R. HUNT.

Vehicle Top-Supports.

No. 166,610. Patented Aug. 10, 1875.

Fig. 1.

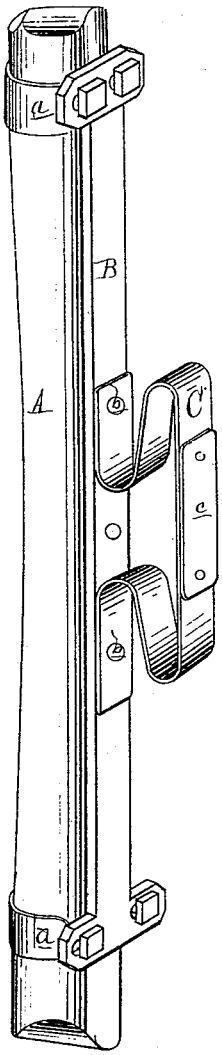
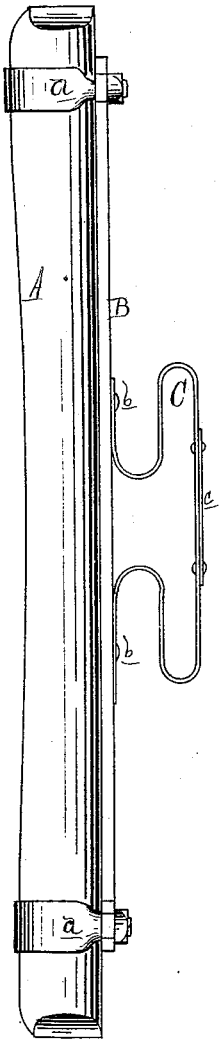


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

REUBEN HUNT, OF ALBION, MICHIGAN.

IMPROVEMENT IN VEHICLE-TOP SUPPORTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **166,610**, dated August 10, 1875; application filed June 17, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, REUBEN HUNT, of Albion, in the county of Calhoun, Michigan, have invented an Improved Top-Support for Carriages, of which the following is a specification:

My invention has for its object to provide the rear bow of a folding carriage-top with an elastic support at the point where it comes in contact with the seat-prop when thrown back, to prevent the said bow from being broken on the prop by the continual jar and vibration to which it is subjected thereon when the vehicle is in motion.

The invention consists in a metallic bar grooved to fit the back of the rear bow, to which it is secured by clamp at each end. To the bar is secured a peculiar leaf-spring, faced with leather at the point where it comes into contact with the seat-prop.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of the rear bow of a carriage-top with my improved support applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same resting upon the seat-prop.

In the drawing, A represents a part of the rear bow of a folding top, having a metal fish-bar, B, secured thereto by a clamp, *a*, at each end, the said bar being hollowed to fit the bow. C is a leaf-spring, having each end bent under itself, and then outwardly again, and fastened by a rivet, *b*, at each extremity to the bar B. Where said spring would strike the seat-prop it is faced with leather, as at *c*, to prevent it from chafing or abrading the covering of the seat-prop, which is usually leather. When the top is thrown back the seat-prop supports it, but also acts as a fulcrum to break the back bow under the heavy jarring of rapid travel over a rough road, or in running over an obstruction. With my improvement interposed there is no danger from this source, as the spring affords a yielding support, while the bar distributes the stress over a considerable distance in the length of the bow, instead of having it borne on one spot only. As will be seen these supporters can be applied at any time to the bows of a carriage-top by simply bolting them on by means of the clamps.

What I claim as my invention is—

The combination, with the bow A of a carriage-top, of the metallic plate B, secured by the clamp *a*, and provided with the spring C, all constructed and arranged substantially as described and shown.

REUBEN HUNT.

Witnesses:

A. B. HUGHES,

O. B. WOOD.