

PATENTED OCT. 29, 1907.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 3, 1906.

2 SHEETS--SHEET 1.

S		S					
L	L m	L n	L R	L J	L	Page	
All surnames containing the above key letter after the initial letter and not followed by another key letter	All surnames containing after the initial letter the above key letters in the order indicated	All surnames containing after the initial letter the above key letters in the order indicated	All surnames containing after the initial letter the above key letters in the order indicated	All surnames containing after the initial letter the above key letters in the order indicated	All surnames containing after the initial letter the above key letters in the order indicated	Page	
Schell-Schell	Solomon	Schullenberger	Seyler-Schler	Schultz-Schultz	Schultz-Schultz	16	
Spively-Schively	Salomon	Stugener	Schuler-Schuler	Schuler-Schuler	Schuler-Schuler	12	
Spilich-Sallada		Alonster					
Stigel-Sigel-Sigel		Lawson					

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No. 869,521.

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PATENTED OCT. 29, 1907.

## INDEX.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 3, 1905.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Corporations, Firms, Townships, School Districts, Churches, Cemeteries, and all names others than Individuals are placed in columns on this page according to the letters L, M, N, T in the order in which they appear in the first word of the name (always omitting the word "The"). Corporations etc. whose first word does not contain any of said letters are placed in "Miscellaneous Column".									
L	M	N	T	Miscellaneous					
All names in which the above key letter appears after the initial letter in the first word of the name.	All names in which the above key letter appears after the initial letter in the first word of the name.	All names in which the above key letter appears after the initial letter in the first word of the name.	All names in which the above key letter appears after the initial letter in the first word of the name.	Names not containing sub-division letters					
Page	Page	Page	Page	Page					
72	74	77	80	82					
72	75	79	81	83					
			84						

WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## INDEX.

No. 869,521.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 29, 1907.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT C. RUSSELL, of Williamsport, in the county of Lycoming and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful  
5 Improvements in Indexes; 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.

This invention relates to indexes, and more particularly to such as are adapted to facilitate the searching  
10 of public records.

Owing to the similarity or resemblance in pronunciation and the various and arbitrary spelling of proper names, the entries of deeds, mortgages, judgments etc.,  
15 in accordance with the manner of spelling the names of the parties thereto, has often resulted in serious consequences,—a search of the index at a point where a certain name might naturally be expected to be found, failing to disclose an entry. The principle of *idem*  
20 *sonans* being recognized and applied by the courts to the legal effect of recorded instruments, the danger of omission in searches is always great and can only be met in indexes now in common use, by looking for entries under various spellings which might occur to the  
25 mind of the searcher.

An object of this invention is to reduce to a minimum, the danger of omission above referred to and to so construct an index as to bring into the same group, column or place, all the various spellings of any sur-  
30 name, so that the search of a single group, column or place shall discover all the pages where entries concerning one person are to be found.

A further object is to provide an index having a key applicable to all initial letters of sur-names and comprising the same number of divisions and sub-divisions  
35 under each initial letter of sur-names,—that is to say, the provision of a key which is identical in the book or section of every initial letter.

A further object is to provide an index which shall  
40 bring, in the same column, all names spelled differently but pronounced similarly.

A further object is to arrange the index in such manner that a maximum number of sub-divisions (under each initial letter), will be afforded and thereby reduce  
45 to a minimum, the extent of search required for a certain name.

A further object is to provide an index which will admit of the division of any initial letter or book into two or more books or parts without separating names  
50 pronounced alike but spelled differently, such divisions being made either by sur-name or given name.

A further object is to provide an index wherein only five certain consonants are used for divisions and sub-divisions, and in which the key letters are exposed on  
55 the margins of pages.

With these objects in view, the invention consists in features and characteristics and combinations thereof as hereinafter set forth and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings; Figure 1 is a view of the improved sur-name index; Fig. 2 is a view illustrating a general index to which the sur-name index  
60 may refer. Fig. 3 illustrates another page of the sur-name index.

The key to the sur-name index consists of five certain consonants and combinations of them,—these five  
65 certain consonants appearing in nearly all sur-names. The five consonants are L, M, N, R, T, and the combinations of them which are employed are L, LM, LN, LR, LT,—M, ML, MN, MR, MT,—N, NL, NM, NR, NT,—  
70 R, RL, RM, RN, RT,—T, TL, TM, TN, TR.

Fig. 1 of the drawing shows the "S" book or index of the sur-name index, open at the "L" page.

A represents contiguous pages, having thereon, vertical columns *a*, *a'*, *b*, *b'*, *c*, *c'*, *d*, *d'*, *e*, *e'*.

In making entries in this index, the initial letter is  
75 always disregarded and the name is entered in accordance with the key letter or letters which appear in the name, after the initial letter. The key letter may not follow immediately after the initial letter, but the name will be indexed according to the first key letter which  
80 appears after or following the initial letter. It will be understood, the word "following" as used herein in this connection, does not necessarily mean the letter next to the initial letter, but rather the key letter which first appears after the initial letter. Where a name  
85 contains two or more key letters, such name will be indexed under the first two of said key letters. For example, the name "Solomon" (which contains three key letters), will be indexed in the "LM" column of the "S" book.  
90

The column *a* is designated to receive all sur-names containing the key letter "l" after the initial letter and not followed by another key letter. This column is also designated "L". In this column, all names (having, in the "S" book the initial letter S), in which the  
95 letter "l" follows the initial letter and is not followed by another key letter, are entered. All sur-names differently spelled but similarly pronounced are entered in this column. Thus, the names, Schell, Shell, Shively, Scheibele would properly occur in this column, and it  
100 will be observed that in each of these names and in all of the names shown as entered in this column, the key letter "l" follows the initial letter and is not followed by another key letter. The narrow column *a'*, is designated to receive the page number of a general index, in which may be found the record of the names appearing in column *a*.  
105

Column *b* is labeled "LM", and is designated to contain all sur-names containing the key letter "l" following the initial letter and followed by the key letter "m".  
110



The column  $b^1$ , is designated to receive the page number of the general index relative to the names appearing in the column  $b$ .

The column  $c$  is labeled "LN" and is designated to receive all surnames containing the key letter "l" following the initial letter and followed by the key letter "n". Column  $c^1$ , is designated to receive the page number of the general index relative to the names in column  $c$ .

Column  $d$ , is labeled "LR" and is designated to receive all sur-names containing the key letter "l" following the initial letter and followed by the key letter "r". The column  $d^1$  is designated to receive the page numbers of the general index relative to the names appearing in column  $d$ .

Column  $e$  is labeled "LT" and is designated to contain all sur-names containing the key letter "l" following the initial letter and followed by the key letter "t". The column  $e^1$  is designated to contain the page number of the general index relative to the names appearing in column  $e$ .

It will be understood that in all the columns,  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $d$  and  $e$ , all names similarly pronounced but differently spelled will be entered together or in groups.

The pages above described are designated on the margin by the exposed key letter "L", as shown at  $f$ , Fig. 1. The next two contiguous pages of the index book, are designated on the margin, by the key letter "M", as shown at  $g$ , Fig. 1. The columns on these pages have the same designations as the columns on the pages above described in detail, except that these columns are designated respectively to receive surnames containing the key letter "m"; the key letters ML, the key letters MN, the key letters MR and the key letters MT. The next two contiguous pages are designated by the marginal exposed key letter N, as shown at  $h$ , and the columns on these pages are designated as before explained, except the order in which the key letters appear—the first column being designated to contain all sur-names in which the key letter N follows the initial letter and is not followed by another key letter; the next column is designated for the key letters NL, the next for the key letters NM, the next for the key letters NR and the next for the key letters NT. The columns of the next two contiguous pages are similarly designated for the key letters R, RL, RM, RN, and RT, and these pages are provided with the exposed marginal key letter R. The next two contiguous pages are designated by the exposed marginal letter T, and the columns of these pages are designated after the same manner as before explained, for the key letters T, TL, TM, TN, TR.

While we have described each subdivision of the key as occupying two contiguous pages, it will of course be understood that as many pages may be employed as may be thought necessary to contain all the names of the various groups which might be entered into the index within a period or a predetermined number of years.

We have discovered after long experience and investigation, that the vast majority of surnames can be indexed with the sub-divisions of the key hereinbefore described, said key comprising only the five consonants named and combinations of them as specified. There are however, comparatively few names, which

could not properly be indexed under any of these subdivisions, and we provide a page designated on the margin, "Miscellaneous", and having columns designated to contain names in which none of the subdivisions of the key appear. There are other pages designated on the margin, "Corporations etc", as shown at  $i$ , Fig. 1. These continuous pages are shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings, and are divided by vertical columns, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 for names and  $1^1$ ,  $2^1$ ,  $3^1$ ,  $4^1$ ,  $5^1$ ,  $6^1$ , designated to receive the numbers of pages in the general index where the names in the columns 1-6 are recorded. The column 1 is labeled "L" and is designated to contain names in which the key letter "l" appears in the first word of the name after the initial letter. The columns 2, 3, 4, and 5 are similarly designated to contain names with the key letters m, n, r, t, and the column 6 is labeled "Miscellaneous" and is designated to contain names not containing any of the key letters.

As before stated, the page numbers in the sur-name index hereinbefore described, refers to a general index where the record is found. This general index is shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings, although a different form of general index might be used with the sur-name index herein described. Fig. 2 of the drawing represents page 10 of the general index which we prefer to use, and this page is designated as page 10. The page shown in Fig. 2 is divided into vertical columns 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. The column 7 of the general index is designated to contain the names of grantors to the name you are searching. The column 8 is designated to contain the name for which you are searching, and the column 9 is designated to contain the names of grantees from the name you are searching. The central column then, contains the name for which we are searching,—the column 7 contains the name of the grantor to such person and the column 9 contains the name of the grantee from the name of the person in the central column. It is to the names in the central column 8 to which the sur-name index refers. The columns 10 and 11 are designated to contain reference to books where the deeds or other instruments are recorded, and are labeled "Where recorded". The column 10 is labeled "Vol". and the column 11 is labeled "Page". The columns 12, 13 and 14 are designated to contain the date of the deed and are so labeled. The column 12 is labeled "Month",—the column 13, "Day", and the column 14, "Year". The column 15 is designated to contain the "Location" of the property.

Having fully described our invention what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. An index to names, comprising a series of vertical columns designated respectively to receive only such surnames as contain after the initial letter, the key letters l, m, n, r or t.

2. An index to names, comprising a series of vertical columns designated by letters consisting of the consonants l, m, n, r, t, said vertical columns designated respectively to receive only such names in which said letters appear after the initial letters.

3. An index to names, provided with vertical columns, designated by key letters common to names under all initial letters, said key letters consisting of five certain consonants appearing on the respective columns, and the vertical columns designated respectively, to receive only such names which contain said consonants after the initial letters.



4. An index to names comprising several pages having vertical columns, designated by key letters consisting of the consonants l, m, n, r, t, the respective pages having said key letters designated and exposed on the margins, and the columns of the pages labeled with said key letters and designated respectively to receive only such names as contain said key letters after the initial letters.

5. An index comprising a series of vertical columns, designated by key letters consisting of the consonants l, m, n, r, t, and combinations of these letters, the said vertical columns designated respectively to contain only such names in which said key letters or combinations of key letters appear after the initial letters of the sur-names.

6. An index divided into a series of vertical columns, designated by key letters comprising five divisions consisting of the letters l, m, n, r, t and sub-divisions of said key letters consisting of each of said key letters combined with each of the others, said vertical columns designated respectively to receive only such names in which said key letters and said combinations of key letters appear after the initial letters of the names.

7. An index divided into a series of pages or sets of pages, each of said pages divided by a series of vertical columns, each properly designated to receive only such names in which a certain key letter or combination of key letters appear after the initial letters of the names, said columns designated by key letters consisting of the letters l, m, n, r, t, and combinations of each of these letters with each of the others, the columns on one of said pages or sets

of pages designated with the key letter "l" and combinations thereof with the other key letters, and the columns of the other pages or sets of pages designated respectively with the key letters m, n, r, t and combinations thereof, only one of said key letters and its combinations appearing on each page or set of pages, each of said pages having other columns properly designated to contain numerals referring to a record of transactions relative to the indexed names.

8. The combination with a general index having a column properly designated to receive names of persons, a column to the left of the first-mentioned column designated to contain the names of grantors, a column to the right of the first-mentioned column designated to contain the names of grantees, of a sur-name index to contain names referring to the central column of the general index, said sur-name index divided into a series of vertical columns, designated by key letters consisting only of the letters l, m, n, r, t, and sub-divisions thereof, the columns of the sur-name index designated to receive respectively, names containing one or a combination of said key letters when they appear after the initial letters of the names.

In testimony whereof, I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ROBERT C. RUSSELL.

Witnesses:

R. L. FERGUSON,  
S. W. FOSTER.