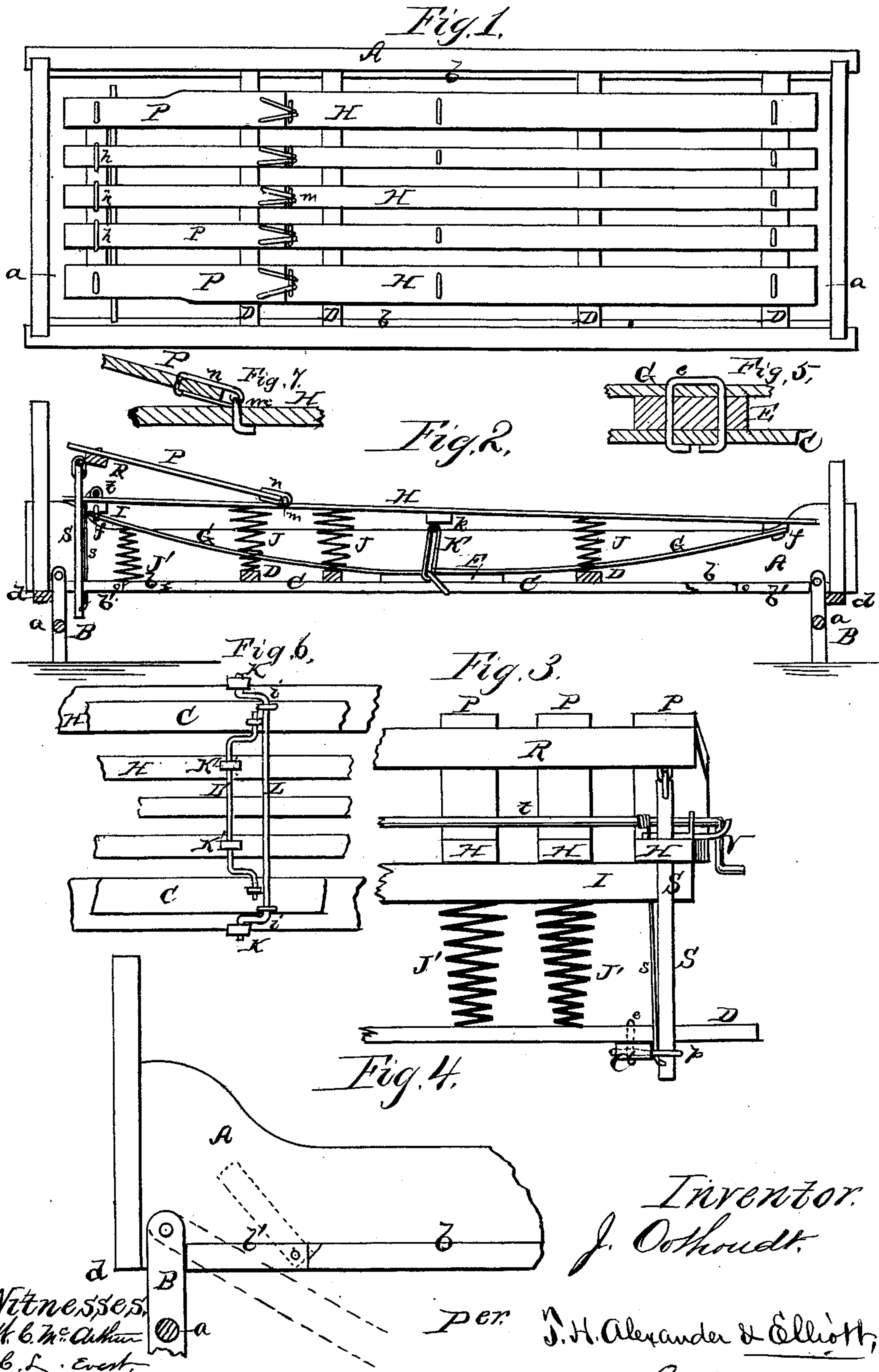


J. OOTHOUT.  
Spring Bed-Bottom.

No. 206,817.

Patented Aug. 6, 1878.



Inventor.  
J. Oothout.

Per J. H. Alexander & Elliott,  
Attorneys.

Witnesses,  
H. C. McArthur  
G. L. Everett.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSIAH OOTHOUDT, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SPRING BED-BOTTOMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **206,817**, dated August 6, 1878; application filed January 23, 1878.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSIAH OOTHOUDT, of Minneapolis, in the State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Spring Bed-Bottoms; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form part of this specification.

The nature of my invention consists in the construction and arrangement of a spring bed-bottom, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the annexed drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of my improved spring bed-bottom arranged in a bedstead. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section of the same. Fig. 3 is an enlarged rear elevation of a portion of the bed-bottom. Fig. 4 shows a portion of the bedstead. Figs. 5, 6, and 7 are detailed views of parts of the bed-bottom.

A represents a bedstead of any suitable construction, provided with legs B B at each end, which are connected by a round, *a*, and pivoted to the side rails of the bedstead. These legs are held in position by means of pivoted latches *b'*, as shown fully in Fig. 4. These latches, when in position to hold the legs, form part of a strip, *b*, secured lengthwise on the inner side of each side rail of the bedstead. Along the lower edges of the head and foot boards are secured similar strips *d d*, which are, however, in a plane below that of the strips *b b*.

The bed-bottom is composed of, first, a frame consisting of two longitudinal bars, C C, connected by means of a series of cross-bars, D D, fastened on top of them. When this frame is placed in the bedstead A the ends of the bars C C rest upon the head and foot board strips *d d*, while the ends of the cross-bars D D rest upon the side rail strips *b b*, and the bed-bottom thus obtains a firm support in every direction. The bars C and D are fastened together by means of staples *e e*, the arms or ends of which are passed downward through

proper holes made for them, and there clinched on the under side. In the center on top of each bar C is fastened a block or shoe, E, and on top thereof is fastened a wooden spring, G. These parts are also united together by staples in the same manner as described for the frame C D. The springs G G are fastened in the center, and their ends are passed through staples *f*, which are fastened in and project from the under sides of two cross-bars, I I, one at or near each end of the bed-bottom. The cross-bars I I support a series of bed-slats, H H, which are at one end secured to one cross-bar by staples clinched on the under side, and at the other end the slats pass through elongated staples *h h*, fastened on top of the other cross-bar, I. Under each slat H is placed a series of spiral springs, J, resting upon the cross-bars D of the bottom. At the head the ends of the wooden springs G rest upon spiral springs J', which are supported upon the ends of the longitudinal bars C. At or near the center of the bed-bottom the slats H are connected in pairs in the following manner: The outside slat on each side is on its under side provided with an arm, K, which two arms connect with cranks *i i* on the ends of a shaft, L, which is placed in suitable bearings on the under side of the bars C C of the bottom frame. The second slat on each side is in like manner, by rods or arms K', connected with a second crank-shaft, L', and so on in rotation, according to the number of slats in the bed. These devices form equalizers, so that the weight on one side of the bed-bottom will act on the other side in the same manner. The arms K K' are by staples connected to small blocks *k*, and these are in turn by staples connected to the under sides of the bed-slats. This bed-bottom is provided with a head-rest composed of a series of short slats, P, connected near their upper ends by means of staples to a cross-bar, R. The lower ends of the slats P are hinged to the top of the bed-slats H by means of staples *m n*. A staple, *m*, is passed through each slat H and clinched on the under side. Two staples, *n n*, are passed through the staple *m*, and one arm of each staple *n* laid angularly outward on top of the inner end of the slat P, and then passed through said slat to the under side, where it is clinched



with the end of the other arm of the same staple, as shown. The cross-bar R of the head-rest is, near each end, provided with a pendent arm, S, loosely connected thereto by staples, said arms passing down through holes in the ends of the outer slats H and through staples *p* attached to the bars C. On top of the slats H, near the head end, in suitable bearings, is placed a shaft, *t*, Figs. 2 and 3, having two cords or chains, *s s*, attached to and wrapped around the same, the ends of said cords or chains being fastened to the lower ends of the arms S S. The shaft *t* is at one end provided with a crank, V, by means of which it may be rotated, thus, by the winding up of the cords *s*, raising the arms S and adjusting the head-rest to any height or angle desired.

It will be noticed that in the construction of this entire bed-bottom no nails or screws

are used. All the fastenings are wire staples, which can be cheaply and quickly made.

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

In a spring bed-bottom having a series of longitudinal slats, crank-shafts and connecting-arms, arranged substantially as herein set forth, for connecting the slats in pairs successively from the two sides of the bed-bottom, for the purpose described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOSIAH OOTHOUDT.

Witnesses:

R. C. BENTON,

C. C. LELAND.