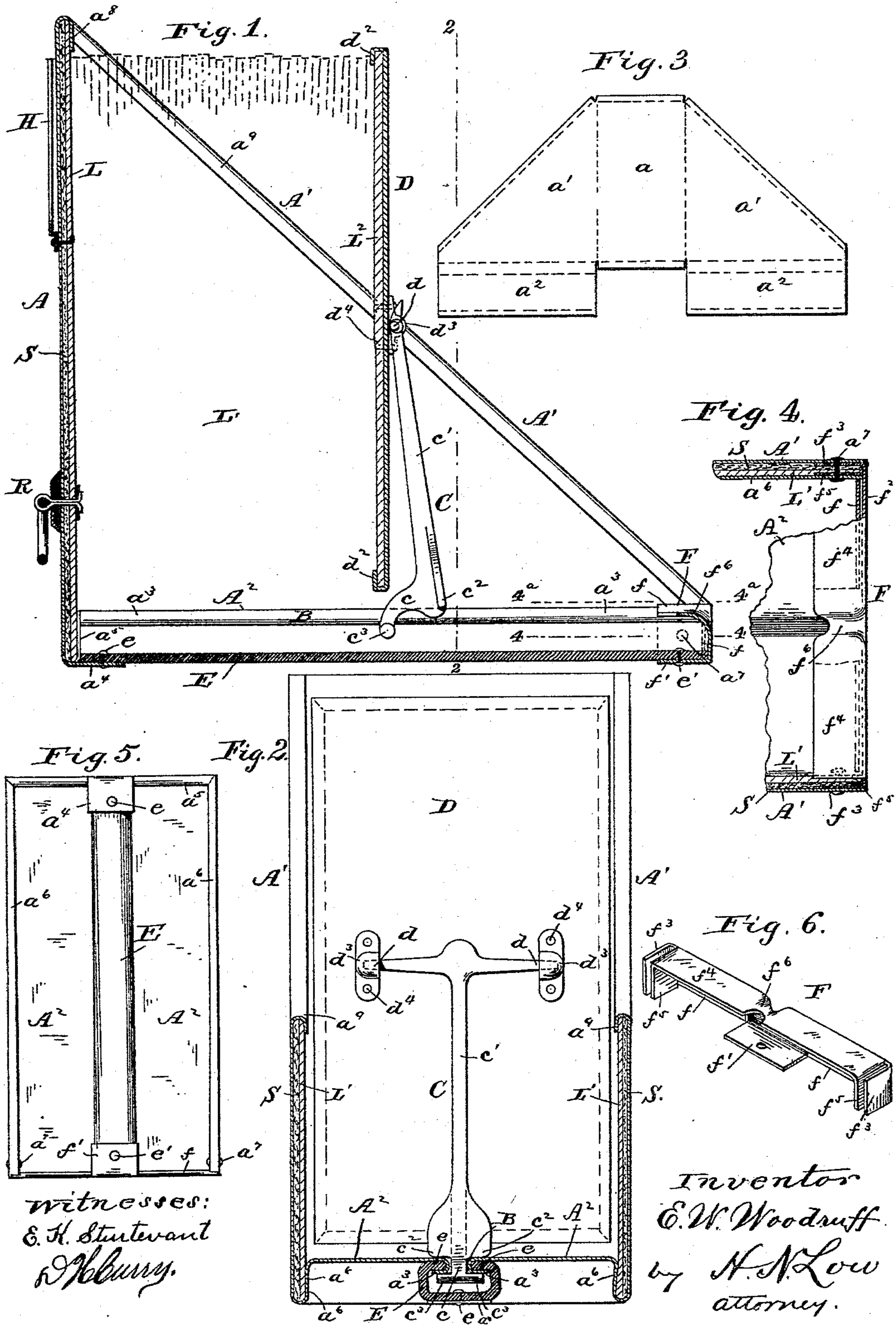


(No Model.)

E. W. WOODRUFF.
FILE OR DOCUMENT HOLDER.

No. 412,154.

Patented Oct. 1, 1889.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDMUND W. WOODRUFF, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

FILE OR DOCUMENT HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 412,154, dated October 1, 1889.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDMUND W. WOODRUFF, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in File or Document Holders; and I do 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.

It is frequently desirable and sometimes required that holders for documents shall be fire-proof and capable of being employed in strictly fire-proof structures without detracting from the efficiency and safety of such buildings.

My invention is directed to this end; and it consists in an improved document-holder hereinafter more particularly described, which, while possessing the requisite fire-proof quality, is nevertheless of simple and comparatively inexpensive construction.

My invention further consists in certain improvements in metal holders or file boxes, whether fire-proof or not, whereby they are more easily constructed, their parts more effectively combined and secured together with the result of rigidity in the structure and economy of manufacture, and the holder adapted to receive and support the clamping-lever in its various positions without being bent by the considerable strain which said lever imposes.

In order to make my invention more clearly understood, I have shown in the accompanying drawings means for carrying the same into practical effect.

In said drawings, Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical section of a document-holder or file-box embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a transverse section of the same on line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a view of a blank which may be used to form the holder shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 4 is a horizontal section, the upper portion of the figure taken upon line 4 4 and the lower portion upon line 4^a 4^a of Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a bottom plan view of the holder shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 6 is a perspective view

of the end piece which unites the parts of the holder at its rear.

Referring to the drawings, A indicates the front portion of the holder; A' A', the two side portions, and A² the bottom. These parts are formed of a suitable sheet metal, such as iron. In Figs. 1 and 2 I have shown them formed in one piece from a blank of the shape indicated in Fig. 3. The portion *a* of this blank forms the front A. The portions *a'* *a'* form the sides, and the portions *a*² *a*² constitute the bottom, the blank being folded upon the dotted lines.

B indicates a slot in the bottom A², adapted to receive the lower arm *c* of the angle-lever C, the upper arm of which is shown at *c'*, and carries the file-board D, pivoted thereto at *d*. At the juncture of the arms of the lever the latter is widened to form fulcrum-shoulders *c*², which rest upon the top surface of the bottom A² at each side of slot B. The lower and forward end of arm *c* is provided with lateral projections *c*³, adapted to bear against the under surface of the bottom and co-operate with shoulders *c*², in a well-known manner, to clamp the lever in place when the file-board and upper end of arm *c'* are pressed backward.

I have found that the thin sheet metal of which the holders are composed is inadequate to properly resist the strain imposed by this clamping-lever, and that the pressure of the latter will bend the edges which border the slot B and distort the bottom. I therefore provide for combining with the bottom a separate slot-piece of thick and practically rigid metal, which forms a proper guide, inclosure, and clamping-base for the lower end of the lever. This piece is shown at E, and, besides its bottom and side portions, is provided with horizontal top flanges *e*, which extend inward toward each other and are separated by the width of slot B. These flanges *e* are engaged and covered by the downwardly and outwardly turned portions *a*³ of the bottom. There is thus formed a clamping-plate of great rigidity, which perfectly resists the strain of the lever and adds materially to the inflexibility of the whole box.

The slot-piece E is connected with the holder at its front by means of a horizontal flange a^4 , which is cut out from the turned-up flange a^5 of the front A and is riveted to the slot-piece, as shown at e . At its rear end the slot-piece and the edges of the bottom are covered and united by the end piece F, Figs. 4 and 6, from the upturned bend or flange f of which there is cut out and bent into a horizontal position a flange f' , which is riveted to the slot-piece, as shown at e' . The outer and vertical portion f^2 of the end piece is bent at its ends to form two vertical flanges f^3 , which lie upon the inner surfaces of the sides A' of the holder. The top and horizontal portion f^4 is bent at its ends to form two other vertical flanges f^5 , which lie within flanges f^3 and against the outer surface of the upturned bends or flanges a^6 , which latter are formed by bending the metal, as shown in Fig. 2, along the lines where the sides A' of the holder join the bottom A^2 . Rivets a^7 pass through the parts A' , f^3 , f^5 , and a^6 , thus firmly uniting the end piece, which is already secured to the slot-piece, as described, with the sides and bottom of the holder. A holder of finished appearance and one in which all of the parts are properly and rigidly secured together is thus easily manufactured.

In metallic holders it has been necessary either to use a sheet metal of a thickness which renders the holder too heavy and expensive, or to have a device which is too flexible and easily bent to retain its shape and continue to properly fit its pigeon-hole or space. I have obviated such difficulties in my present invention, and have combined with an external shell of thin sheet metal a lining of fibrous material—such as heavy pasteboard—the thickness and elasticity of which permanently maintain the shape of the device, and I have utilized the features of construction of the holder already described to secure the various parts of such lining in their places in such manner as to minimize the labor and expense involved in the manufacture and to give a finished and attractive appearance to the holder. In the construction illustrated such lining is shown at L L'. The sheet L is that which is applied to the front A of the holder. The latter is provided with bends or flanges a^5 a^8 along its lower and upper edges, which inclose the edges of the sheet L.

L' indicates the sheets which line the sides A' . The upper edges of these sheets are inclosed by a flange a^9 , formed by the edges of the sides A' . The lower edges of sheets L' rest in the channels formed between the sides A' , and the upturned portions a^6 (see Fig. 2) and their rear ends are inclosed by the parts f^4 f^5 of the end piece F. The sheet L forms a stout backing for the front A, which enables the label or card holder H and the handle or ring holder R to be secured in the same man-

ner in which they would be upon a solid wooden front piece—for instance by nails or tacks, the points of which are clinched down upon the inner surface of said sheet L.

The file-board D is provided upon its forward face with a lining-sheet L^2 , the edges of which are inclosed by the bent edges d^2 of the sheet-metal shell of the file-board. The bearings d^3 for the pivots d are secured to this file-board by nails d^4 , which are clinched down upon the front face of sheet L^2 . The file thus constructed is rendered fire-proof by sheets S of suitable material—such as asbestos—which are interposed between the outer metallic shell of the holder and the lining already referred to. The asbestos is shown as applied to both the front and the sides of the holder; but it may be sufficient for most purposes to apply it upon the front only.

The end piece already referred to performs the function of supporting the lever C with its file-board in a backwardly-inclined position to support the files or documents while they are being examined. The horizontal portion f^4 of the end piece effectively gives such support, its middle, which passes across the slot B in the vertical plane of the lever, being sustained by the flanges e of the stiff slot-piece E. This supporting portion of the end piece is preferably recessed or bent downward, as indicated at f^6 , in order to give the necessary drop to the arm c of the lever.

It will be understood that the lining itself may be of such material as to constitute the fireproofing layer or stratum.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a holder for documents or other papers, the combination, with a thin sheet-metal exterior, of the interior lining consisting of sheets of fibrous and elastic material secured in place on the inner side and by means of said sheet-metal portion, and adapted by their elasticity to stiffen the box and preserve its shape and to protect the papers from the condensation and rust upon the inner face of the metal shell, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with the sheet-metal bottom, of the stiff flanged slot-piece E, connected therewith, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination, with the sheet-metal bottom portions A^2 , separated by the slot B, of the slot-piece E, interlocking with and uniting said portions, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination, with the sheet-metal front having the flange a^4 , the sides A' , and the bottom A^2 , of the slot-piece E, connected with said bottom and with the flange a^4 , substantially as set forth.

5. The combination, with the file-board, the lever C, and the slotted bottom, of the end piece having a horizontal portion passing across said slot for supporting the lever, substantially as set forth.

6. The combination, with the sheet-metal

bottom and sides of the holder, of the end piece covering the edge of said bottom and having vertical end flanges riveted horizontally to the sides, substantially as set forth.

5 7. The sheet-metal file-holder blank in one piece having the parts a a' a^2 , substantially as set forth.

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

EDMUND W. WOODRUFF.

Witnesses:

H. N. LOW,

E. K. STURTEVANT.