(No Model.)

A. DIBRELL.

THILL COUPLING.

No. 543,615. Patented July 30, 1895.

Fig. 1.

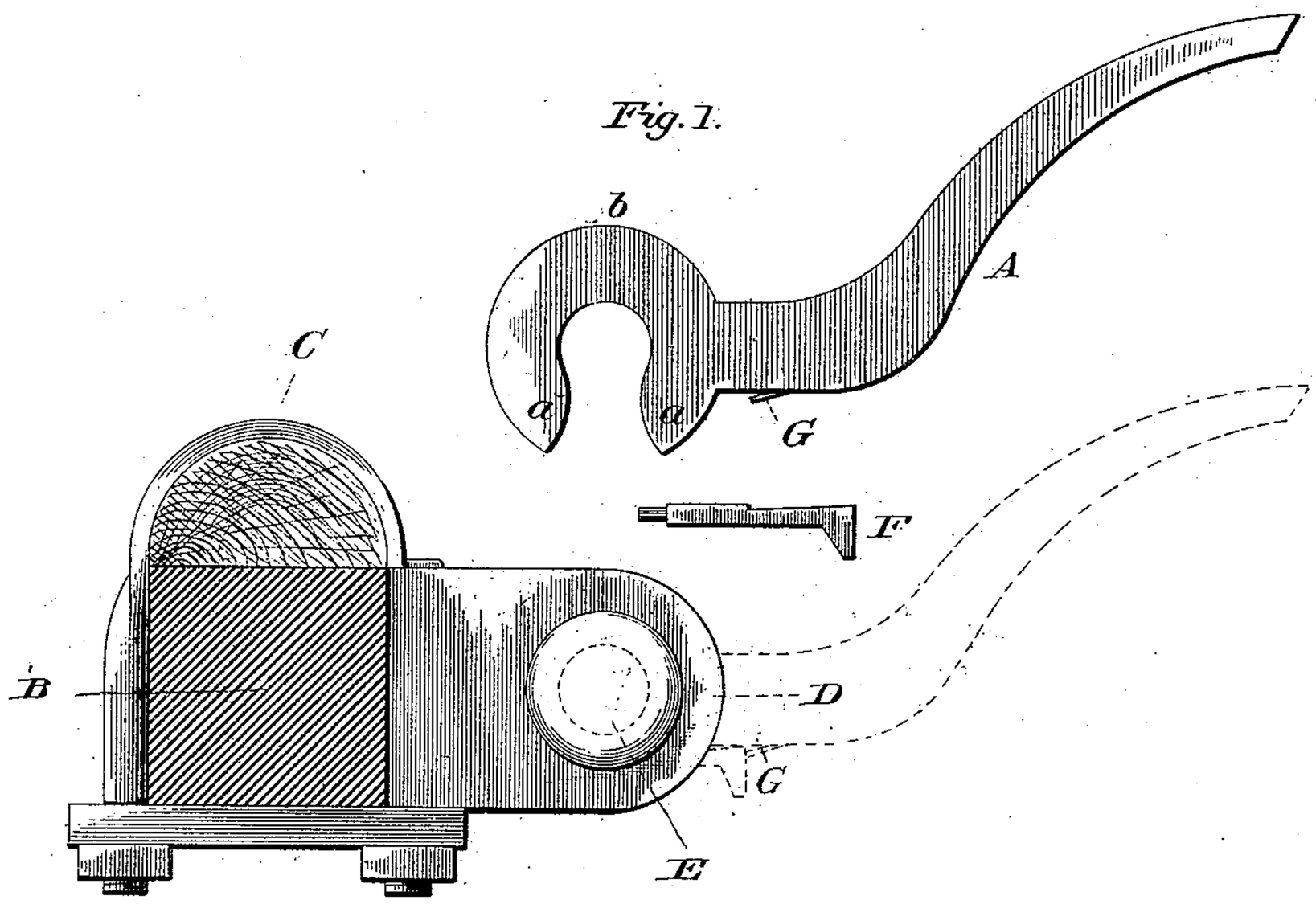
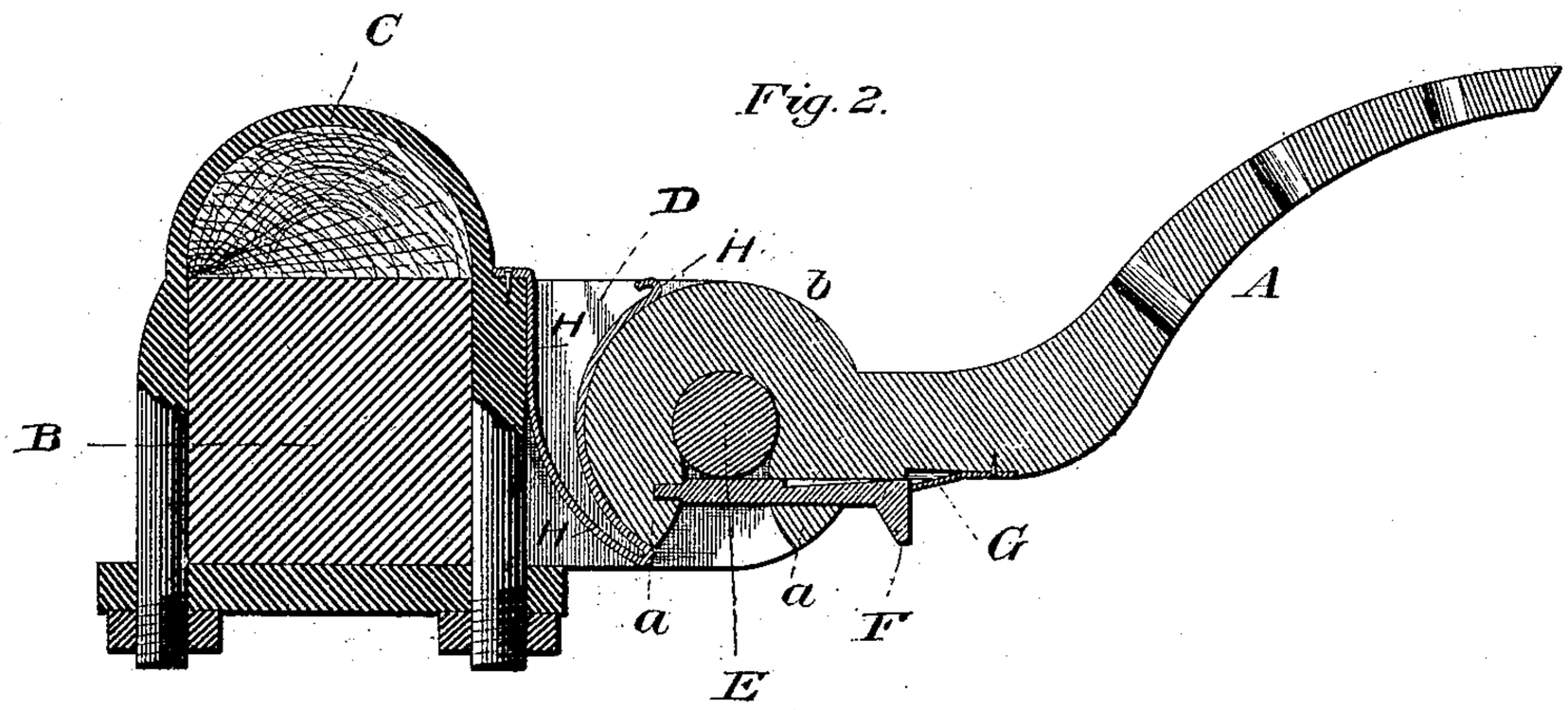


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANTHONY DIBRELL, OF UVALDE, TEXAS.

THILL-COUPLING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 543,615, dated July 30, 1895.

Application filed November 10, 1894. Serial No. 528,375. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANTHONY DIBRELL, of Uvalde, county of Uvalde, State of Texas, have invented a new and Improved Thill-Coupling; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of the coupling with the position for applying the thill-iron indicated in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the same with the coupling in position for use in the vehicle.

The letters used follow the respective parts in both figures.

A is the thill-iron; *a a*, the jaws thereof; *b*, the hand or holder of same.

B is the axle of the vehicle.

C is the clip on the axle of the vehicle.

D is the eye of the clip.

E is the pivot-bolt of the eye of the clip.

F is the key in the jaws of the thill-iron.

G is the flat bar-spring on under side (or in a recess therein) of the thill-iron in line therewith which secures the key in place.

H is the antirattler-spring.

Given the ordinary axle, clip-eye, and pivot-bolt for a thill-iron, my invention relates to certain improvements in thill-couplings of that class in which the thill-iron, instead of a hand or holder, through which is a lateral hole to accommodate the pivot-bolt, the hand or holder part of the thill-iron is made slotted to the hole therein and the slotted edges or portions are made to extend downward in jaws or flat hook-like extensions far enough so that a hole in line with the main thill-iron may be made through these jaws to admit of the putting of the key (made in the form of a bolt with a railroad-spike head thereto) therein to secure the thill-iron in position for use, which key is kept in place by the shoulder of a flat bar-shaped spring, made and placed on the under side of the thill-iron (or in a recess therein) in front of the key and in line therewith. This manner of securing the thill-iron in place prevents same from becoming unhitched or detached from the pivot-bolt while in use and provides a simple and convenient means of unhitching or detaching same at will without the aid of any tool or implement.

When the respective parts are made as herein described the thill-iron may be placed in position on the pivot-bolt; then, with thumb and fingers, put into the hole in the jaws of the thill-iron, from the front toward the rear, the key, until the head of the key touches hard against the front jaw of the thill-iron, when the flat bar-spring on the under side of the thill-iron in front of the key and in line therewith will spring out in front of the key, and the same is thereby securely held in place.

To remove the thill-iron press the thumb of one hand against the flat bar-spring until the same is pressed closely against the thill-iron or down into the recess made for the same therein and with the thumb and fingers of the other hand pull out by its head the key in the jaws of the thill-iron and the thill-iron may be lifted out of place.

In defining the limits of my invention I do not claim, broadly, the slotted, hooked, or jaw-like extensioned thill-iron nor the same in combination with a pivot-bolt; but,

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

In combination with the ordinary clip-eye and pivot-bolt in same, the open-slotted thill-iron with jaws so extended and flattened as to admit of a hole being made through these jaws, in line with the main thill-iron, in which may be placed a bolt-like key with a railroad-spike head thereto, to secure in place while in use, the thill-iron; which key is maintained in its position, while in use, by means of a flat bar-spring fastened to the under side of the thill-iron, or in a recess therein; substantially as described, and for the purposes set forth.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 5th day of November, 1894.

ANTHONY DIBRELL.

Witnesses:

H. W. HOUSE,

A. A. DIAL.