

(No Model.)

P. MEYER.

BILL AND LETTER FILE.

No. 390,133.

Patented Sept. 25, 1888.

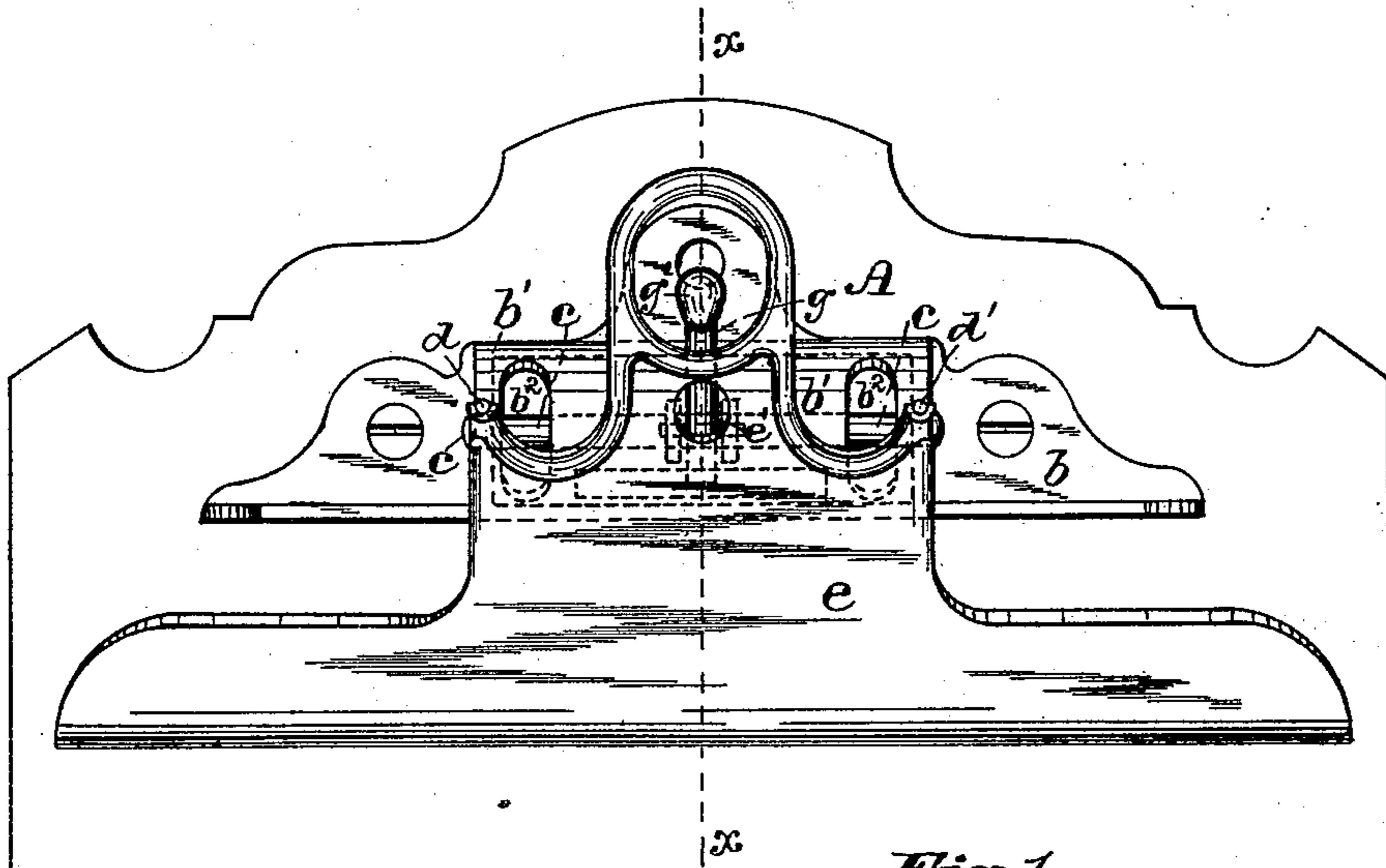


Fig. 1

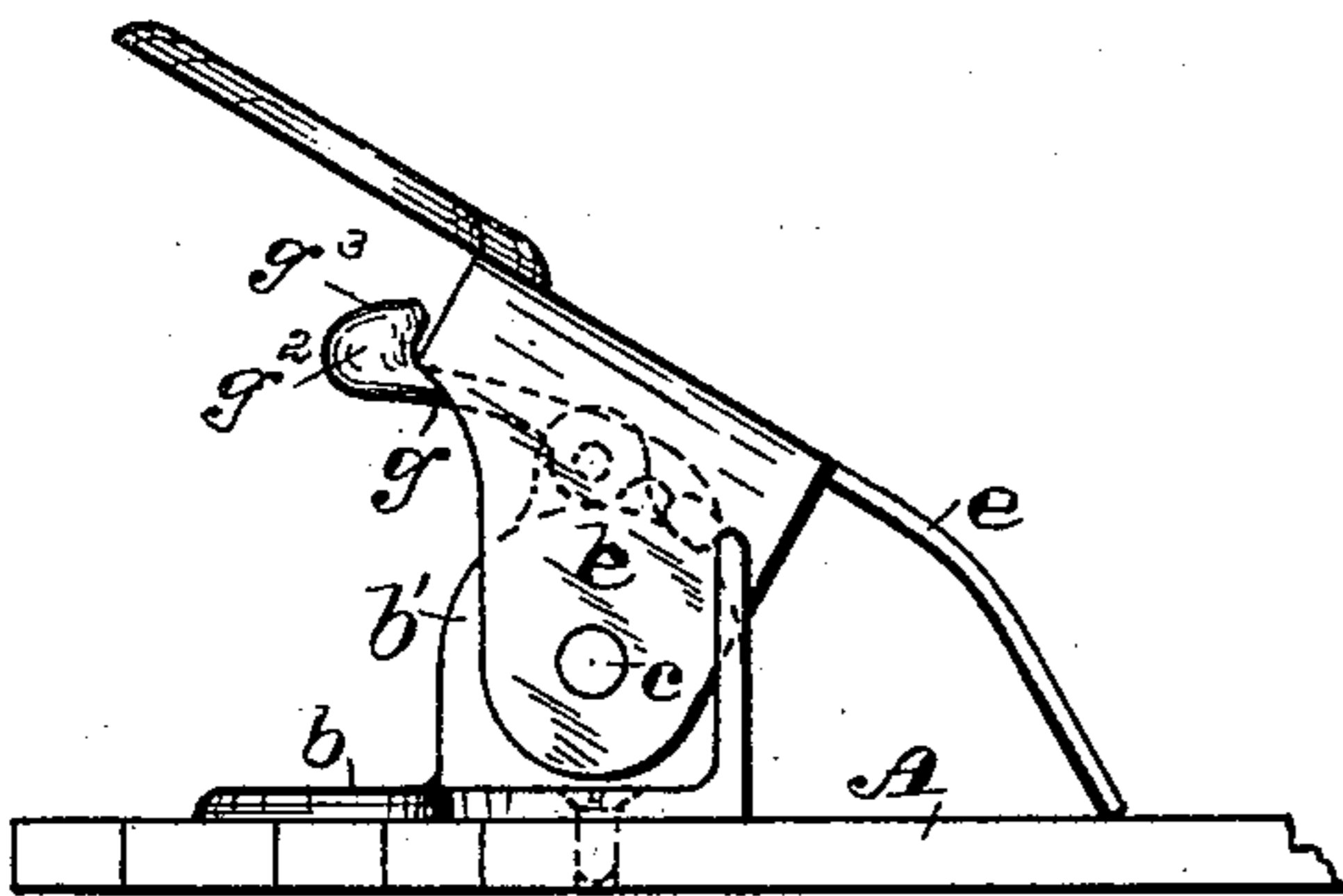


Fig. 2

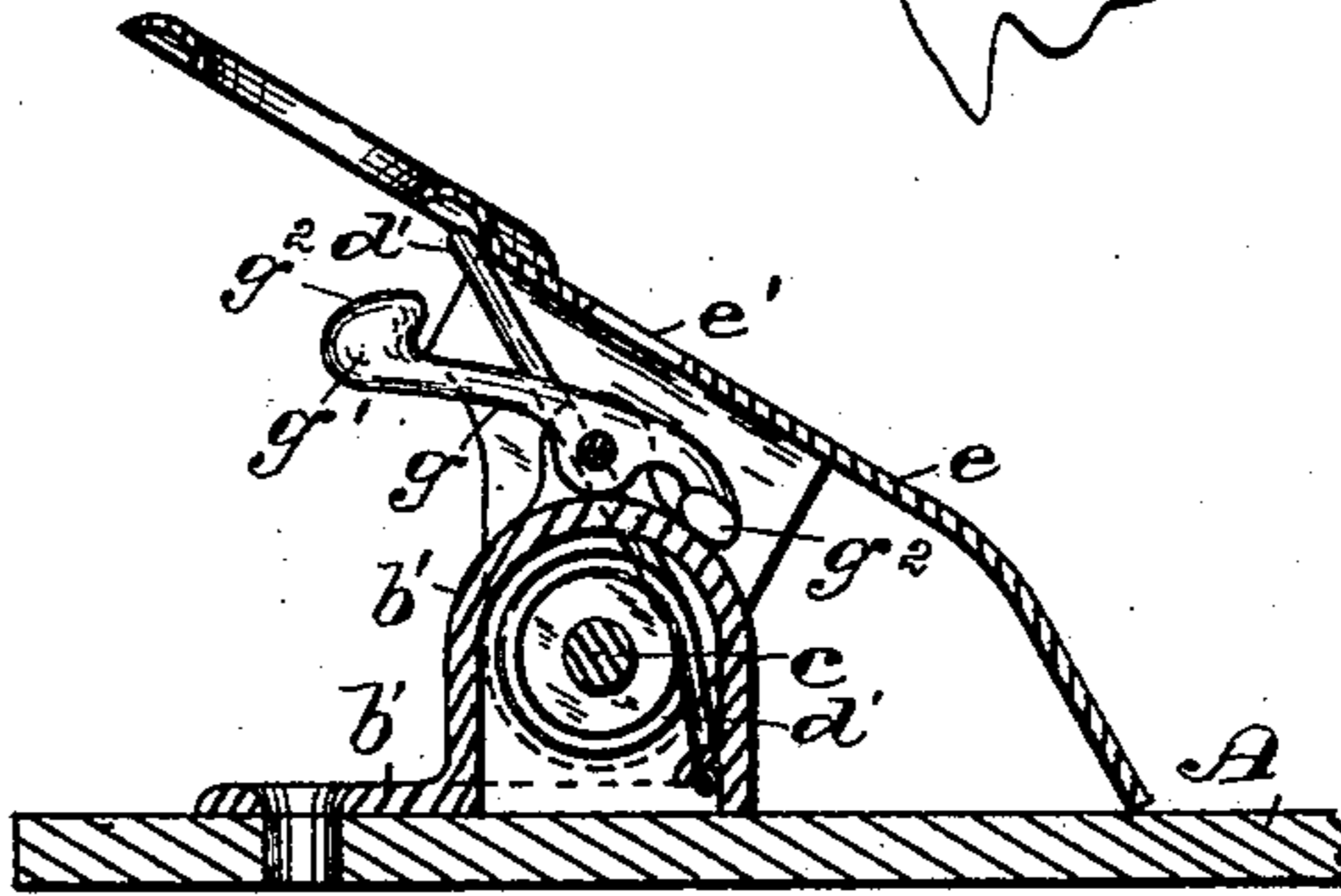


Fig. 3

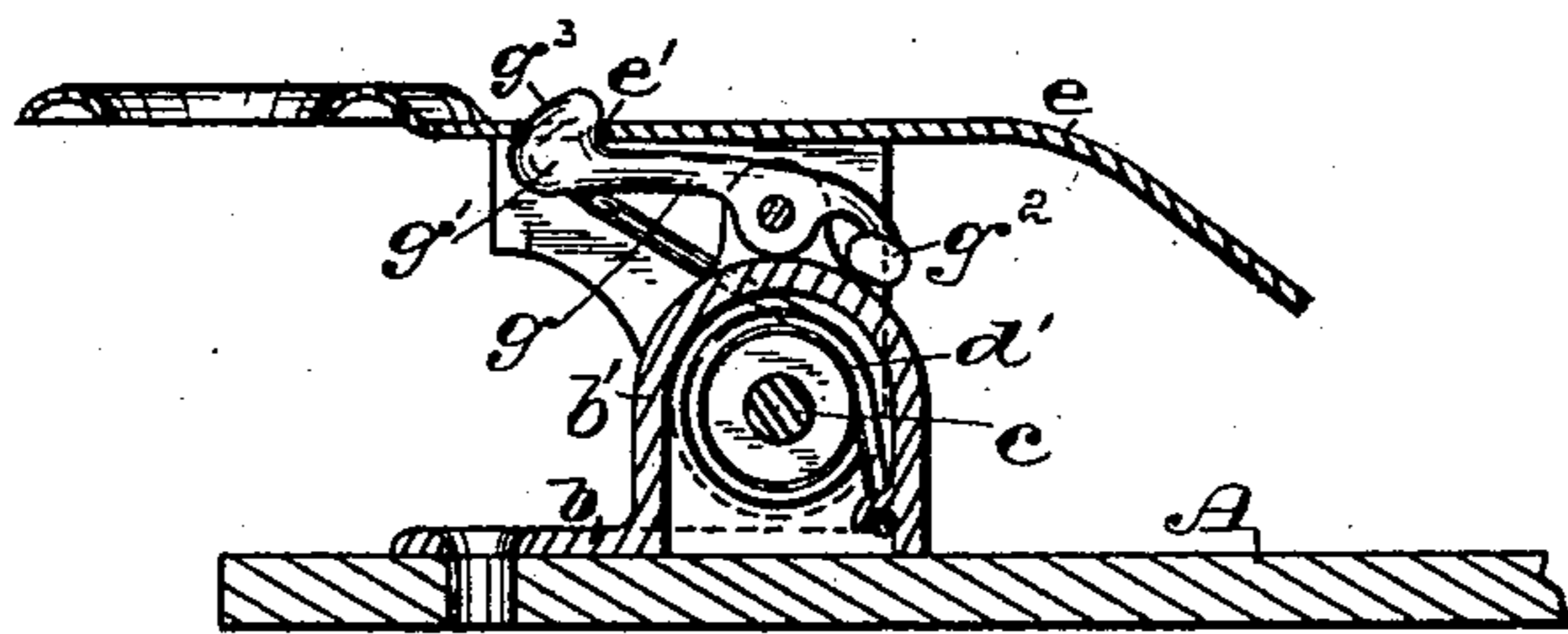


Fig. 4

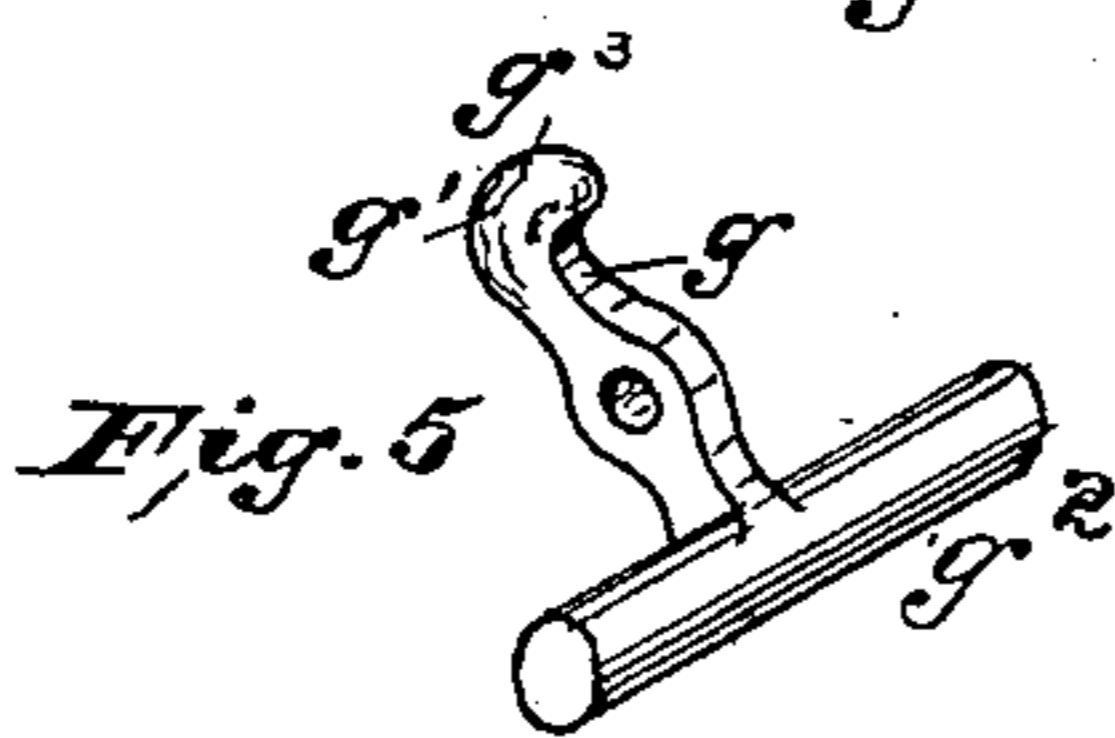


Fig. 5

WITNESSES:

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INVENTOR:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PHILIP MEYER, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO JAMES L. TOBIN,
OF SAME PLACE.

BILL AND LETTER FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 390,133, dated September 25, 1888.

Application filed May 1, 1888. Serial No. 272,488. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PHILIP MEYER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter and Bill Files; and I do hereby 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 letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The purpose of the invention illustrated in the accompanying sheet of drawings, which relates to improvements in letter and bill files, is to provide a simple, cheap, and positively and automatically acting device for retaining the clip or clamping-plate in an elevated position on the board while removing or adjusting the papers.

In said sheet of drawings, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in each of the views, Figure 1 is a plan of my improved file, the clip of which is in its normal holding position. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of said clip and a portion of the board to which the same is secured, as shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a sectional view of Fig. 1, taken through *x*. Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3, illustrating the operation of the catch when the clip is held in its elevated position; and Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the gravity-catch.

A in said views indicates the back board, to which the clamping mechanism is secured, and upon which the letters and bills are placed under the clamp or clip. To said board is secured the base *b* of the clamping device, from which rises the standard *b'*, having slots *b''* in the top thereof, and through which said standard extends a rod, *c*, around which are coiled the springs *d* and *d'*, and on the ends of which is journaled the pivoted clip *e* outside of the standard *b'*, as shown in Fig. 2. One end of each of the coiled springs engages with the clip, substantially as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, and acts to hold the same in contact with the board A and to hold the letters, &c., between

the clip and board. As thus constructed and arranged the clip rotates around the rod *c* as a center. On the top of the standard is pivotally arranged a catch, *g*, one end, *g'*, of which is hooked and the opposite end, *g''*, is weighted, whereby the said catch is caused to assume the position shown in Figs. 2 and 3, which is in its normal position when the clip is down upon the board. In the clip is an opening, *e'*, which is so placed that as the clip is raised from the board and turned to the position shown in Fig. 4 the hooked end of the gravity-catch enters said opening and the under side of said hook catches on the edge of said opening, and, as the clip tends to turn down toward the board, the side of the opening opposite to that which engages with the under side of the hook strikes the back of the hook, as shown in Fig. 4, and thus locks the clip in a raised position, as indicated in said figure. As shown in said last-named figure, it will be seen that the top surface, *g''*, of the hook is curved, so that when pressure is applied to the top of said hook the same is pushed down through the opening *e'*, and the clip is thereby released and free to return to its holding position, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, inclusive.

The weighted end of the gravity-catch holds the same always in position to engage with the clip, and when the hooked end of the catch is depressed the said weighted end returns the catch to its normal locking position.

The manner of pivoting the gravity-catch in operative relation to the clip may vary from the construction shown in the drawings, as I do not desire to limit my invention in this respect.

Having thus described my invention, what I desire to secure is—

1. In a letter and bill file, the combination, with the pivoted clip having an opening, *e'*, therein, of a catch pivoted beneath said clip and engaging automatically with said opening when the same is depressed, as and for the purposes set forth.

2. In a letter and bill file, the combination of the spring-actuated holding clamp or clip pivotally secured to suitable standards, and

provided with an opening, *e'*, therein back of
the pivotal point of said clip, and a catch
pivoted beneath said opening, and having a
weighted end and a hooked end, which en-
5 gages automatically with the opening *e'* when
the same is depressed, for the purposes set
forth.

In testimony that I claim the invention set
forth above I have hereunto set my hand this
28th day of April, 1888.

PHILIP MEYER.

Witnesses:

FREDK. C. FRAENTZEL,
JAMES L. TOBIN.