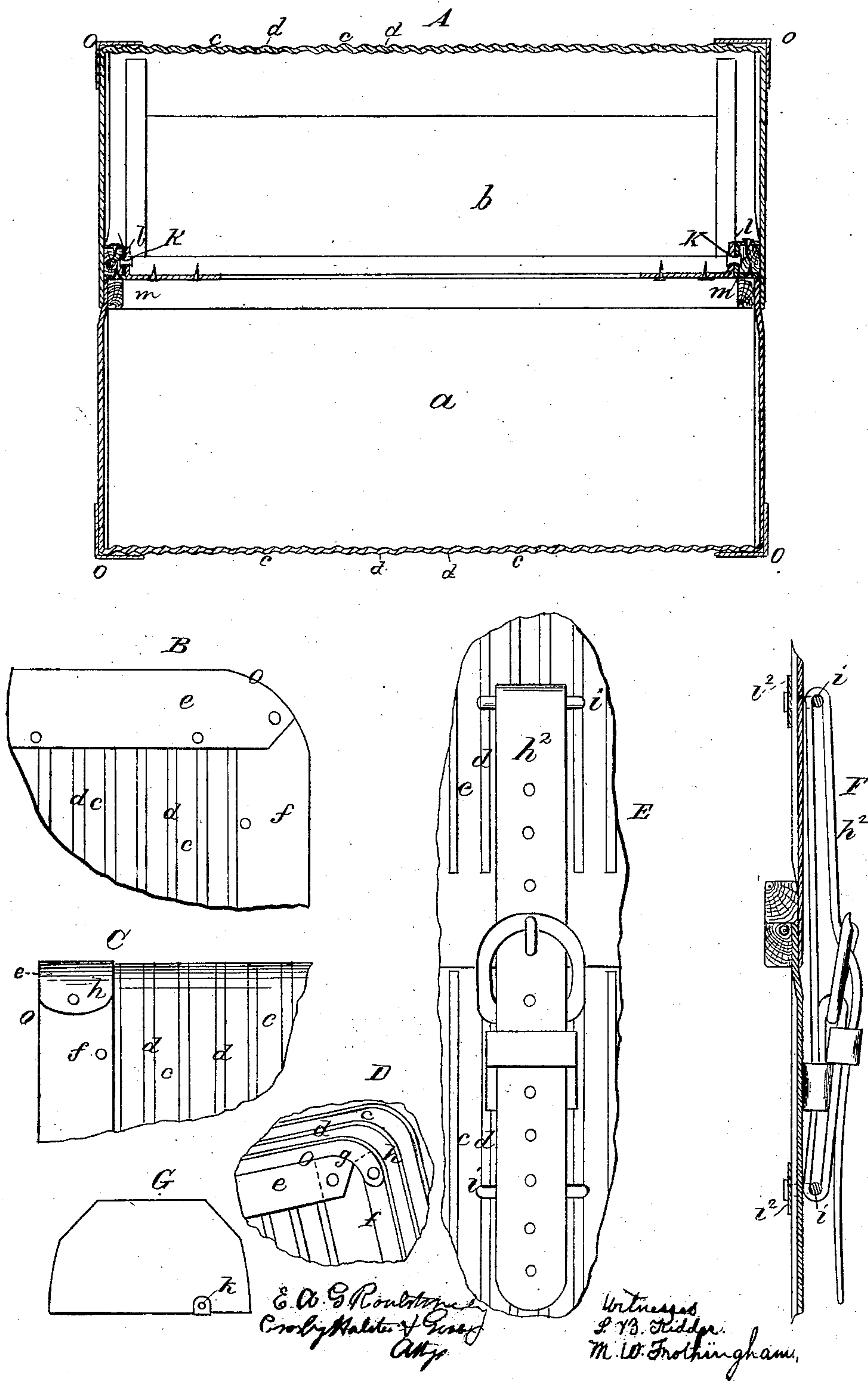


E. A. G. Roulstone,

Trunk.

No. 71,223.

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E. A. G. ROULSTONE, OF ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 71,223, dated November 19, 1867.

IMPROVEMENTS IN TRUNKS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, E. A. G. ROULSTONE, of Roxbury, in the county of Norfolk, and State of Massachusetts, have invented Improvements in Travelling-Trunks, &c.; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawings which accompany and form part of this specification, is a description of my invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practise it.

The invention relates to certain improvements in the details of construction of travelling-trunks, valises, portmanteaus, travelling-bags, &c., with particular reference to increasing their strength and durability, and to lessening their cost. Considering these articles all to be modifications one of the other, it will only be necessary to describe the improvements as applied to a travelling-trunk, as their adaptation to analogous uses in other articles will be readily understood.

The invention consists, primarily, in forming the surface of the trunk of leather or other equivalent flexible material, in which alternate parallel convex and concave ribs and furrows are produced, thereby imparting rigidity to the body, and a finish to the outer surface thereof.

The invention also consists in forming the metal corner of the trunk or other article of two pieces of angle-metal, each lapped upon and riveted to the other, the two making a right-angular corner or moulding, in which the angle is easily formed without wrenching or unduly straining the metal, this arrangement enabling me, in making bag-frames, to make use of metal strips, cut crosswise of the metal plate, whereas, in making frames, as now practised, the metal strip is cut lengthwise of the plate, in which direction the metal is much weaker than in a cross direction.

The invention also consists in securing straps to the trunk, by means of loops projecting through the body from the inside, and held to the trunk by ears or bearing-plates, secured to the loops, and having a bearing against the inner surface of the body.

Also in the arrangement and method of hanging the tray, which shuts into the lid or upper part of the trunk.

The drawings represent a trunk and parts of a trunk embodying my invention.

A shows a vertical longitudinal section of the same; B shows an end view, and C a face view of one of the corners. D shows the same in perspective. E is a front view of one of the trunk-straps and the metal loops by which it is held to the trunk. F is a cross-section, showing the strap and loops, and the adjacent part of the trunk body. G is an end view of the tray, on a scale one-half the scale of the other figures.

a denotes the lower part or half of the trunk, and *b* the upper part or lid. The leather is formed into alternate and parallel ribs *c* and depressions *d* by passing it through corrugating-rolls, or by stamping it, the whole body being formed in this way, or only those parts most exposed to wear and abrasion, this formation serving not only to increase the strength of the trunk, but the projecting surfaces confining the effects of any blow upon the trunk to that part of the surface at which such blow is received. Each metal corner *O* is formed in two pieces, *e f*, of angle-plate, each piece being slit at the angle *g*, and having a tongue, *h*, formed on the part entering into the round corner, so that, by simply curving this tongue, and lapping it over the end of the other piece, and lapping the straight parts, the two pieces may be riveted or otherwise secured together, so as to make a neat and very strong and rigid corner-piece, shorter pieces being thus employable than where one strip has to be bent to form a band around the entire edge to be covered.

Each strap *k*² is applied to the trunk by means of a metal loop, *i*, the opposite ends of the wire of which such loop is formed extending through the body, and having lateral projections or hold-fast plates *i*² affixed to them, so that the loop is prevented from being drawn out by such ears or the hold-fast plates. The loop may be made on the strap, and the strap be run through a slit in the body, and a strap of leather or other material be run through the loop within the trunk; but I do not consider this as so reliable a provision for holding the strap as is furnished by the metal loops, though in either case it will be observed that the strap is applied to the trunk without being directly or permanently attached thereto.

In applying trays to shut into the lid part of a trunk, the tray is usually hinged to the trunk-frame or body at one edge by butt-hinges, the strain upon which is constantly loosening their fastenings. To obviate this, I hang the tray upon rivets or joint-pins *k*, extending through plates *l*, fastened upon the tray, into metal bear-

ings *m*, fixed to the frame or body of the trunk, the strain coming almost wholly upon the pin and these bearing-plates, in such manner as not to tend to loosen them.

Besides this, I apply the bearing-plates at some distance from the edge of the tray, (as seen at *G*, which shows an end view of the tray,) so that, in opening the tray, the depth in the trunk-lid is made available for entrance of the back part of the tray, making it more readily accessible and more evenly balanced.

I claim, in the construction of travelling-trunks and analogous articles—

The employment of leather or equivalent flexible material, having its surface formed into alternate parallel ribs and furrows, substantially as shown and described.

Also, forming the metal corner of a bag or trunk-frame, or moulding, of separate pieces of angle-metal, united as set forth.

Also, attaching the strap to the trunk-body by means of a loop, connected with and held by a fastening-plate or projections within the trunk, substantially as set forth.

Also, the manner of hanging the tray, substantially as shown and described.

E. A. G. ROULSTONE.

Witnesses:

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