

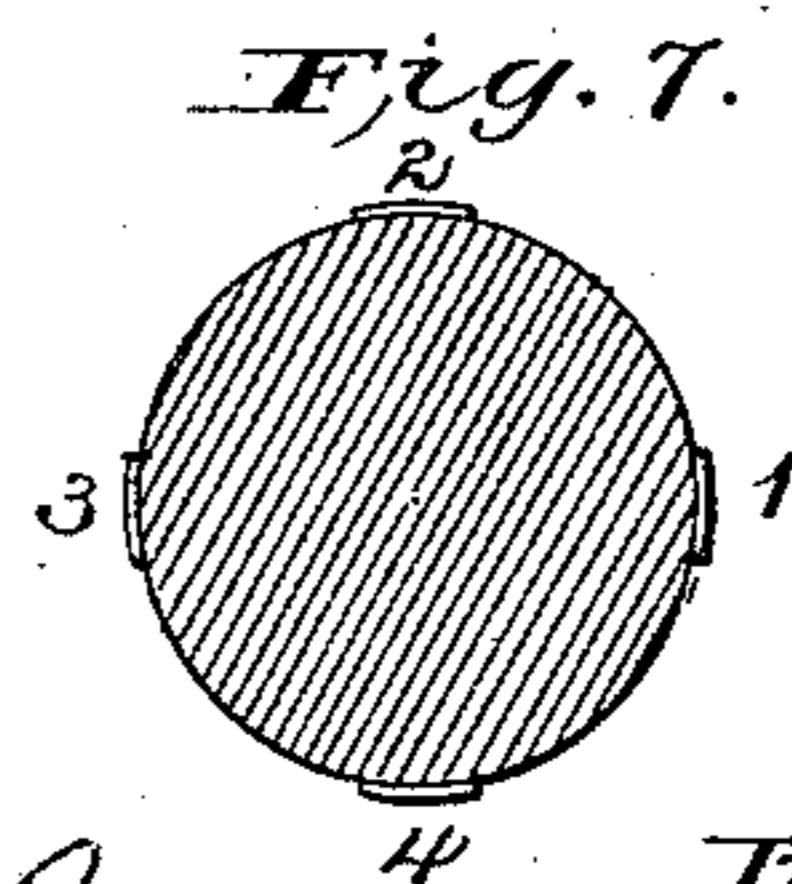
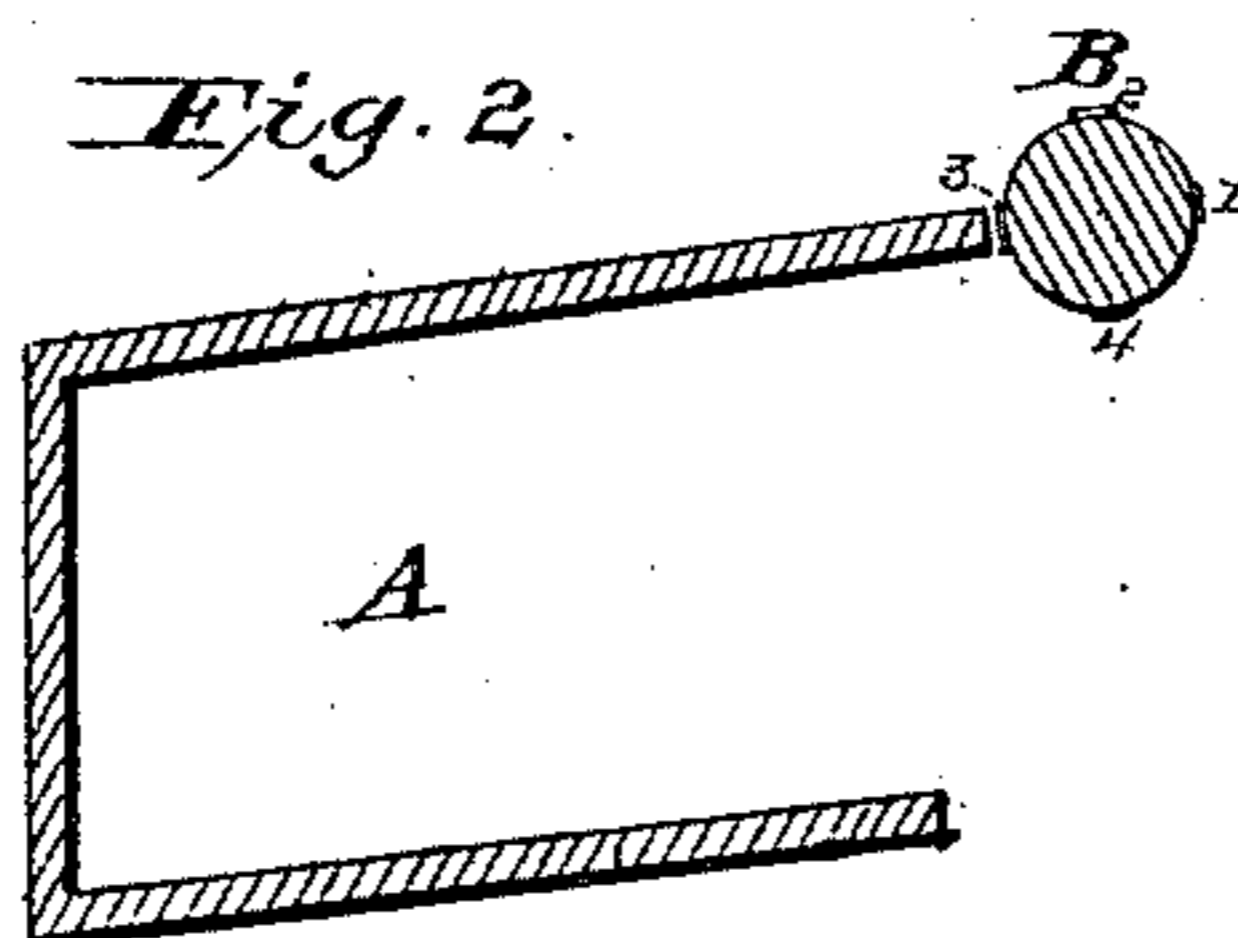
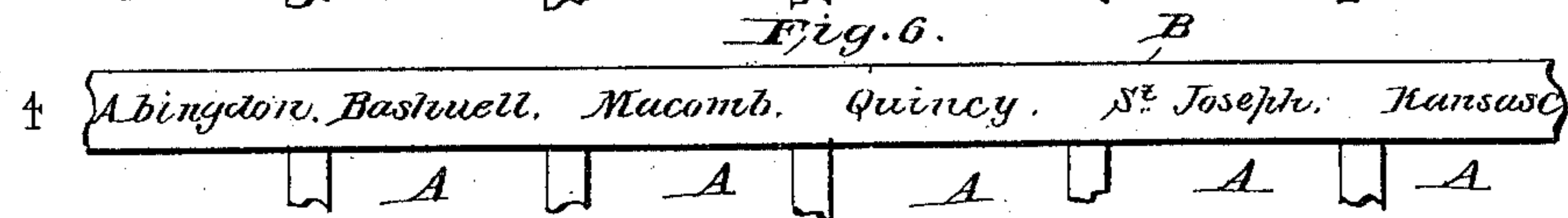
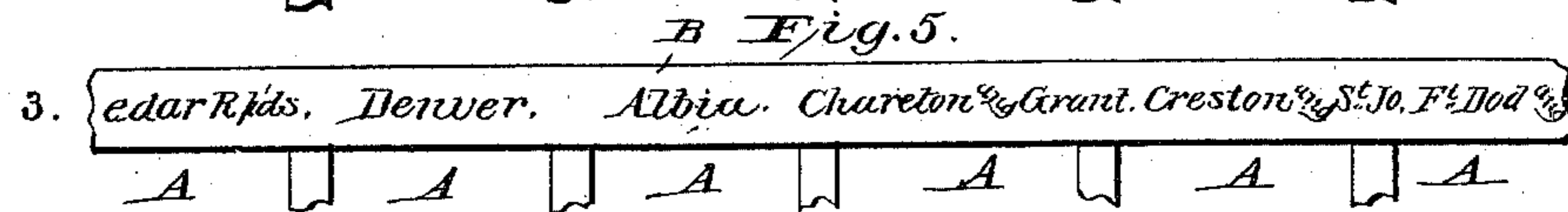
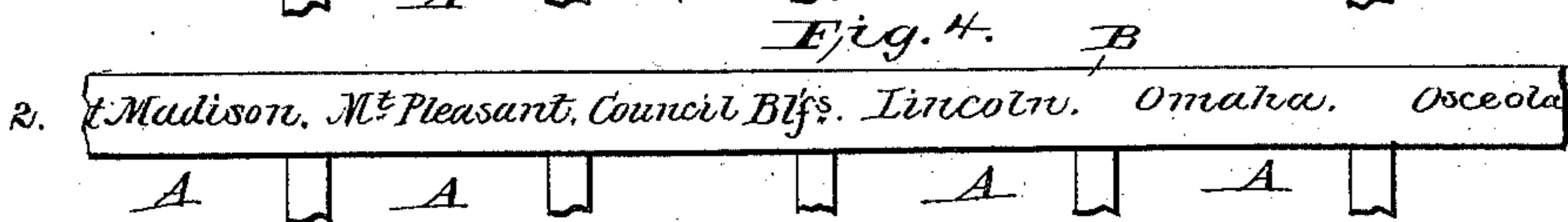
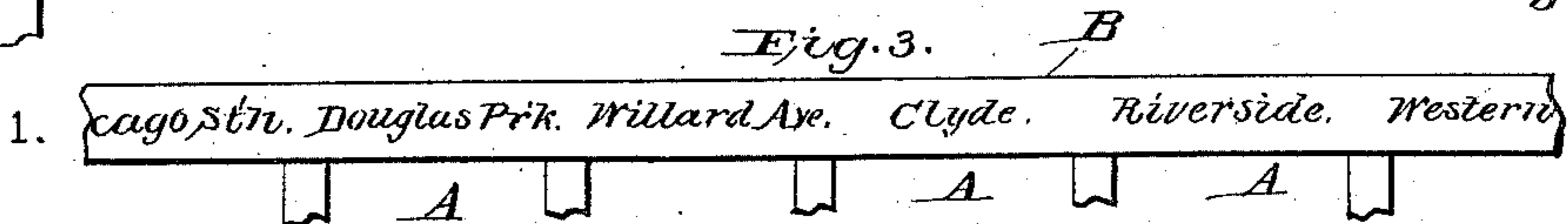
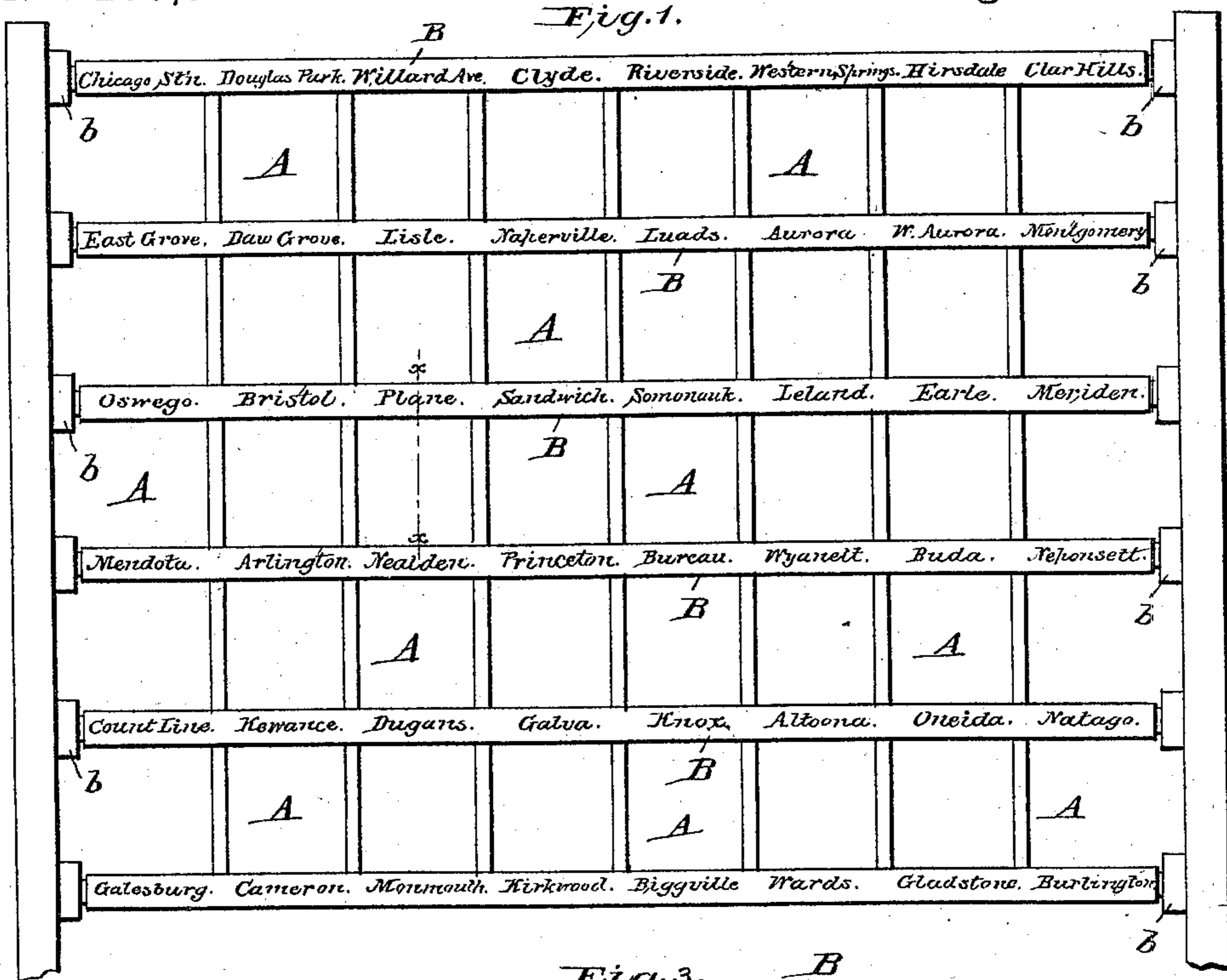
(No Model.)

R. PAGE.

INDICATOR FOR POST OFFICE BOXES.

No. 283,918.

Patented Aug. 28, 1883.



Witnesses:  
A. M. Long.  
M. A. H. H. H.

Inventor.  
Rowley Page  
per W. B. Richards  
Atty

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROWLEY PAGE, OF GALESBURG, ILLINOIS.

## INDICATOR FOR POST-OFFICE BOXES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 283,918, dated August 28, 1883.

Application filed October 28, 1882. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ROWLEY PAGE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Galesburg, in the county of Knox and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Indicators for Post-Office Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention is primarily designed to be used with post-office boxes in the railway mail-service; but its use is not restricted to the railway mail-service, as it can be used to great advantage in other post-offices and for still other uses.

It consists, mainly, in labels secured upon a rod in a series of two or more labels circumferentially on the rod and in a series lengthwise of the rod, which rod, located in front of the boards which divide post-office boxes into vertical series, can be rotated to bring either set of labels to the front, as desired.

The invention further consists in constructions and combinations hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate a series of ordinarily-arranged post-office boxes or letter-boxes and my invention, Figure 1 is a front elevation; Fig. 2, an enlarged sectional elevation through one of the boxes in the line  $x x$  in Fig. 1; Figs. 3, 4, 5, and 6, enlarged side elevations of a label-carrying rod and parts of adjacent boxes; Fig. 7, an enlarged sectional elevation of a label-carrying rod.

Referring to the drawings by letters, the same letter indicating the same part in the different figures, A represents boxes or pigeon-holes of the ordinary kind used in post-offices.

B are rods journaled in bearings  $b$ , so that they may be rotated on their longitudinal axes. The rods B may be of any desired form in their cross-section; but I prefer to have them round or cylindrical, as shown. These rods are shown as located immediately over ordinary post-office boxes A—or, in other words, immediately in front of the boards which form the

bottoms and tops of said boxes—so as to be out of the way in placing matter in the box and in removing matter therefrom. As shown, each rod B extends across a horizontal series of boxes, A, of which there may be any desired number.

At Figs. 3, 4, 5, and 6, I have shown different side elevations of the same rod to illustrate one method of arranging the labels thereon. At Fig. 3 a series of labels, No. 1, are shown lengthwise of the rod in positions coinciding with the positions of the boxes A; and at Figs. 4, 5, and 6 other series on the same rod are shown, respectively, Nos. 2 to 4. The positions of the series of labels Nos. 1 to 4 circumferentially on the rod are shown at Fig. 7. I have thus shown four series of labels on a rod, B; but any other number above one may be used, as preferred or required in different places and for different uses. By making the rods B snug in their bearings they will remain in whatever positions they are placed.

In the railway mail-service where labels or names of places are fixed to the boxes in mail-cars, as is generally done, a separate box is required for each and every place or post-office and each and every railroad for which mail is made up in said car during its trip; and this necessitates on most roads the use of a great many boxes, only a portion of which are used at one time or between given stations, while the balance are unused. With my improved labels a much smaller number of boxes may be used, as the labels may be changed by rotating the rods and the same boxes used for different places. For instance, in starting on a trip the rods may be turned over a portion of the boxes to bring forward the names of places and railroads for which mail is first to be made up, and when any portion of these boxes from progress of the train are unused, the rods may be turned to bring forward the next occurring series of places for which mail is to be made up. When the names on any number of the rods are all used, then other rods and boxes may be used. The arrangement and order and disposition of the names on the rods will vary on different railroads, and each railroad may arrange them to suit the order of places for which mail is made up on

the trip of the mail-car or post-office on such road.

In distributing post-offices this invention, it is believed, will be of great use in economiz-  
5 ing space, expense for extra boxes, and in enabling the operator to have the boxes nearest where required. For this use the same boxes may be used for making up mail for different places and railroads by changing the labels, as  
10 hereinbefore described.

I do not claim herein, broadly, label-carrying bars located in front of the division-boards which form the tops and bottoms of the post-office boxes, as such are shown in another ap-  
15 plication I now have pending; but in such application it is necessary to remove the rods in order to turn them, which is not the case in the present application; hence herein

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

1. In combination with a series of post-office boxes, a rod having a series of labels or names attached thereto and adapted to be rotated to bring either name in the series forward, substantially as described.  
25

2. In combination, a series of boxes, A, and rotating rod B, journaled in front of the division-boards which form the tops and bottoms of said boxes, and provided with a series of labels, either of which may be brought forward to view while the others are obscured by rotating the rod B, substantially as and for the purpose specified. 30

3. In combination with a horizontal series of boxes, A, a rotating rod, B, extending across  
35 said series of boxes in front of the division-boards which form the tops and bottoms of said boxes, and provided with labels arranged in series lengthwise of the rod and series circumferentially of it, substantially as  
40 and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ROWLEY PAGE.

Witnesses:

JOHN LASS,  
WM. F. CLARK.