W. Burnet.

Paper File.

No. 45,813. Patented Jan. 10, 1865.

Fig. 1.

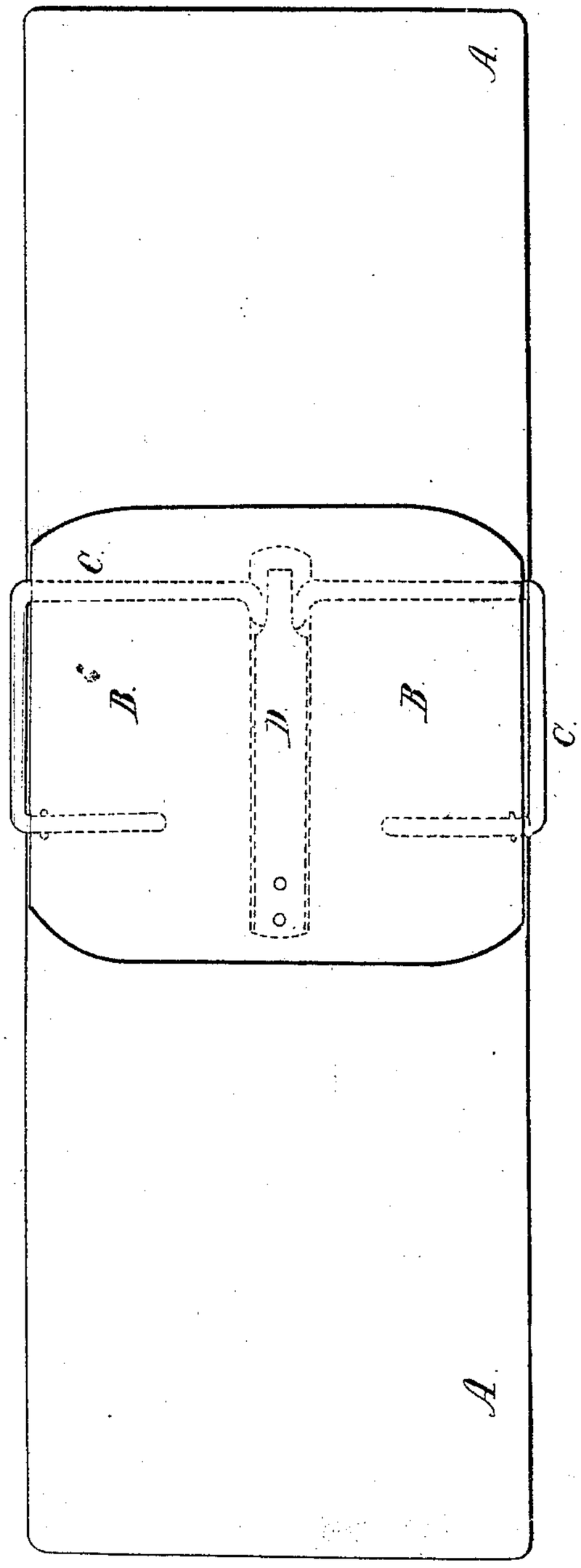
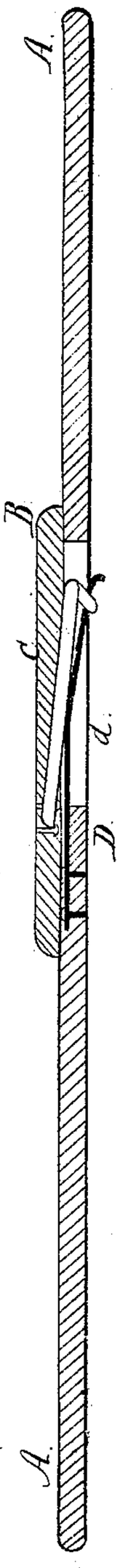


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:

Sturges M. Morehouse

W. J. Miller

Inventor.

William Burnet

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM BURNET, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

PAPER-FILE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **45,813**, dated January 10, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WM. BURNET, of the city, county, and State of New York, have made certain new and useful Improvements in Paper-Files. In order that others skilled may understand the method of construction, I hereby declare the following to be an exact description thereof, illustrated by the accompanying drawings, and referred to in this schedule by the letters and figures marked thereon.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a top view of the paper-file with all the parts together. A A is a thin board, which forms the base of the file; B B a smaller piece lying directly upon it, and in this view is supposed to be transparent, in order that the other parts may be seen. C C is the hinge-bar, lying in a groove in the base of the file, and in another in the top piece, cut directly across each. The center portion of the hinge-bar is bent into a crank form, upon which the spring D constantly presses. This spring is made either of brass or steel, and is riveted at one end to the base piece and vibrates in a slot cut through it. (Shown in Fig. 2, in section at *d*.) The end of the spring is narrowed at its point, to fall into the crank, and is curved on its extreme end into a hook, so that when the upper leaf is thrown up to its full extent it may be held in place. The hinge-bar is confined to the two leaves by means of staples or headed rivets.

Fig. 2 shows in longitudinal section the relative position of the parts above described, lettered in the same manner as Fig. 1.

Operation: It will be seen from the drawings that the hinge bar connects the two leaves, as by a hinge which turns on two centers, and that the pressure of the spring always throws the leaves together; hence in use it is only necessary to raise the upper leaf sufficiently to slip in the docketed paper, and it is secured, and so on till the file is filled to its capacity.

Any paper may be withdrawn by raising the upper leaf and taking out the paper. Closing the leaf secures the remainder.

I do not confine myself to the exact proportion of the parts as shown, as the upper leaf may be made of the same extent as the lower one. Neither do I confine myself to the exact position of the parts. For instance, the spring and cranked portion of the hinge bar may be placed in the upper leaf, instead of the base, or the parts may be doubled, with one spring in the base and another in the top; and, again, the spring may be made of a stiff continuous rubber band laid in the groove and fastened at its end by a pin passing through it, and the other put upon the crank. The leaves also may be made of tin, sheet-iron, or book-binders' board.

I am aware that files have been made for holding docketed papers, as with two leaves secured by elastic bands, with a joint in the upper leaf, which turns back to show the record on the paper, &c.; but I know of none which secures the results so simply as mine. Therefore, while I do not claim, broadly, the confining papers by means of spring-pressure, I do claim—

A file made of two leaves secured together by a hinge-bar, and kept together by means of spring pressure thereon, all made and operating substantially as above described, or their mechanical equivalents.

WILLIAM BURNET.

Witnesses:

STURGIS M. MOREHOUSE,
W. H. FULLER.