

J. F. FOWLER.
Buggy-Tops.

No. 150,753.

Patented May 12, 1874.

Fig. 1. D'

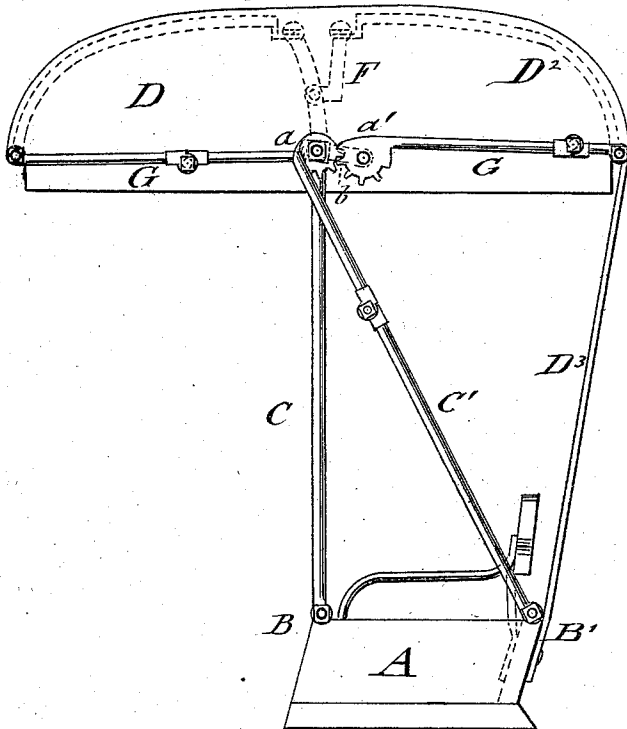


Fig. 2.

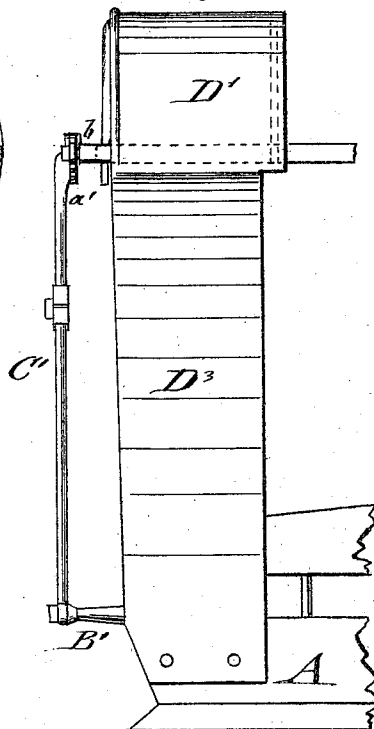
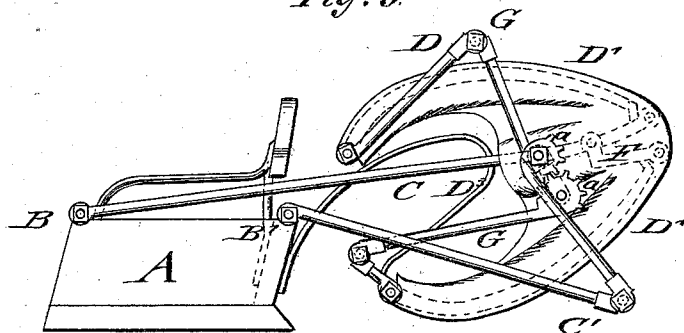


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES.

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IMPROVEMENT IN BUGGY-TOPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **150,753**, dated May 12, 1874; application filed March 7, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOINVILLE F. FOWLER, of Carrollton, in the county of Carroll and State of Ohio, have invented a new and Improved Carriage-Top, of which the following is a specification:

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 represents a side elevation of my improved carriage-top; Fig. 2 a rear view, and Fig. 3 a side view, of the same folded down.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of my invention is to construct, for carriages, buggies, and other vehicles, a light, neat, and strong top, which folds neatly and easily together, and carries the back into such shape between the stays that it is not exposed to the dust and wear by hanging over the body of the carriage, but is protected so as to be of longer duration. The top cover is also less exposed to wear by the attachment to the bow-sections, requiring less repairs, and producing a better top. My invention consists of two bow sections or frames, which are pivoted to the main supporting stays, and folded toward the same. Horizontal jointed stays stiffen them in upright position, while inclined side-stays, pivoted to the main stays, and gearing, by mutilated end pinions, with the rear top-stays, similarly pivoted thereto, carry the top up or down on raising or lowering the main stays for instant adjustment, and support the same strongly and firmly thereon.

In the drawing, A represents the body of the carriage, buggy, or other vehicle, provided with side standards B B' at the front and rear part, to which are pivoted the main stays C and the jointed inclined stays C'. The front bow frame or section D is pivoted to the upper ends of main stays C, being constructed of lateral metallic end bars, and connecting bow-shaped bars, over which the top cover D' is stretched. Elbow-levers F are pivoted near the upper ends of main stays C, and are connected at their upper ends to the rear bow frame or section D², which is constructed like the front section, and placed symmetrically to the same, being more flexible by

being pivoted to the intermediate elbow-levers F. The top cover D' extends over the space between the top frames, to the end of the rear frame, and changes, on folding the top down, its position but little, remaining in stretched position thereon, and being thereby exposed to less wear than the loose and folding buggy-covers. The jointed front and rear bow-stays G are pivoted to the main stays C and the outer bars of the bow-sections, and serve to stiffen and support the bow-sections when thrown up, assuming a horizontal position, and forming the chord of the front sections. The inclined stays C' are pivoted sidewise of the front bow-stays G, and gear, by mutilated pinions *a* at the upper ends, with similar pinions *a'* of the rear bow-stays C, which are pivoted to short bracket-arms *b* of the main stays.

When the joints of the stays are loosened, and the top carried up or down by the main stays, the pinions of inclined and rear bow-stays mesh, and cause the stretching or folding of the same, so that the top is rapidly thrown into folded or raised position by this connection.

The rear part D³ of the cover D' is stretched between back part of seat and end of rear bow-frame, and is folded in upward direction on bringing the top down into curved or flattened shape, as shown in Fig. 3, being out of the way, and, to a great degree, protected thereby against dust and the rubbing with the body of the carriage.

The top cover incloses the back cover, the stays folding over within a small compass at the rear of the seat, out of the way.

The construction of the top is strong and durable, yet neat, and easily operated and thrown into either position, as required.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The combination of the main stays C and pivoted elbow-levers F with pivoted front and rear bow-sections D and D², for stretching the cover and fold symmetrically toward the main stays, as set forth.

2. The pivoted-top bow-sections D D², com-

bined with the jointed front and rear bow-stays G and main stays C, for supporting the top sections, as described.

3. The combination of the main stays C, jointed inclined stays C', having cogged ends *a*, with gear bow-stays G, having cogged ends *a'*, for throwing the top into open and

closed position by the motion of the main stays, substantially as specified.

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Witnesses:

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