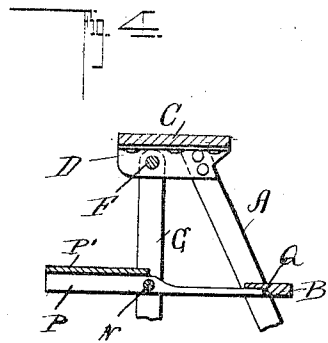
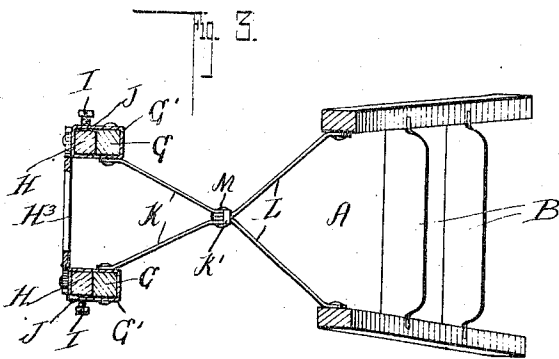
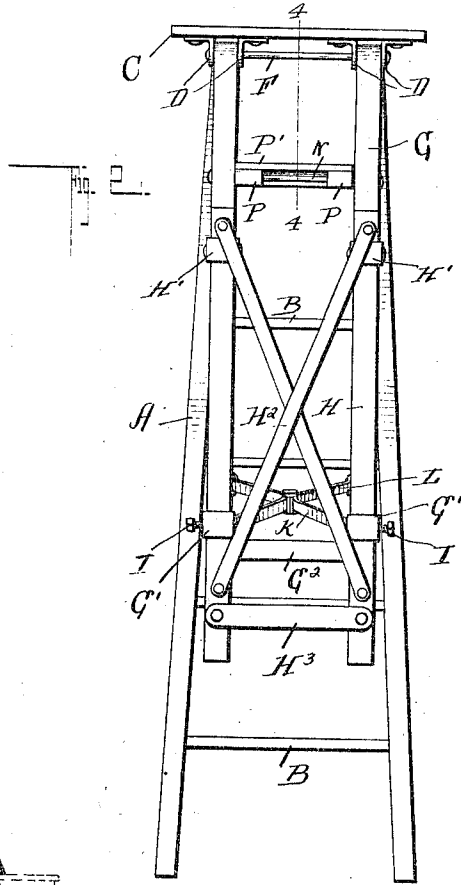
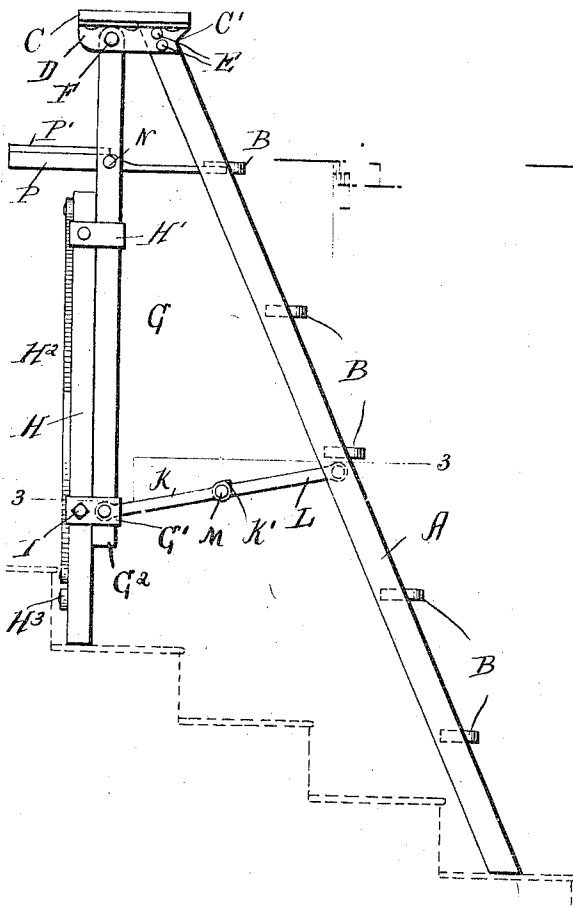


J. H. ERSKINE.
STAIRWAY LADDER.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 25, 1909.

1,019,444.

Patented Mar. 5, 1912.



Witnesses

Philip H. Burch
James A. Patterson

Inventor
J. H. Erskine,

By

O. Mearns Brock
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN HENRY ERSKINE, OF CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA.

STAIRWAY-LADDER.

1,019,444.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Mar. 5, 1912.

Application filed October 25, 1909. Serial No. 524,483.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN H. ERSKINE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Charleston, in the county of Kanawha and State of West Virginia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Stairway-Ladders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to step ladders and more particularly to step ladders especially constructed to be used on stairways by paper hangers and the like, the object being to provide a step ladder having rear legs formed of upper and lower sections slidably connected together whereby the legs can be easily and quickly adjusted so as to hold the platform of the ladder in a horizontal position.

Another object of my invention is to provide a step ladder in which the rear legs are connected to the ladder proper by braces so that the legs will be held in their proper positions with respect to the ladder proper.

A further object of my invention is to provide the ladder with a pivoted shelf for supporting a bucket or the like, said shelf being provided with arms adapted to engage one of the steps of the ladder proper for holding the same in a horizontal position.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a ladder which is exceedingly simple and cheap in construction and one which is composed of a few parts which are so connected that a very strong and durable ladder is formed.

Still another object of my invention is to provide the upper section of the rear legs with guideways in which the lower section is mounted, said lower section being also provided with guide members so that the legs will be held together firmly.

With these objects in view, my invention consists in the novel features of construction hereinafter fully described, pointed out in the claim and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved ladder showing the same in position on a stairway. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

In carrying out my improved invention, I employ a ladder proper which is composed of side bars A having grooves in their inner faces in which are arranged the steps B

which connect the side bars together, said steps being secured in position within the grooves in any suitable way to the grooves, terminating short of the rear edges of the ladder so that the steps will be held therein without any danger of the same accidentally working loose and dropping out.

Arranged on the upper end of the ladder proper is a platform C which is provided with spaced brackets D arranged in pairs and adapted to receive the upper ends of the side bars A of the ladder between which said side bars are secured by bolts or rivets as clearly shown at E and these brackets C are cut away as shown at C' and extend substantially the whole width of the platform C and are provided with openings through which a shaft or pivot rod F is adapted to pass on which are pivotally mounted between the respective pairs of brackets the rear legs which are formed of upper sections G and lower sections H slidably connected together, the section G being provided with guide sleeves G' adjacent their lower ends which are connected together by a cross bar G² and the lower sections H are provided with guide sleeves H' which surround the legs G so that when the sections are moved with respect to each other they will be held in their proper positions. The side bars of the lower section H are connected together by a cross bar H³ and braces H² so as to strengthen the same, and the lower ends of the side bars of the lower section are formed square so that they will rest smoothly upon the step in a perfect vertical position while the lower ends of the side bar A of the ladder proper are cut off obliquely as clearly shown.

For locking the lower section of the rear legs of the ladder in its adjusted position with respect to the upper section, I provide the guide sleeve G' with set screws I which work in threaded bores formed in the guide sleeve and are provided with swiveled plates J adapted to be forced into engagement with the side bars of the lower section of the rear legs so as to clamp the same and it will be seen by this construction that it is only necessary to operate the screws to loosen or tighten the plates so as to adjust the rear legs.

Pivotally connected to the upper section of the rear legs are a pair of braces K which extend outwardly and converge and are pivotally connected to a pair of converging

braces L pivotally connected to the side bars of the ladder proper and these respective braces are preferably connected together by a rivet M and one of the braces K is provided with a stop lug K' for engaging the respective braces L so as to limit the downward movement of the braces and it will be seen that by this construction the braces are free to move upwardly so as to allow the ladder to be folded when desired but are prevented from being moved downwardly past a horizontal position so that when forced into a horizontal position they will be held in that position in order to hold the lugs in their proper positions with respect to the ladder proper.

Extending through the side bars of the upper section G is a shaft N on which is pivotally mounted a pair of arms P provided with a shelf P' and the inner ends of the arms P are reduced and are adapted to fit within grooves Q formed in the upper step B for holding the same in a horizontal

position and this shelf affords means for supporting a bucket or the like when the same is being used for hanging paper or for cleaning purposes.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

A ladder of the kind described, comprising front and rear sections, the rear section comprising supporting legs formed in upper and lower sections, guide sleeves carried by the upper section, said sleeves being in vertical alinement and spaced apart, the legs of the lower section being slidable in and adjustably secured in said guide sleeves, and braces pivotally connected to the front section and also pivotally connected to the lowermost guide sleeves.

JOHN HENRY ERSKINE.

Witnesses:

ARTHUR W. BROWN,
J. M. JONES.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."