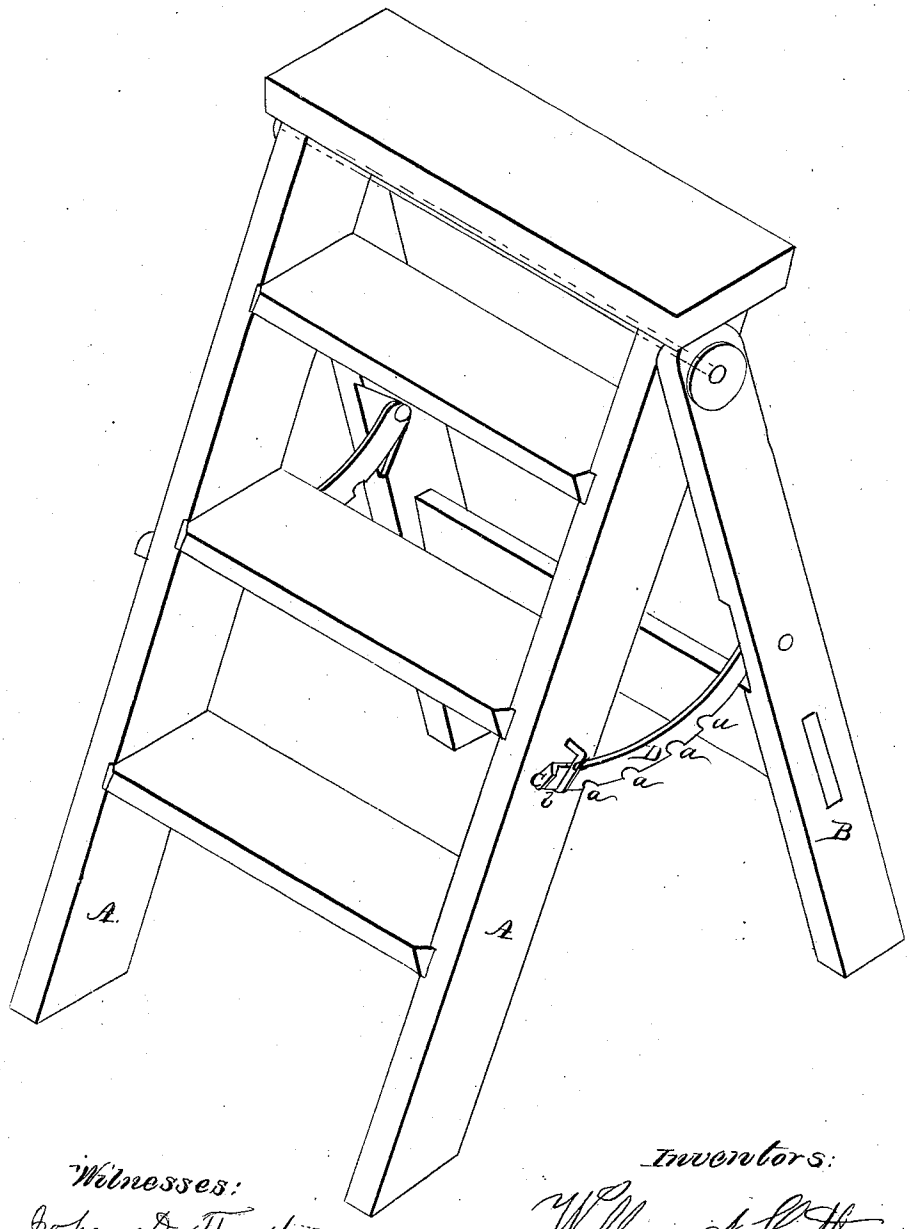
Hammond & Hathaway;

Step Ladder,

No. 55,288, Patented June 5, 1866.



Witnesses:
John D. Thurston
George B. Bowers

Inventors:
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HORACE P. HAMMOND AND WM. A. HATHAWAY, OF NORTH KINGSTON, R. I.

IMPROVED STEP-LADDER.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **55,288**, dated June 5, 1866.

To all whom it may concern.

Be it known that we, HORACE P. HAMMOND and WILLIAM A. HATHAWAY, both of Wickford, in the town of North Kingston and county of Washington and State of Rhode Island, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Step-Ladders; and we do hereby declare that the following specification, taken in connection with the drawings making a part of the same, is a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

The drawing exhibits a step-ladder with our improvements.

Ordinarily the steps A and the supporting-frame B of a ladder are held in the proper position when the ladder is to be used by means of a long hook attached to one part and entering the eye of a staple in the other part. It is often very convenient — as, for instance, in reaching a line of shafting in a mill when the looms are separated from each other by a narrow passage—to make use of a step-ladder which can be accommodated to the small base which is allowed, but at the same time be secure.

In the accompanying drawings, A is the step-frame, and B the supporting-frame, of the step-ladder as commonly constructed, jointed at C, so that the two can be folded, closed, or opened at any angle.

Our improvement consists in connecting these two frames by a link, D, which is provided with a number of notches, *a a a*, upon its lower edge, any one of which can lock fast with the stud-pin *b*. One end of this link is pivoted to the side of one of the frames, and the other end is turned up, as shown at *c*, or provided with an equivalent stop, which will, in connection with the keeper *d* upon the other side of the frame, limit the extent to which the two frames can be spread apart.

It is apparent from the drawings that the two parts of the ladder can be held at as many different angles with each other, and consequently the length of the base-line between the two be as often varied, as there are notches in the link. One link so constructed will ordinarily be sufficient; but, if desired, one can be attached to each side of the ladder, as shown in the drawing.

What we claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The link D, provided with a series of notches, *a a a*, in combination with the stub-pin *b*, or its equivalent, and the frame of a step-ladder, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

WILLIAM A. HATHAWAY,
HORACE P. HAMMOND.

Witnesses:
JOHN D. THURSTON,
GEO. B. BARROWS.