UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ABNER CAMPBELL, OF FREDERICK, MARYLAND, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND JAMES WHITEHILL, OF SAME PLACE.

SYSTEM OF INDEXING FOR RECORDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **74,299**, dated February 11, 1868.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ABNER CAMPBELL, of the city and county of Frederick, and State of Maryland, have invented a new and Improved System of Indexing for Records, &c.; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make use of it.

In this invention the names are in the first place arranged in divisions according to the initial letter of the surnames, as in the indexes in common use. Each division thus formed is then subdivided according to the initial letter of the Christian name.

The invention consists in this arrangement, and in so combining the key of the subdivisions with the index of the divisions that by their means a name can be found in the index much more readily than by any system hitherto employed for the purpose.

The body of the index-book is divided into twenty-five departments, (or twenty-six if I and J are not included in one class,) and the names are arranged in one or another department, accordingly as the surname begins with A or B or C, &c. Each department is then subdivided into twenty-five or twenty-six subdivisions, and all the names in the department are arranged in one or another subdivision, accordingly as the Christian name begins with A or B or C, &c. In arranging the names I usually allow one page of the book for each subdivision, which will require a book of from six hundred and twenty-five to six hundred and seventy-six pages.

In connection with this arrangement, in order to facilitate the finding of the subdivisions, I employ a key constructed in the following manner, and inserted in the book either before or after the index above described: First, I arrange the initial letters of the surnames on the outer margin of the pages, one or more on each page, employing twenty-five or twenty-six pages, or a less number, for the purpose, and cutting the edge of the pages away, so that the eye can instantly detect the position of the required page without opening the book. So far in arranging the key I have not departed from the old method, and claim nothing new upon it.

Across each page thus marked, however, I arrange a series of twenty-five or twenty-six verfical spaces or columns wide enough to contain three figures abreast, and each one designated by a letter of the alphabet. In these vertical columns I write the figures indicating that page of the index-book on which is found the subdivision whose surnames correspond to the marginal letter of the key, and whose Christian names correspond to the designating-letter of the vertical column.

In finding the page of the index-book where John Smith's name is recorded, it will thus be only necessary to run the eye down the margin of the key till it rests upon S, then open at that page and run the eye across the desiguating-letters till it rests upon the letter J, under which will be found the figures indicating the page of the index on which every name whose initials are J. S. is recorded.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination of the key constructed as described with the index arranged as specified, for the purpose above set forth.

To the above specification of my improved system of indexing for records, &c., I have signed my hand this 9th day of November, 1866.

A. CAMPBELL.

Witnesses:
SOLON C. KEMON,
A. TANNER.