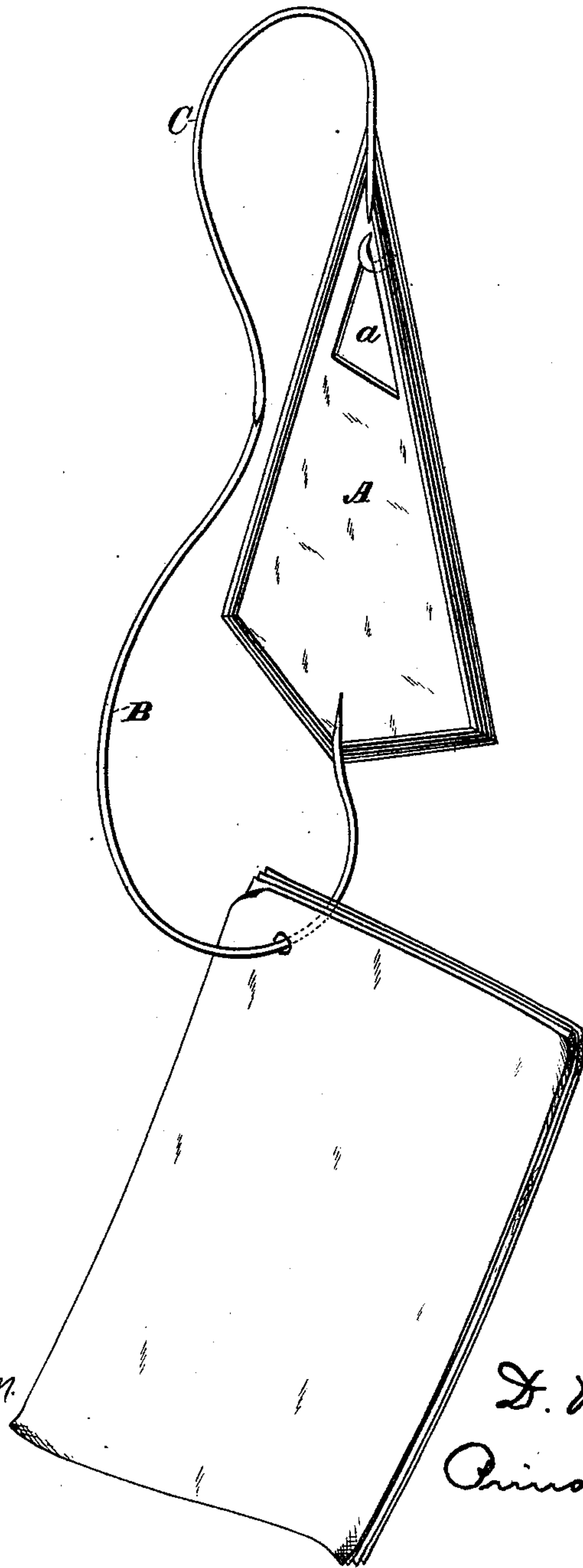


D. W. LAPHAM.
Paper-File.

No. 214,405.

Patented April 15, 1879.

Fig. 1.



WITNESSES-

*Jas. C. Hutchinson.
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Fig-2.

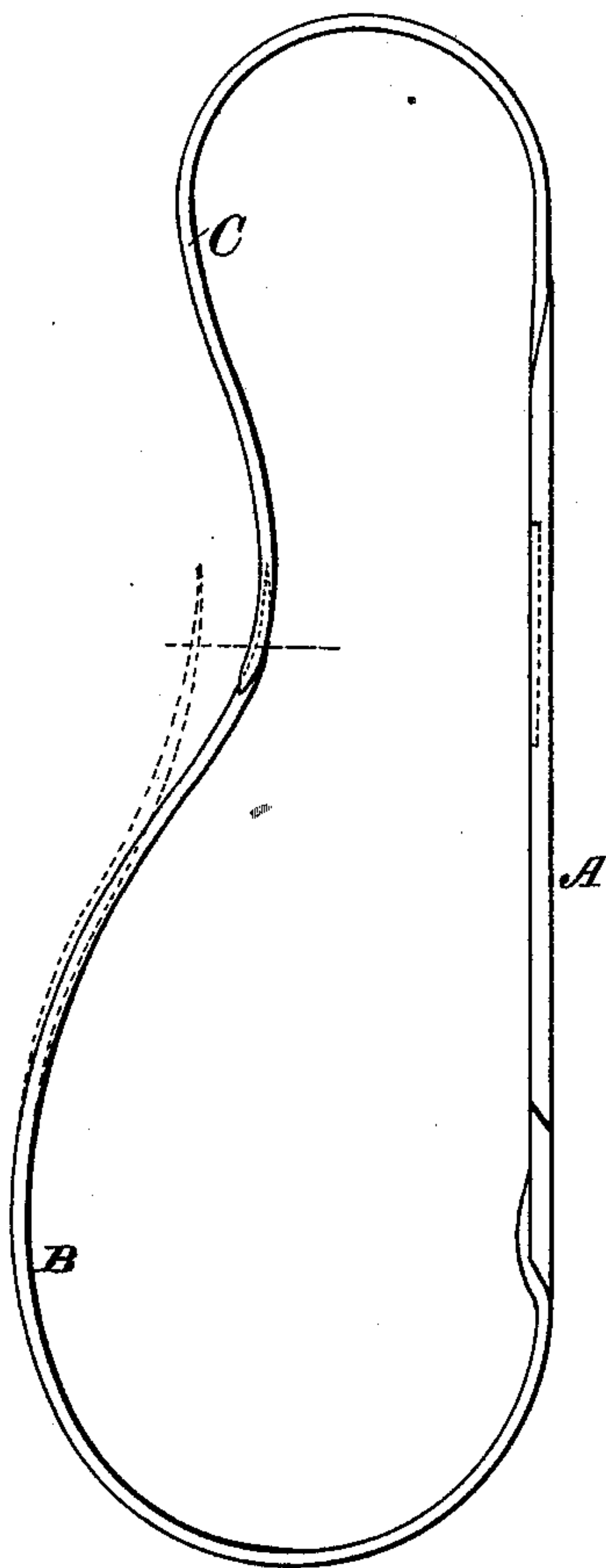


Fig-3.



Fig-4.



WITNESSES=

Jas. C. Hutchinson.

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INVENTOR-

D. W. Lapham, by

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANIEL W. LAPHAM, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN PAPER-FILES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **214,405**, dated April 15, 1879; application filed March 19, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL W. LAPHAM, of Washington, in the county of Washington, and in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Paper-Files; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved device as arranged for use. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same, the full lines showing the file-hook in engagement with its guard, and the dotted lines said parts disengaged from each other; and Figs. 3 and 4 are, respectively, a cross-section and a longitudinal section of the engaging ends of said hook and guard.

Letters of like name and kind refer to like parts in each of the figures.

The design of my invention is to furnish a simple and efficient means whereby loose papers may be temporarily filed for reference; and to this end it consists in a paper-file constructed in the manner and for the purpose substantially as hereinafter specified.

In the annexed drawings, A represents the base or back of my device, constructed of or from sheet metal, having, preferably, the arrow-head form shown, and provided near its pointed end with an opening, *a*, that decreases in width from its lower end to its upper end, and furnishes a means whereby said back may be suspended from a nail which is driven into a wall or other vertical support.

Secured to the lower end of the back A is one end of a wire, B, which from thence extends in a curve downward, forward, upward, and inward, and has its upper end curved slightly outward, as shown in Fig. 2. The upper end of the wire B is pointed, so as to enable papers to be passed over the same, and serves the usual purpose of a file-hook, said papers being suspended therefrom, as shown by Fig. 1.

In order that papers may be prevented from becoming accidentally detached, and for the purpose of enabling any one of said papers to be removed without rendering necessary the removal of the other papers, I secure to

the upper end of the back-plate A one end of a wire, C, which from thence extends in a curve upward, forward, and downward, and at its lower end overlaps the upper pointed end of the hook B from one-eighth to three-eighths of an inch.

The side of the wire C next to the back-plate A is grooved to correspond to the shape of the outer side of the pointed end of the hook B, so that if said hook end is placed within said groove *c* said wire or guard C will form a continuation of said hook, and at the point of their engagement the general transverse dimensions and shape of each will be preserved.

The hook B and guard C are arranged so that the pointed end of the former has a tendency to spring outward beyond the lower end of the latter, and when placed in engagement with the groove *c*, such outward spring will cause said parts to maintain their said engagement and prevent accidental separation.

The device is now complete, and is used as follows, viz: The hook B being disengaged from its guard, any papers desired are passed over its pointed end, after which said hook is passed behind and caused to engage with said guard. If it becomes necessary to remove any one of the papers suspended from said hook, all papers above it are slipped upward upon the guard-wire, after which said hook is disengaged, the desired paper removed, and said hook again engaged, and the papers upon said guard moved downward to place.

The back-plate A may be made from cast or sheet metal; but I prefer to make use of the latter and to emboss the same, so as to secure a maximum of rigidity with a minimum of weight.

Having thus fully set forth the nature and merits of my invention, what I claim as new is—

The hereinbefore-described paper-file, consisting of the base or back plate A, adapted to be suspended from a wall, the file-hook B, attached to the lower end of said plate, extending thence in a curve downward, forward, and upward, and having its upper end pointed, and the guard C, attached at one end to the upper end of said plate, extending in a curve upward, forward, and downward, and

provided at its lower end, within its rear side, with a groove or recess, *c*, which corresponds to the pointed end of said hook, whereby, when the latter is placed within said groove, the outward spring of said hook will hold said parts in engagement, and said guard will form a continuation of said hook, and said engaging ends will have substantially the same dimensions as other portions of the latter, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of March, 1879.

D. W. LAPHAM.

Witnesses:

GEO. S. PRINDLE,
WILLIAM FITCH.