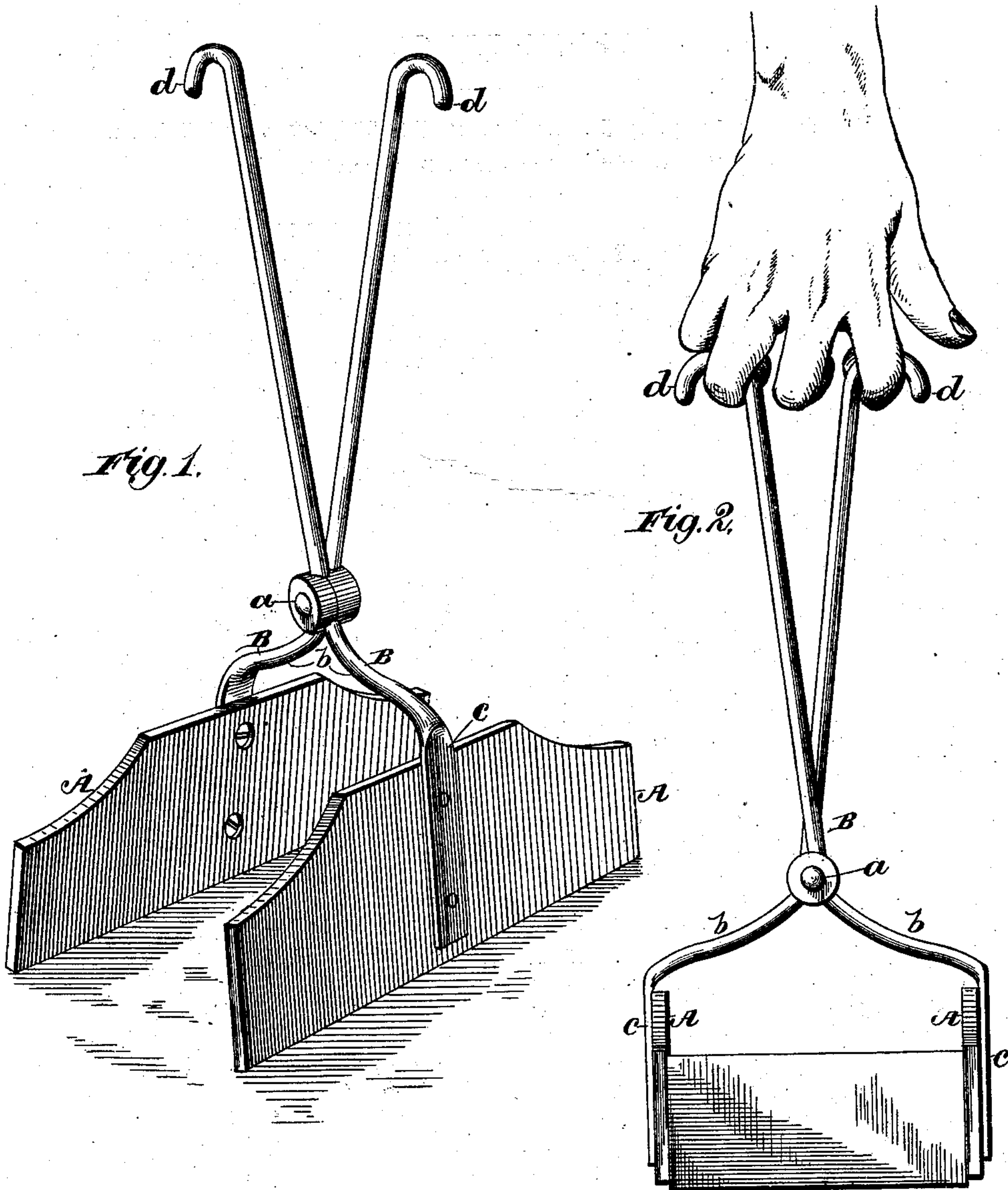


(No Model.)

D. RALSTON.
BRICK TONGS.

No. 272,320.

Patented Feb. 13, 1883.



Witnesses.
Robert Everett.
E. A. Rick

Inventor.
David Ralston.
By *Marshall Bailey* Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID RALSTON, OF TROY, NEW YORK.

BRICK-TONGS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 272,320, dated February 13, 1883.

Application filed December 6, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID RALSTON, of Troy, county of Rensselaer, State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Tongs for Lifting Bricks, of which the following is a specification.

My invention has reference to a device by which the finer kinds of bricks, while in unburned condition and still moist from the mold, can be lifted and moved from one place to another. Heretofore this has been done by means of what are called "pollet-boards," which are short pieces of board having cleats on the outer face to serve as handles. The workman takes a pollet-board in each hand, and, pressing them against the longer edges of a brick, holds the latter between them, and can thus lift and move it. Considerable trouble, however, is experienced in this operation, for there is liability of pressing the brick unequally, and this results in distorting it and putting it out of shape, which is fatal to pressed brick and other finer qualities of brick. Besides, the workman has no certainty of getting a firm hold on the brick, and must use both hands to perform the operation. In a few instances it has been essayed to use boards hinged together somewhat after the fashion of tongs; but the devices suggested for the purpose have been cumbersome, unwieldy, and expensive, and have not been adapted for industrial use. With a view to removing these and other objections, I have devised brick-tongs by means of which the workman can handle bricks with celerity without danger of crushing or distorting them, and which, at the same time, are very simple and inexpensive, and can be manipulated and used with entire ease. This device can best be explained and understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the tongs. Fig. 2 is an end view of the tongs, showing a brick clamped between the boards, hereinafter described.

The tongs are composed of two smooth-faced boards, A—answering to pollet-boards—which are carried each by a wrought-iron or other suitable leg, B. The legs are pivoted together at *a*, and below the pivot they are bent outwardly in opposite directions, as seen at *b*, and are thence bent vertically down, as seen at *c*, the boards A being fastened to the ends *c*. The outward hands, *b*, are of such length that when the interior opposite faces of the boards are parallel to one another they will be separated by a distance equal to the width of a brick, which is about four and one-half inches. When the boards are in this position, (indicated in Fig. 2,) the ends of the legs B above the pivot *a* slightly diverge, as indicated in the same figure. The upper end of each leg terminates in a hook, *d*, which forms a finger-piece, and thus, when the tongs are applied to a brick and the legs are taken in the hand, by putting one finger under each hook *d*, the brick can then be lifted with great facility, for the boards press evenly against the longer edges of the brick, and the tendency of the instrument, when suspended by the hooks *d*, is to cause the upper ends of the legs to close together, and thus to tighten the hold of the tongs on the brick.

The device, as a whole, is simple and cheap, can be readily made, and has proven entirely effective in practice.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The hereinbefore-described brick-tongs, consisting of the boards A and the pivoted legs B, provided with hooks or finger-pieces *d*, these parts being constructed and arranged together as herein shown and set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 23d day of November, 1882.

DAVID RALSTON.

Witnesses:

J. WALTER BLANDFORD,
EWELL A. DICK.