

(No Model.)

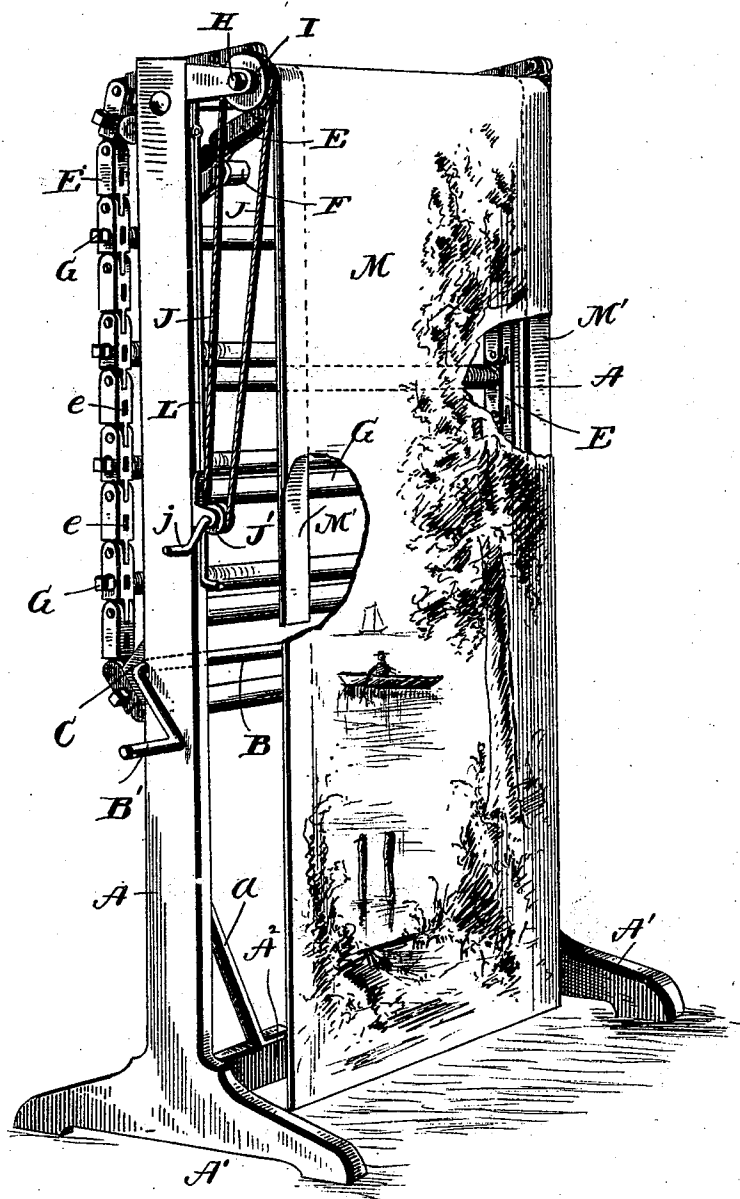
2 Sheets—Sheet 1

C. O. JOHNSON.
PHOTOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND HOLDER.

No. 517,119.

Patented Mar. 27, 1894.

Fig. 1.



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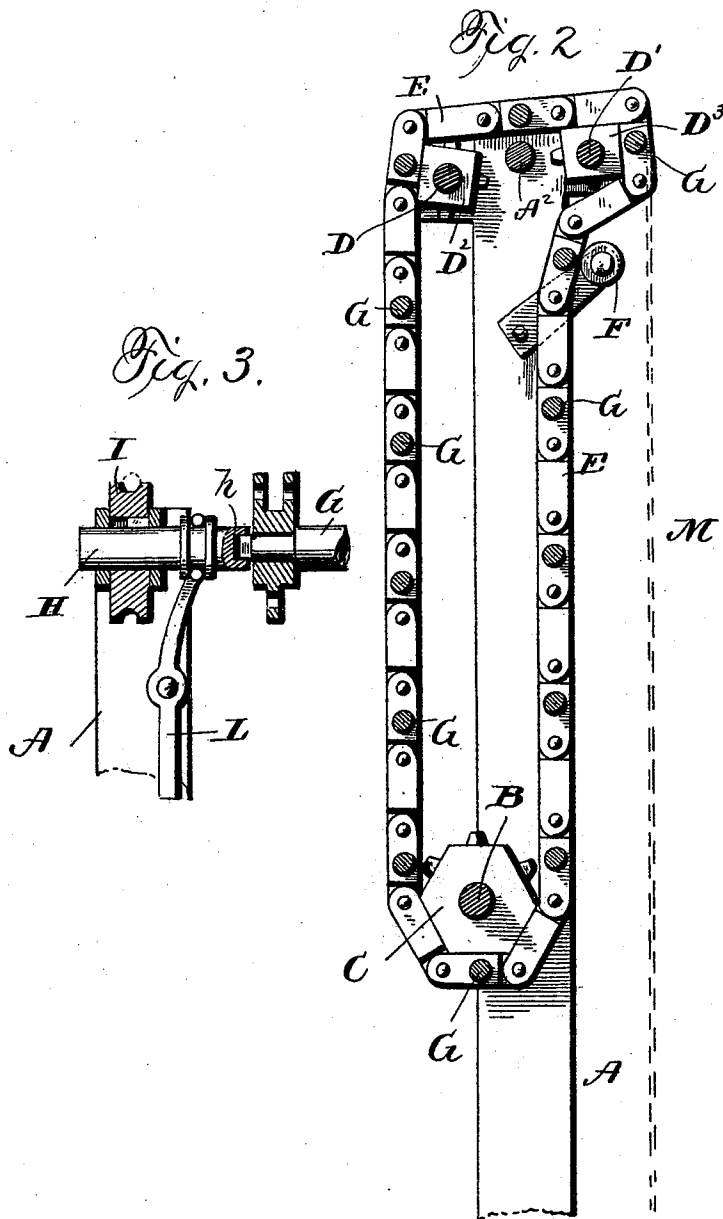
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLEY O. JOHNSON, OF SIOUX CITY, IOWA.

PHOTOGRAPHIC-BACKGROUND HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 517,119, dated March 27, 1894.

Application filed October 9, 1893. Serial No. 487,676. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLEY O. JOHNSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sioux City, in the county of Woodbury and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Photographic-Background Holders; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in holders for photographic backgrounds and more especially to that class in which the background is carried over rollers or the like and having means for changing the background at will, the device as a whole being portable so as to be readily moved about from one place to another.

The present invention has for its objects among others to provide a simple and cheap construction, which shall be durable, not liable to get out of order, and in which a great variety of backgrounds can be carried and any desired one of them quickly brought into position. I provide a suitable frame-work or support in which are mounted shafts carrying sprocket wheels over which pass sprocket chains of peculiar construction, and independent means are provided for revolving the required rod as it is brought into the proper position.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be hereinafter more fully described and the novel features thereof will be specifically defined by the appended claim.

The invention in this instance resides in the peculiar combinations and the construction, arrangement and adaptation of parts, all as more fully hereinafter described, shown in the drawings and then particularly pointed out in the claim.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which, with the letters of reference marked thereon, form a part of this specification and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved background holder. Fig. 2 is a ver-

tical section of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail of the means for revolving the rollers when desired.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views in which they appear.

Referring now to the details of the drawings by letter, A designates two uprights provided with a suitable base A' and connected by cross pieces A² and suitably braced if necessary as by the braces a. These uprights may be of any desired material and of any required height and they may be held at any required distance apart to give the proper width to the background. This is an immaterial element. The frame may be made as ornamental as may be desired.

B is a shaft mounted in the uprights at the proper distance from the lower ends thereof and it has one end extended through an upright and formed into a crank handle B' by which the shaft may be revolved. Fast on this shaft near each end is a sprocket wheel C and on shafts D and D' mounted at the upper ends of the uprights are the sprocket wheels D² and D³.

E are chains the links of which are pivoted together and each link has upon its rear or inner face a hole e to receive a tooth or projection of the sprocket wheels over which the chains pass. There is a chain at each end of the shafts inside the uprights.

F are rollers near the upper ends of the uprights and behind which the chains are caused to pass so as to hold the chains back so that the rods below are not in the way of the one to be revolved and the background that is unrolled will not interfere with the others or become entangled therewith. Each link has a transverse socket or opening in which is rotatably held the end of a rod G, there being more or less thereof as may be desired, and the ends of the rods held in the said sockets in any suitable manner. These rods may be of any desired size, or they may be hollow rollers within which the background may be wound; if rods are used the backgrounds will be wound upon the same. Each rod carries a background. Each roller has one end extended beyond the chain and this end receives a suitable key to prevent displacement thereof.

The end is preferably squared to receive a key on the end of a short axle or shaft which will soon be described.

H is a short shaft or axle suitably mounted in brackets at the upper end of one of the uprights as shown and this shaft or axle is designed to be moved endwise in its bearings and at its inner end is formed with a polygonal opening *h* to engage the correspondingly shaped end of the rod. This short shaft also carries a pulley I over which passes a belt J which passes over a pulley J' suitably journaled on the same upright near the lower end thereof as shown in Fig. 1 and the axle of which is extended and terminates in a crank *j* by which the same may be turned when desired.

L is a rod or lever having a portion engaged between collars on the short shaft as seen best in Fig. 3 for giving the necessary endwise movement to the short shaft.

M designates one of the backgrounds; it is preferably provided upon its under side at the edges with the vertically disposed strips M' as shown and are for the purpose of preventing wrinkling of the background at the center.

With the parts constructed and arranged substantially as above set forth the operation is as follows:—The crank handle B' is turned until the rod carrying the required back-

ground is brought opposite the short shaft H when the lever or rod L is moved so as to engage its inner end with the end of the rod and then the crank *j* is turned to revolve the rod and unroll the background. After the background has been used it is rolled up by a reverse movement of the crank handle and then the rod or lever L is moved so as to disengage the short shaft from the square end of the roller when the chains may be turned in either direction to bring the desired roller with its background into position. When the short shaft is engaged with the end of the roller the chains cannot be moved.

Modifications in detail may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages.

What I claim as new is—

The combination with the uprights, the shafts with their sprocket wheels, and the chains and rods, of the endwise movable shaft, means for actuating the same and means for revolving said shaft and the rods, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLEY O. JOHNSON.

Witnesses:

J. G. MAURER,
E. G. MCCLEMONT.