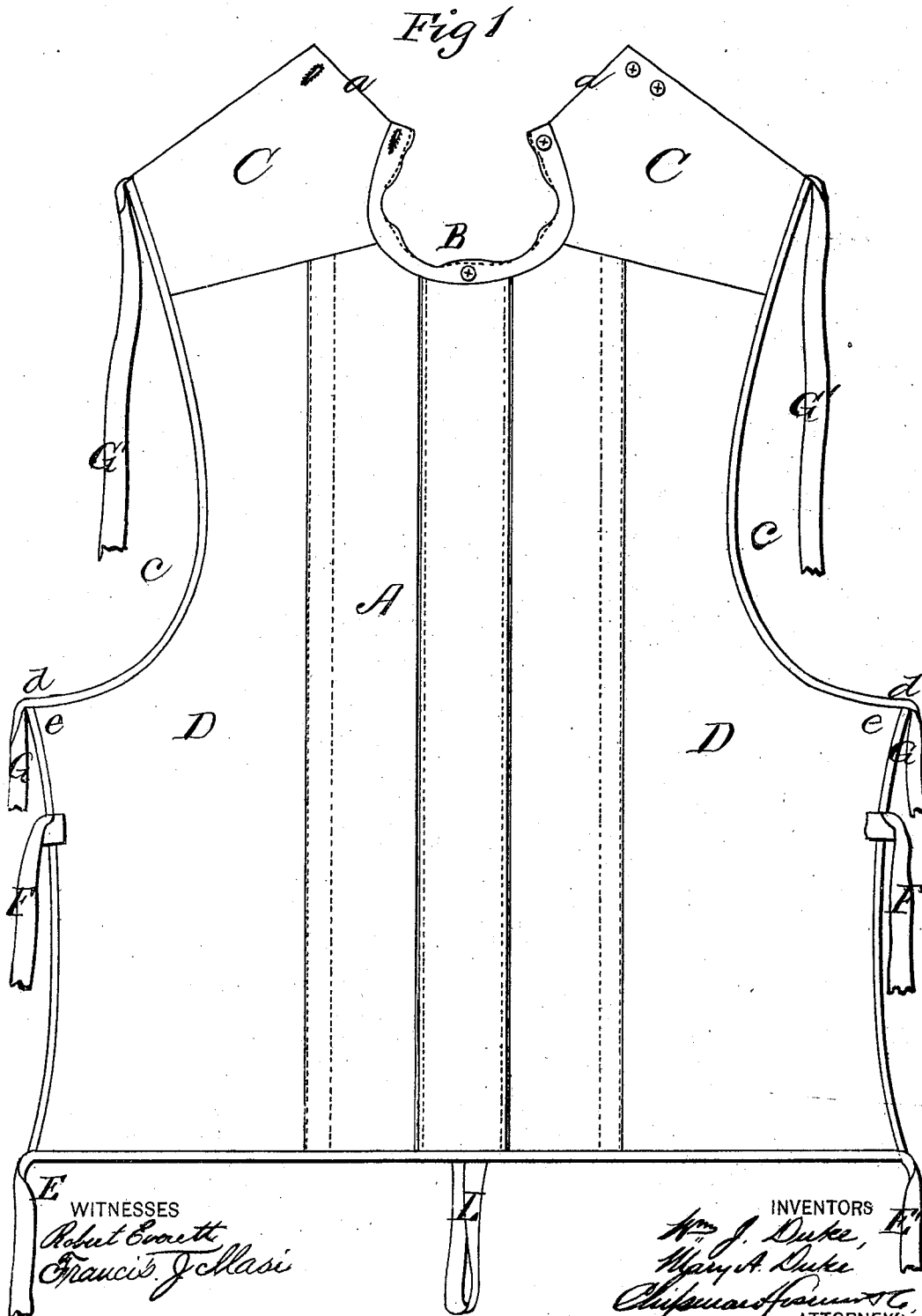


W. J. & MARY A. DUKE.

SHIRT-FRONT.

No. 170,244.

Patented Nov. 23, 1875.

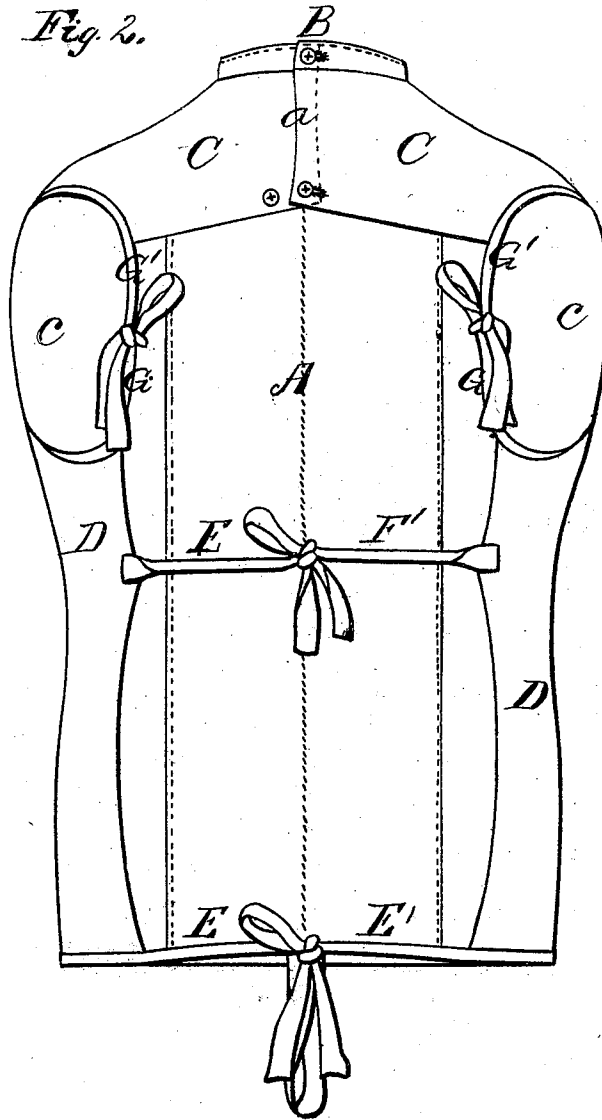


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Fig. 2.



WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM J. DUKE AND MARY A. DUKE, OF BOONEVILLE, MISSISSIPPI.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SHIRT-FRONTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **170,244**, dated November 23, 1875; application filed May 1, 1875.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, WILLIAM J. DUKE and MARY A. DUKE, both of Booneville, in the county of Prentiss and State of Mississippi, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Shirt-Fronts; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of a front view of our shirt, and Fig. 2 is a back view of the same.

This invention has relation to improvements in shirt-fronts; and the nature of the invention consists in side pieces sewed to the lateral edges of the front, and extending under the arms, partly around the body of the wearer, which side pieces or flaps are adapted to be united with the lower edges of the yoke and with each other by means of suitable cords, whereby the front is held in proper position on the wearer's person, as will be hereinafter more fully explained.

In the annexed drawings, A designates a shirt-bosom of the usual well-known form, the upper edge of which is sewed to a collar, B, opening behind, and adapted to be secured around the neck of the wearer by means of a button and button-hole, and to pentagonal pieces of cloth, C, which latter are also sewed to the collar, and are adapted to have their inner inclined edges *a* united behind the shoulder by means of suitable attachments. Pieces C form, with the front A, when united, a yoke, whereby the latter is supported in a proper and permanent position, causing it to present the appearance of a full shirt; and with a view to filling up the space at the sides for the

purpose of still further increasing this desirable resemblance, flaps D, of cotton cloth or of linen, as we may elect, are sewed to the lateral edges of the front A, a suitable shoulder-hole, *c*, being cut therein at each side, and to the lower edges of the pentagonal parts C of the yoke, as shown in Fig. 1. These side flaps are bound around the body by means of cords E E', rigidly secured to their lower corners, and adapted to be tied around the waist behind the back of the wearer, and, by cords F F', secured to the lateral edges of the said flaps higher up, and also designed to be tied behind the back; and in order to hold the yoke smoothly over the shoulders it is united, by means of cords G G', to the angle *d* of part *e*, designed to fit under the arm.

By this means the front is held against longitudinal rumpling, and is supported neatly from the shoulders, and it is prevented from transverse rumpling by the engagement of a loop, L, rigidly secured at the lower end of the central plait *a* of the front over a button on the pants of the wearer.

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

As a new article of manufacture, the shirt-front herein described, consisting of the bosom A, concave side pieces D D, constructed to extend under the arms, and partly around the body of the wearer, cords G F G' F', yokes C C, and collar B, as set forth.

In testimony that we claim the above, we have hereunto subscribed our names in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM JOHNETHON DUKE.  
MARY ANN DUKE.

Witnesses:

J. P. CARRAWAY,  
M. J. HOPNOOD.