

(No Model.)

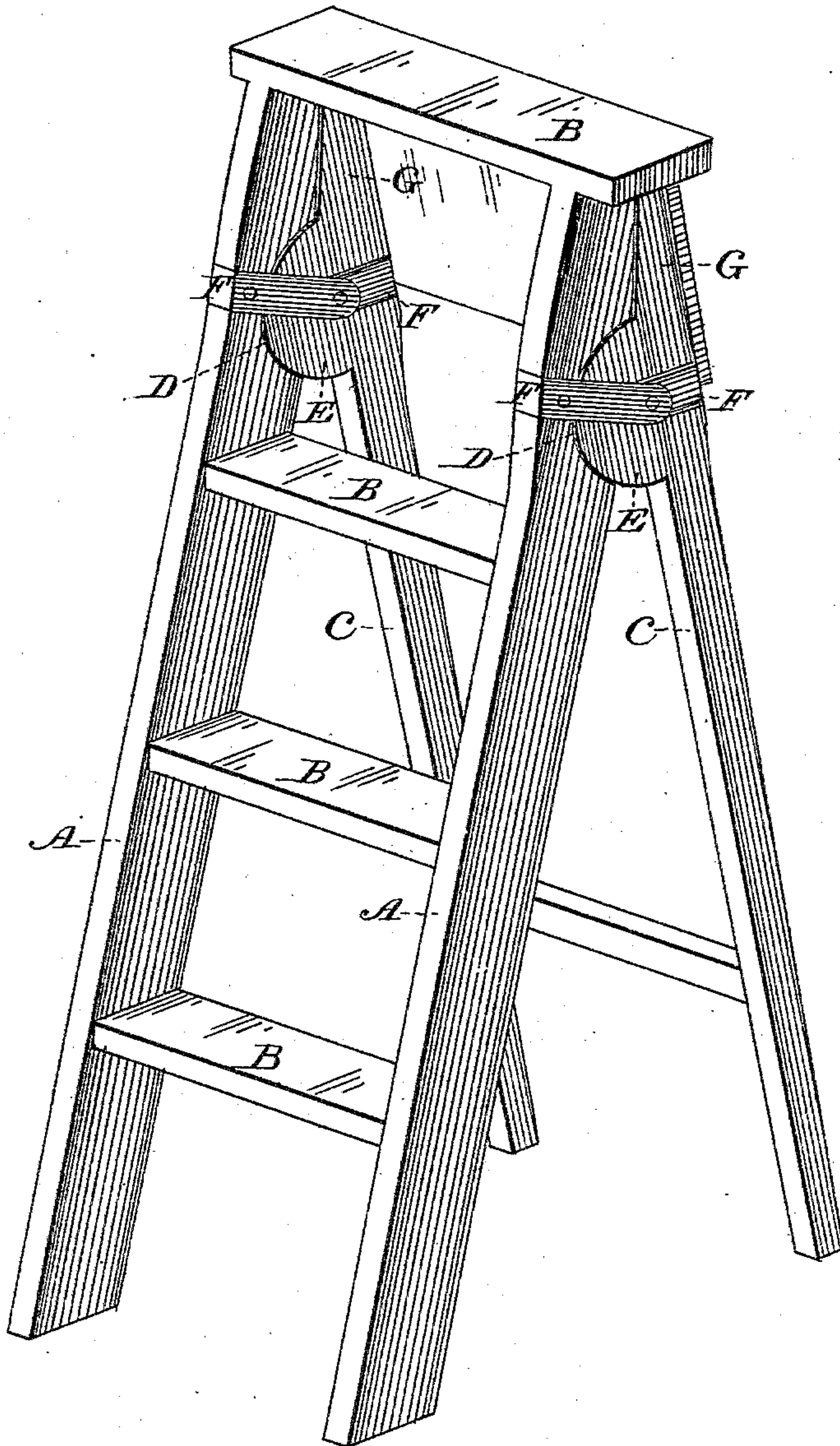
E. A. SHUMWAY.

STEP LADDER.

No. 283,524.

Patented Aug. 21, 1883.

*Fig. 1.*



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD A. SHUMWAY, OF WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA.

## STEP-LADDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 283,524, dated August 21, 1883.

Application filed May 29, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD A. SHUMWAY, of Walnut Creek, county of Contra Costa, and State of California, have invented an Improvement in Step-Ladders; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention relates to an improved construction for step-ladders, which will be more fully explained by reference to the accompanying drawing, in which the figure is a view of my ladder.

A A are the side pieces of a ladder, in which the steps B are secured, and C C are the rear standards or supports. The upper parts of the side pieces, A, have semicircular or segmental grooves D cut in them, as shown, and the upper ends of the standards C have corresponding projections, E, which fit the grooves. Metal straps F are secured across and embrace the parts A and C, so as to lap at the common center, from which the arcs D and E are formed.

Through the lapping ends bolts or rivets are secured, so that the parts A and C may be opened or closed about these centers, the arc E turning in the corresponding depression, D. The upper ends of the standards C project above the curved part E, as shown at G, and when the standards have been opened out from the main portion of the ladder to the point where they are to stand to support the ladder these lugs or extensions G will come in contact with the upper parts of A and thus form a brace.

The construction is such that the weight upon the ladder tends to keep it opened, and there is no need of a brace to prevent the collapse of the ladder when in use. It is easily handled, being readily opened or closed with one hand, as there are no braces to manipulate.

It will be manifest that the curves might be recessed in the side pieces, A and C; but I have found it most economical to cut them as I have here shown.

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

1. In a step-ladder, the step-rails and the rear standards, united at or near their upper ends by means of a curved depression formed in one and a corresponding projection upon the other formed on the arc of a circle, and united by straps and bolts at their common center, substantially as herein described.

2. In a step-ladder, the front step-rails and the rear standards, having corresponding depressed and projecting portions formed in arcs of circles, and united, so as to turn about each other, by strap-joints, in combination with projecting lugs or stops G G, to limit the amount of separation of the feet, substantially as herein described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

EDWARD A. SHUMWAY.

Witnesses:

G. B. STUDLEY,  
S. H. NOURSE.