

A. H. BEACH.

FIFTH-WHEEL PLATFORMS.

No. 180,316.

Patented July 25, 1876.

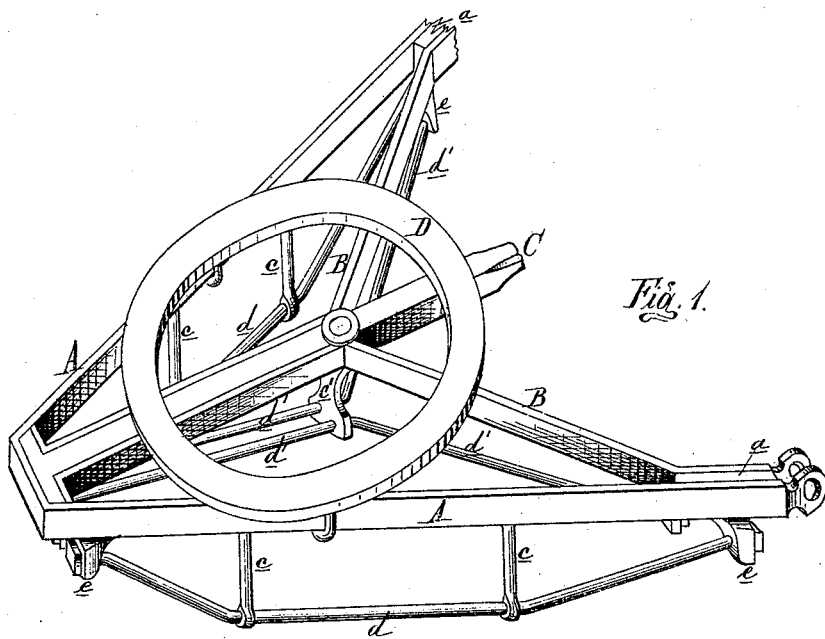


Fig. 1.

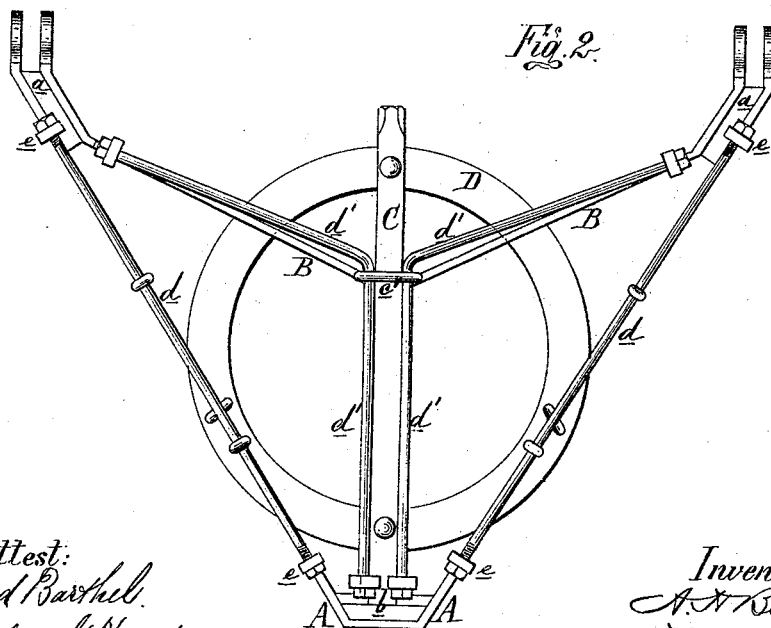


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALEXANDER H. BEACH, OF LINDEN, MICHIGAN.

IMPROVEMENT IN FIFTH-WHEEL PLATFORMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **180,316**, dated July 25, 1876; application filed June 6, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALEXANDER H. BEACH, of Linden, in the county of Genesee and State of Michigan, have invented an Improved Fifth-Wheel Platform for Vehicles, of which the following is a specification:

The object of my invention is to so construct a futchell-platform for supporting the fifth-wheel of a carriage as to combine lightness with great strength, to resist flexure under the stress of a heavy load. To this end my invention consists in trussing the futchells, as more fully hereinafter set forth.

Figure 1 is a perspective view. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan.

In the drawing, A represents the outer futchell, bent to a V shape. B B are the inner futchells, bent to such shape as, when put together, will represent a letter Y, with a central bar, C, between their parallel sides. *a a* are filling-blocks between the front ends of the futchells A B, and *b* a block between the angle of the outer futchell and the outwardly-turned rear ends of the futchells B B. D is the fifth-wheel, clipped on the level platform formed by the upper edges of the futchells. Under each side of the outer futchell is a pair of pendent posts, *c c*, welded to the lower edge thereof, with an eye in the lower end of each, through which passes a tie-rod, *d*, whose ends pass through brackets *e e*,

forged to the under side of the said futchell, near each end thereof, the ends of the said rod being screw-threaded to receive screw-nuts, by means of which it is put under tension to resist flexure of the futchell at each side.

At the angle of the inner futchells there is a strut, *c'*, pendent from the center beam, and flanged to support the two inner futchells. Through the two eyes in its foot pass two tie-rods, *d' d'*, bent to pass through brackets under the front ends of said futchells, where they receive their screw-nuts. Their rear ends pass through similar brackets under the rear ends of said futchells, and the rods are put under such tension as to resist the flexure of the inner futchells under the stress of a load imposed through the fifth-wheel upon them. The platform thus trussed may be very light, and yet strong enough to sustain any load that the vehicle can carry.

What I claim as my invention is—

The combination with the futchells A B B bent in the form described, the tie-rods *d d'*, the posts *c*, strut *c'*, and brackets *e*, all constructed and arranged substantially as set forth and shown.

ALEXANDER H. BEACH.

Witnesses:

H. F. EBERTS,
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