

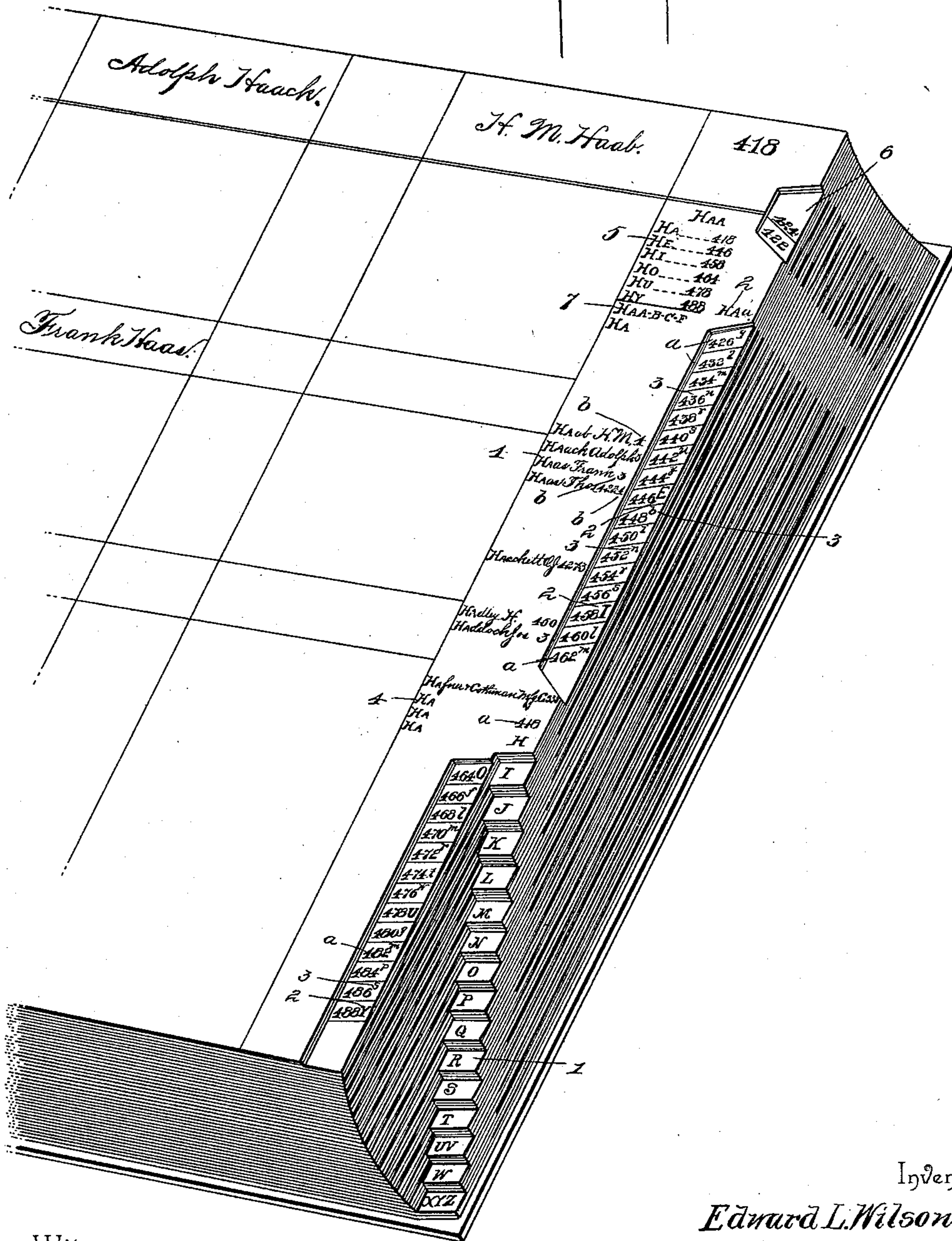
(No Model.)

E. L. WILSON.
LEDGER.

No. 587,084.

Patented July 27, 1897.

IG. 1.



Inventor
Edward L. Wilson.

Witnesses

A. J. LaVarre,

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD L. WILSON, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

LEDGER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 587,084, dated July 27, 1897.

Application filed October 10, 1894. Serial No. 525,523. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD L. WILSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented
5 a new and useful Ledger, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an index for ledgers and similar record and account books, and the objects in view are to provide an efficient
10 index in connection with and forming a part of the ledger or record-book to avoid the use of an auxiliary index-book which is separate from such ledger or record-book, to provide means whereby the several accounts or rec-
15 ords are indexed under the first, second, and third letters of the names, the arrangement of such first, second, and third letters being such as to constitute primary, secondary, and tertiary indexes, which being used succes-
20 sively in the order named enable the operator to determine approximately the page upon which the desired account is entered, and, furthermore, to provide means for forming a local auxiliary index of the names in full
25 to indicate the exact page containing the entry and the part of the page upon which it is entered.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will appear in the following description, and the novel features thereof will be particularly pointed out in the appended
30 claims.

In the drawing the figure represents a book provided with my improved form of index,
35 the same opened to expose the letter "H" of the primary index and the letter "a" of the secondary and tertiary indices.

The margins of the pages are cut or notched from a point near the center of their outer
40 edges and downward from said point for the reception of the capital or large letters which comprise the primary index 1, the number of pages or leaves allotted to each letter of the primary index being in accordance with the
45 size of the book and the proportion of entries which usually apply to the several letters. The leaves between those which bear said letters of the primary index are similarly cut or notched at intervals for the reception of
50 the letters of the secondary index 2, each letter of said secondary index relating to a number of pages adapted to contain names be-

longing under the initial letter of the primary index and having the second letter of the secondary index under which it is placed. 55 Each letter of the primary index thus refers to a number of pages or groups of pages which are severally designated by the letters of the secondary series, a secondary index being used in connection with each letter of
60 the primary index.

The groups of pages embraced between two successive letters of the secondary index are again subdivided and their edges are cut or notched in the plane of the secondary-index
65 notches for the reception of the tertiary-index letters 3, whereby a tertiary index is arranged for use in connection with each secondary index. Thus the pages of the book are divided, primarily, into groups which are
70 designated, respectively, by the letters of the primary index. The pages or leaves in each group thus designated by the letters of the primary index are subdivided to form secondary groups, which are designated, respec-
75 tively, by the letters of the secondary index, and the pages or leaves of each group designated by a letter of the secondary index are again subdivided to form tertiary groups, which are designated, respectively, by the
80 several letters of the tertiary index.

In addition to the above I employ an auxiliary "name" index, as shown at 4, consisting of a series of primary and secondary index letters belonging, respectively, to the
85 primary and secondary groups in which the particular auxiliary index occurs. The use of the primary and secondary letters is a convenience to the bookkeeper, in that it is necessary only to append the remainder of a
90 name to be indexed and the number of the column on the page in which the account is entered. (See the numerals designated "b" after the names "Haab," "Haas," "Haddock," &c.) The letters of the tertiary index
95 belonging to a given page are arranged at the top thereof, as clearly shown at 7 in the drawing, the same consisting of the letters "HAA-B-C-F."

The cuttings for the secondary and tertiary
100 indices extend continuously along the edges of the leaves in the primary groups, or those leaves under each letter of the primary index, any cuttings which may be below the

corresponding letter of the primary group, as shown, being arranged inside of the line of the main or primary index. The cuttings for the primary index do not affect the portions
 5 of the pages above a given letter of the primary index, and the portions of the pages below said given letter of the primary index are removed to expose the succeeding letters of the primary index. Referring to the drawing,
 10 ing, the cuttings for the secondary index extend from a point near the top of the page to a point just above the letter "H" of the primary index, and below said letter of the primary index the cuttings for the secondary
 15 index are arranged to the left or inside of the plane of the primary index.

For convenience in using the special indices I have combined the cuttings for the secondary and tertiary groups, the letters of
 20 each tertiary group being arranged contiguous to and below the several letters of the secondary index and the latter being spaced to provide suitable intervals, whereby the notches for the secondary and tertiary indices
 25 are arranged in a common plane. Inasmuch as letters of the secondary index occur at intervals between the letters of the tertiary index, it is necessary to distinguish the letters of one group from those of the other, and this
 30 may be done by size, color, or otherwise. In the drawing I have distinguished the letters of the secondary index from those of the tertiary index by making the former larger than the latter, but in practice I have found that
 35 it is desirable to distinguish said letters both by size and color. It will be seen that under the secondary letter "A" there are arranged the letters "a," "g," "l," "m," "n," "r," "s," "u," and "y," forming the tertiary index
 40 under the secondary letter "A." In the same way under the secondary letter "I" will be found the small letters "l" and "m," forming the tertiary group under said secondary letter.

45 The portion of the auxiliary index which is illustrated in the drawing is that occurring under the secondary-index letter "A" and the tertiary-index letter "a," and therefore the auxiliary-index column 4 contains a series
 50 of "Ha's," showing that all of the names to be placed in said column on that page will have those letters in the first and second places, and at the top of the column are arranged the small letters "a," "b," "c," and
 55 "f" of the tertiary index. All names whose third letters are between "a" and "g" are indexed on pages under the tertiary-index letter "a," the particular pages which must be sought for names having the different letters
 60 "b," "c," "d," "e," and "f" in the third or tertiary places being indicated by page-numbers following the names in the auxiliary index 4. It is unnecessary and inconvenient in a small ledger to include a tertiary index including all of the letters of the alphabet, in
 65 the first place, because of necessitating a great amount of cutting or notching, and, in the

second place, because there are some letters which rarely occur in the third place in proper names. In other words, there would be few
 70 names in which such letters would be found in the third place in combination with the first and second letters of a given index. As the entries are made on the page to which the auxiliary index refers or the page on which
 75 it is placed the names are entered in the auxiliary column, the bookkeeper writing the remainder of the name supplied by the first and second letters, which form a part of the index. At the head of the auxiliary-group col-
 80 umn is arranged an indexing-table 5, giving in succession the letters of the secondary group, with the letter of the primary group in which said table occurs and the numbers of the several pages upon which the initial entry
 85 under each secondary letter is made. In addition to this the exposed portion of each page in the secondary and tertiary indices is provided with the number of that page, thus forming a main page-index *a*. I also employ
 90 an auxiliary page-index 6 in connection with the tertiary index where a number of leaves are arranged under each character of the tertiary index, as with the tertiary letter "a," to which is allotted all of the pages between
 95 418 (exposed) and 425, next to the page on which the next letter, "g," of the tertiary index is placed to facilitate finding a name after the proper group under the tertiary index has been discovered.

100 When under the above-described system of indexing a page or number of pages allotted to a given combination of index-characters becomes filled, it is necessary to transfer additional accounts to pages set aside or indicated by different index-characters, and the
 105 entry on the auxiliary or name index or column 4 is preferably made in red or other distinguishably-colored ink, with the number of the page to which the account has been transferred. An illustration of this will be found
 110 in the drawings, in which the account of "Hafner & Cothman" has been transferred to page 538, whereas the pages assigned to the letter "H" of the primary index extend only to 488
 115 and the pages assigned to the "Ha's" extend only to page 445, the "He's" beginning on page 446. This entry indicates that as the pages set aside for the "Ha" accounts have been filled the account mentioned has been transferred
 120 to an open page under a different index-letter. In the same way the account of "Haackett" has been transferred to page 427 and may be found in the third column of said page.

125 The advantage of cutting the edges of the leaves for the primary and other indices resides in the fact that all liability of the letters being drawn or twisted off is avoided, this objection being urged against those indices in which extension tabs or ears are employed for the letters.

Having described my invention, what I claim is—

1. An indexed book having the margins of its leaves cut or notched to form primary groups indicated by characters forming a primary index, having the marginal edges of the leaves in each primary group cut or notched continuously in series from the first to the last leaf in said group, secondary-index characters arranged at intervals upon exposed portions of the leaves between contiguous primary-index characters to subdivide each primary group of leaves into a plurality of secondary groups, the number of cuts or notches formed in the leaves in each primary group being greater than the number of characters in the secondary index, whereby a plurality of notches is arranged between contiguous characters of the secondary index, and tertiary-index characters arranged between each two contiguous characters of the secondary index upon the exposed portions of the leaves in said additional notches between the characters of the secondary index, the series of notches in the portions of the leaves above the point of intersection thereof with the cuttings or notches for the primary index being formed in the edges of the leaves in alinement with said cuttings or notches for the primary index, and the series of notches in the leaves below the point of intersection thereof with the series of cuttings or notches for the primary index being formed inside of, and parallel with, the series of cuttings or notches for the primary index, substantially as specified.

2. An indexed book having the margins of its leaves cut or notched to form primary groups indicated by characters forming a pri-

mary index, having the marginal edges of the leaves in each primary group notched in series continuously from the first to the last leaf in the group, distinguishable secondary and tertiary index characters arranged upon the portions of said leaves exposed by the cuts or notches, the secondary-index letters being spaced to form an open series between the contiguous characters of which is arranged a plurality of leaves subdivided by interposed cuts or notches to form tertiary groups, and the tertiary-index characters being arranged in groups between the characters of the secondary index and upon the portions of the leaves exposed by said interposed cuts or notches, an auxiliary or name index under each character of the tertiary index and arranged in a ruled column parallel with the outer edges of the leaves embraced under each character of said index, the auxiliary or name index being formed by a column of primary and secondary index characters arranged to form the first portions of the names of accounts entered on the pages, whereby the following portions of said names may be appended, and a page-index having its characters arranged upon notched portions of the leaves included in each tertiary index, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD L. WILSON.

Witnesses:

E. HAND,

GEO. GERLING.