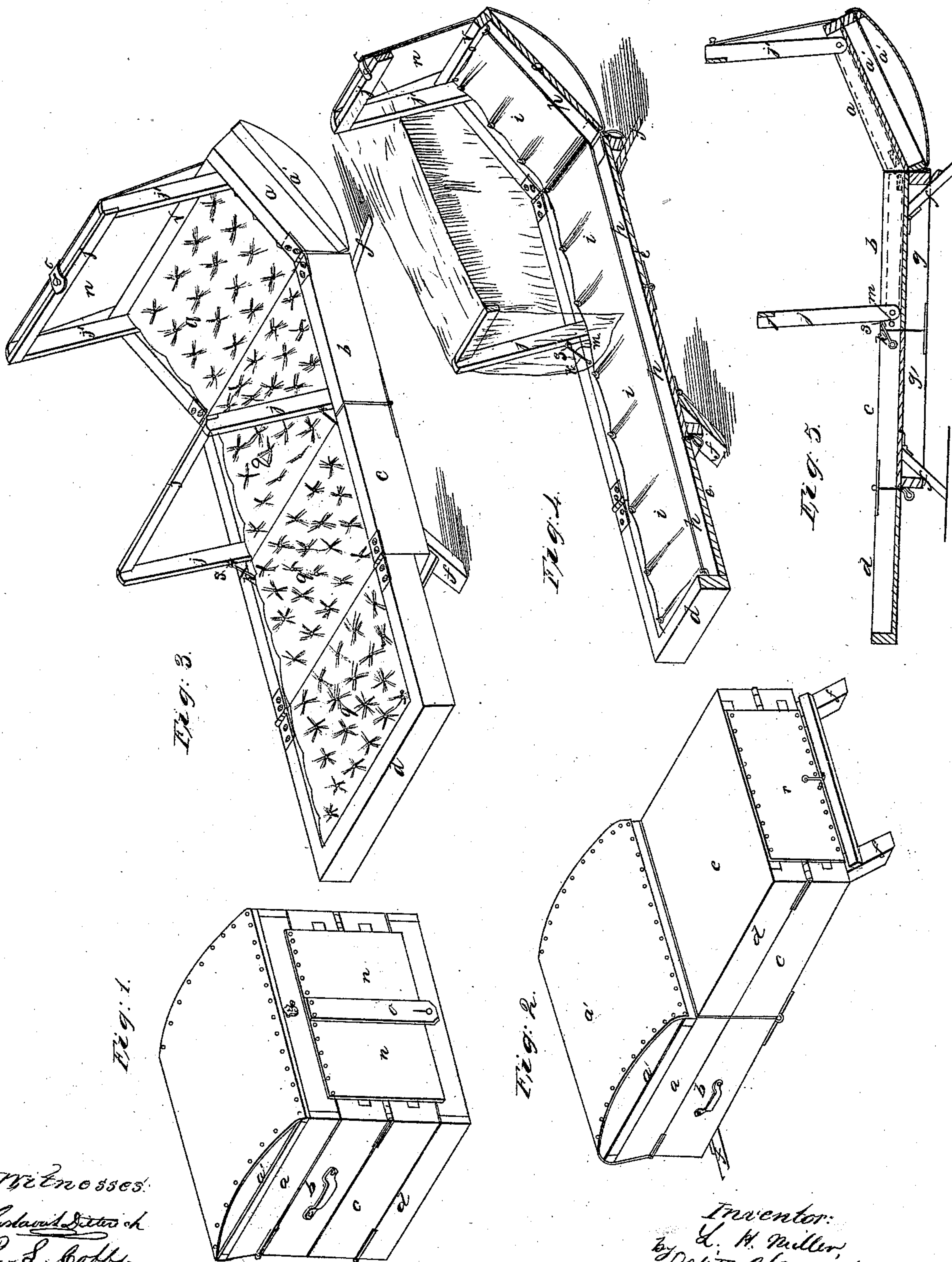


L. H. Miller,

Trunk Bedstead

N<sup>o</sup> 33,398.

Patented Oct. 1, 1861.



Witnesses:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

L. H. MILLER, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

## IMPROVEMENT IN CAMP-TRUNKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 33,398, dated October 1, 1861.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, L. H. MILLER, of the city of Baltimore and State of Maryland, have invented a new and Improved Military Trunk; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which constitute a part of this my specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, like letters indicating the same parts in the several figures.

A cheap and conveniently portable camp-trunk, and one easily adjusted into the several conditions of use required in camp life, has long been a military necessity, and yet not accomplished, as I believe, until my invention thereof, and which, to enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will now proceed to describe, as required by statute.

My invention relates to a camp or military trunk which by its peculiar organization is convertible at will either into a dining-table, a writing-desk, a cot-bedstead, or a traveling trunk, as may be desired.

Figure 1 represents the apparatus folded into the form of a traveling trunk. Fig. 2 represents the trunk converted into a dining-table and partly converted into a writing desk or table. Fig. 3 represents the trunk fully unfolded into a cot or camp bedstead. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section of Fig. 3, showing an adjustable canvas cloth or covering extending over the main sections of the trunk, and which under certain circumstances is used when the sections composing the mattress-bed, as shown in position in Fig. 3, are dispensed with, as will be hereinafter described. Fig. 5 is a longitudinal section of Fig. 3, showing the means and mode of holding the mosquito-frames in a rigid upright position at the same time that the two central sections are held in a rigid horizontal position.

*a, b, c, and d* designate the main sections of the apparatus, the upper main section, as shown in Fig. 1, being subdivided into a lower main apartment, as at *a*, and an upper minor apartment, as at *a'*, which minor apartment is for the purpose of holding the ordinary extra clothing of a soldier, and is hinged in rear and secured in front to the main section *a* by well-known means. The central sections

*b* and *c* are each made with additional under apartments *g*, (see Fig. 5,) which admit of legs *f* being hinged therein, as shown, and which legs, four in number, (one of them not shown in the drawings,) when not in use can be folded up within said apartments *g*.

*q q q q* represent a mattress formed in sections to fit into main sections *a, b, c, and d*, and are so shown in position for use as a bed in Fig. 3.

*e e e e*, Fig. 4, are the bottoms of the said main sections, and constitute, when the trunk is fully unfolded into a position to form a cot-bedstead, a continuous uninterrupted foundation, without the removal or addition of any other parts, upon which to place the mattress.

*i*, Fig. 4, is a canvas covering permanently attached to the inside of the lower end of main section *d*, and may be secured for use upon hooks projecting from the upper end of main section *a* and by hooks projecting from the sides of the several main sections, as shown in side and end view in Fig. 4; or said canvas may be divided into sectional pieces or parts to correspond with the several main sections *a b c d* and permanently attached to one of the sides of said main sections and secured when in use by hooks projecting from the opposite side of said main sections, thus in either case forming a covering to a space *h*, as shown in last-named figure, which space, when it is desirable, may be filled with straw or other like material in lieu of the mattress. (Shown in position in Fig. 3.)

Among the wants of a camp-life and the changes incident thereto it frequently becomes an object of no little importance to economize as much of the available room of a camp-trunk as it is possible for the purpose of transporting extra clothing and other articles of the camp. Besides this, should the army be quartered in a very hot climate it becomes a matter of health for the soldier to sleep upon as cool a bed as possible. I therefore, in order to meet these contingencies, have so devised my trunk that the sectional mattress may be transported and used for a bed, or so that the mattress may be entirely dispensed with and thus utilize the room occupied by it, and in its place provide the means by which an ordinary straw bed may be used. As seen in Fig. 1, the apparatus is in the form of a trunk. As seen in Fig. 2, the trunk may



be used as a camp dining-table, the furniture of the table being placed upon the bottom *e* of main section *d*, and by turning down said section *d*, so that it will be on the same horizontal plane with main section *c*, the apparatus may then be conveniently used as a writing desk or table, the operator sitting upon section *c* and placing his writing materials on top of the minor section *a'*.

*j j'* are two mosquito-frames, one of them attached (jointed) to main section *a*, the other to main section *b*. They are so attached to said last-named sections as to turn down into the apartments formed in sections *a* and *b*, and are shown turned down (by red lines) in Fig. 5. When elevated, as shown in Figs. 3, 4, and 5, they are held rigidly in such position by the following means:

In rear of the lower end of the frame *j* I secure a projecting-pin *m* to the side of section *b*, with a head or shoulder at the outer end of said pin. I also secure in a suitable manner a hook *k* to the side of main section *c*, and so that it may engage with a staple or eye *s*, Figs. 3, 4, and 5, driven into one or both of the uprights of said frame *j*. By these means when the frame *j* is elevated, as shown in the figures, it abuts against the pin *m*, and is there held rigidly in an upright position by hook *k* in staple *s*. It will be observed that the same means which thus hold the frame *j* in a rigid upright position also hold the sections *b* and *c* in a rigid horizontal position. The frame *j'* is held in a rigid upright position by securing the strap *o* of the leather flap *n* on a button secured to the top of frame *j'*, as clearly shown in perspective and sectional views in Figs. 3 and 4, thus drawing frame *j'* firmly against part *v* of section *a*. If, however, it is desirable to use the cot-bedstead

without elevating the frame *j*, said frame may be turned down, as shown in red in Fig. 5, and the rigid horizontal position of sections *b* and *c* still be preserved by passing the hook *k* over the pin *m*.

I would here remark that in case of exposure to storms a canvas covering will be required to be thrown over the said frames in lieu of a mosquito-bar, in which case the rigidity of the frames in an upright position becomes a matter of prime importance for the protection of the occupant of the bed.

The flap *n* (seen in Fig. 1) serves the purpose of concealing and protecting the contents of sections *b* and *c*, as well as serves to hold together the several sections when folded, and also serves the triple function of holding in an upright rigid position frame *j'*. The rear of the trunk is also protected by strips of leather nailed to the main sections, and is also suitably provided with a hook and staple to assist in holding together the several sections when in a folded state, as shown in Fig. 1.

A full-sized trunk need not exceed twenty-three inches in height, twenty-four inches in length, and eighteen and a half inches in width and still subserve all the purposes for which it is designed.

I claim—

In combinations, with the main sections *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d* and minor section *a'*, the frames *j* and *j'* and their locking apparatus, constructed and operated in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

L. H. MILLER.

Witnesses:

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