

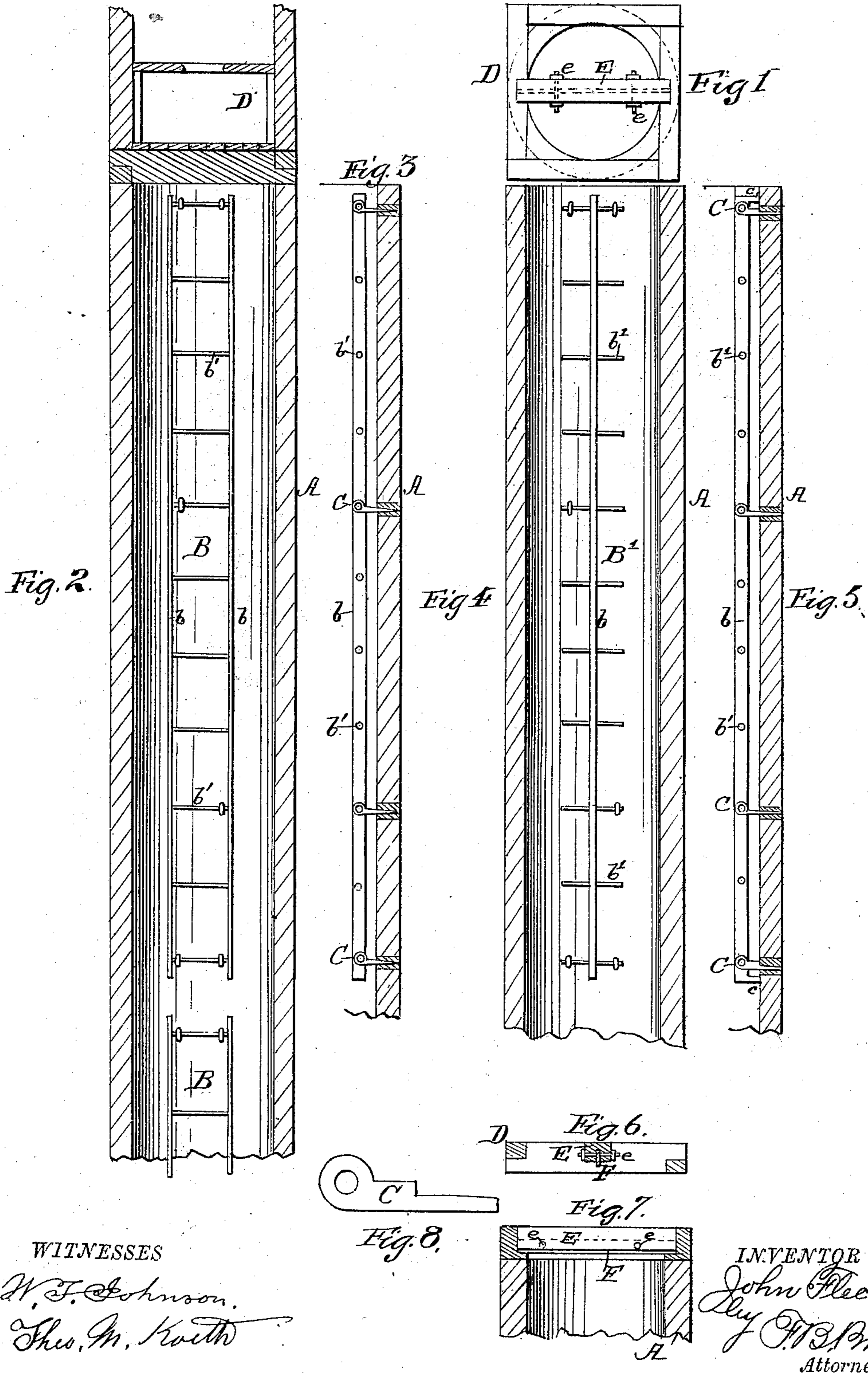
(No Model.)

J. FLECK.

LIFE SAVING APPARATUS FOR PRIVY VAULTS.

No. 270,295.

Patented Jan. 9, 1883.



WITNESSES

W. J. Johnson.  
Thos. M. Keith

INVENTOR

John Fleck  
By W. D. Brock  
Attorney

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN FLECK, OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

## LIFE-SAVING APPARATUS FOR PRIVY-VAULTS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 270,295, dated January 9, 1883.

Application filed August 10, 1882. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN FLECK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Louisville, in the county of Jefferson and State of Kentucky, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Life-Saving Apparatus for Privy-Vaults; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a top plan view of a privy-vault to which my improvement has been applied. Figs. 2 and 3 represent longitudinal vertical sections of the privy-vault, partly broken away; and Figs. 4 and 5 represent similar views showing my invention applied in a modified form. Figs. 6, 7, and 8 are detail sectional views.

My improvement relates to privy-vaults; and the object of the same is to provide a means of escape from the vaults should a person by accident fall therein.

In various sections of the United States deep vaults are commonly used, generally constructed of masonry, and, as is often the case, they are but imperfectly covered or otherwise protected at the top to guard against persons falling therein.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents the vault, which is generally circular in cross-section.

To the sides of the vault A, I attach a ladder, B, by means of staples or supporting devices C, securely driven or otherwise embedded in the walls of the vault. Where the vault is very deep I provide a ladder in two sections,

as seen in Fig. 2. In Figs. 2 and 3 the ladder is composed of two side bars, *b b*, and rungs *b'*. In cylindrical vaults the side bars, *b b*, may be arranged to lie contiguous to the wall, and so that a sufficient space may be left behind the rungs *b'* to enable a person to ascend.

In Figs. 4 and 5 a modification of the escape-ladder is shown. It consists of a single vertical bar, *B'*, pierced at intervals for the reception of the rungs *b'*, which project equally from the sides of the bar *B'*. The bar *B'* is provided with an angled projection, *c*, at either end, which rests against the sides of the vault and serves to keep the bar away the proper distance.

The staple, of the form shown by Figs. 5 and 8, may be employed as a substitute for the angled end of bar *B'* or in conjunction therewith.

The top of the vault is provided with the usual frame-work, *D*, for the privy-house or closet.

A transverse supporting-bar, preferably of wood, *E*, is provided for the frame-work, and is supplemented by an iron girder, *F*, let into a recess in the lower side of bar *E*, and fastened thereto by transverse bolts *e e*.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

The bar *B'*, having rungs *b'*, and provided with angular projections *c* at each end to keep the bar the required distance from the sides of vault, and staples or fastenings for securing the escape to the side of the vault, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN FLECK.

Witnesses:

TRAVERS DANIEL,  
WM. RÜNECKE.