J. K. Gittens,

Shoe Sole.

No. 49,874. Patented Sep. 12, 1865.

Fig: 1.

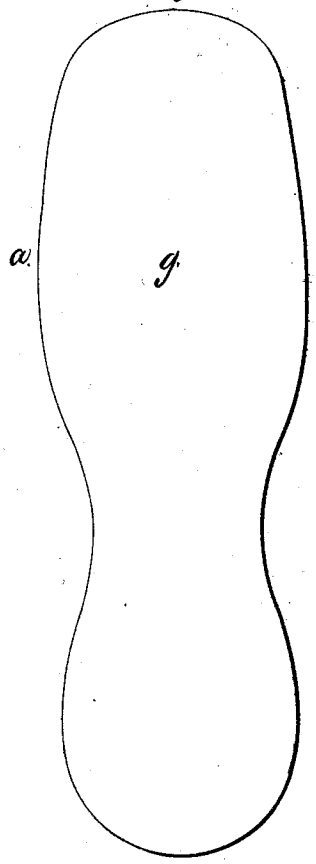


Fig: 2.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN K. GITTENS, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

IMPROVED INSOLE FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **49,874**, dated September 12, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN K. GITTENS, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Insoles for Boots and Shoes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

The most desirable material to use for the "insoles," so called, of boots and shoes is, as is well known, sheep-skin, with a sufficient amount of its wooly exterior left upon it to impart warmth to the foot; but the most serious and heretofore insurmountable obstacle and objection to its use has resulted from the effect of moisture upon it by the perspiration of the foot, which causes it to wrinkle and stiffen to such a degree as to render the insole in a short time unfit and uncomfortable to be worn.

To remedy this objection is the object of the present invention, and is satisfactorily accomplished thereby, it consisting in coating, in any proper manner, the inner side or surface of the sheep-skin with a suitable enameling or protective composition, whereby not only is the skin prevented from wrinkling or stiffening, but it is also rendered impervious to moisture, either from the perspiration of the foot or from the penetration of water through the leather or other material of which the boot or shoe is made.

In accompanying plate of drawings my improvement is illustrated, Figure 1 being a view of the enameled or coated side of the sheep-skin insole, and Fig. 2 an edge view of the same.

a a in the drawings represent an insole cut out in the proper shape from sheep-skin, with a sufficient quantity of wool, *b*, left upon its outer surface, *c*, to impart the necessary or desired warmth to the foot when worn. The inner surface, *d*, of the insole *a* is coated or otherwise covered with an enameling or other suitable protecting composition, made of any of the ordinary ingredients used for enameling, for and throughout its whole extent, as plainly represented not only in Fig. 2 by a heavy black line, *f*, but in Fig. 1 by a surface of black color, *g*, which enameling composition may be applied to any degree of thickness desired and necessary. By thus coating the inner surface of the skin with an enameling composition not only is its wrinkling and stiffening prevented, but it is rendered impervious to moisture, the advantages of which are manifest to all persons.

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

As a new article of manufacture, an insole for boots or shoes made of sheep-skin with a wooly surface upon one side and any suitable enameling or protective covering or coating upon the other, substantially as described.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 26th day of June, 1865.

JOHN K. GITTENS.

Witnesses:

M. M. LIVINGSTON,

C. L. TOPLIFF.