

# Fire-Proof Safes, &c.

Patented May 25, 1875.



*Witnesses:*

Andrew B. Warren.

Twentor.  
William A. Shepard.  
by James H. Mandwille  
his Attorney.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. SHEPARD, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## IMPROVEMENT IN FIRE-PROOF SAFES, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **163,614**, dated May 25, 1875; application filed January 5, 1875.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. SHEPARD, of the city of New York, in the State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Portable Fire-Proof Safes, and in Wardrobes and Fire-Proof Closets for Buildings, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description:

In the drawing, Figure I is an isometrical section; and Fig. II, a section of part of a safe and its cover.

The object of this invention is the construction of portable fire-proof safes or caskets, and of wardrobes and fire-proof closets for buildings, in an inexpensive manner, so that from their low cost they may be purchased by all classes of people.

The entire safe is made of double walls, out of tin or sheet-iron. I then cover the outside, or both sides of the inner wall, with a thick paper which has been first saturated with alum; I then compress in the space between the walls sifted anthracite-coal ashes.

The mode above described will answer equally well for wardrobes, and for closets in buildings, as for portable caskets; but for closets I fill the walls with a stiff mortar, made by mixing together plaster-of-paris and the ashes of anthracite coal, the ingredients being mixed half and half. The inside wall of the closet might with safety be made of wood,

lined with paper, as described; and, if desired, the wooden wall might first be rendered fire-proof by any well-known chemical process.

A represents a portable casket; B, its cover. C D show the beveled shape of the casket and its cover, by which the cover shuts down into it, so as to make an air-tight joint; *a b*, the paper lining, and *m* the filling between walls.

As a receptacle for valuable papers or silverware I have here described a safe the cost of which is so small that it is within the means of purchase of any class of people.

I claim—

Portable safes, wardrobes, or stationary closets for buildings, made of double walls, which are lined with alum-paper, and which have filled between them either anthracite-coal ashes or a mortar composed of plaster-of-paris and the ashes of anthracite coal, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I hereunto subscribe my name at the city of Washington, District of Columbia, in the presence of two attesting witnesses, this 24th day of November, 1874.

WILLIAM A. SHEPARD.

Witnesses:

A. PELLETIER,  
A. H. EVANS.