

M. C. BOYER.  
Improvement in Safes.

No. 124,784.

Patented March 19, 1872.

FIG. 1.

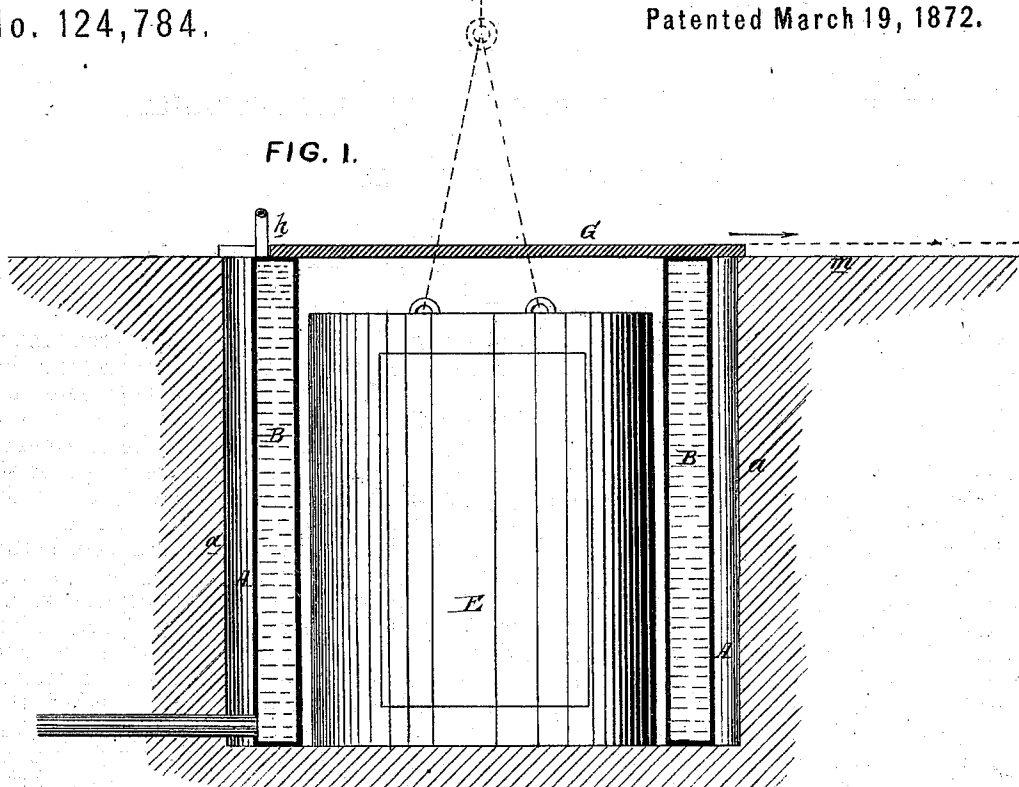
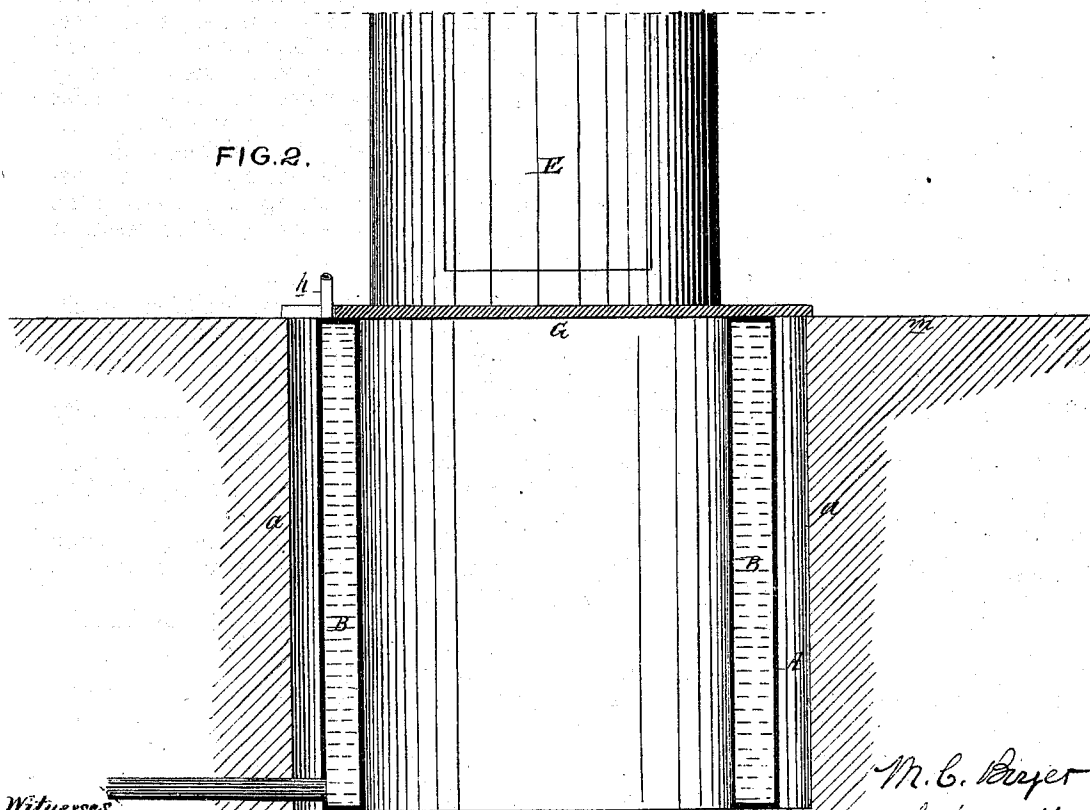


FIG. 2.



Witnesses:  
Jno. B. Harding  
Thos. McVain

M. C. Boyer  
by his atty.  
Horsman and Son

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MICHAEL C. BOYER, OF NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SAFES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 124,784, dated March 19, 1872.

Specification describing an Improvement in Safes, invented by MICHAEL C. BOYER, of Norristown, county of Montgomery and State of Pennsylvania.

### *Improvement in Safes.*

My invention consists in combining a safe capable of being raised and lowered, with a water-reservoir, in a manner too fully explained hereafter to need preliminary description, with a view of rendering the said safe proof against the ravages of fire and the attacks of burglars.

Figures 1 and 2 in the accompanying drawing are vertical sections illustrating my invention—Fig. 1 showing the safe as it appears when lowered, and Fig. 2 the safe elevated.

In the floor of the room where the safe is required I dig a pit, A, and line it with appropriate masonry or brick-work, a, and on the bottom of this pit rests an annular reservoir, the upper edge of which may terminate at or near the surface of the floor m. A constant supply of water is maintained in this reservoir through a pipe, D, and at the top of the reservoir is a vent-pipe, N. The reservoir B may be of a rectangular shape, but I prefer to make it of an annular form, the safe E being in the present instance cylindrical. The top of the safe is provided with suitable appliances for receiving the ends of chains or other equivalent tackle connected to suitable hoisting apparatus, by means of which the safe can be elevated or lowered at pleasure. A heavy plate, G, of metal is arranged to slide in guides across the top of the reservoir, thereby inclosing the safe when the latter is lowered, as in Fig. 1, and supporting the safe when the latter is elevated, as shown in Fig. 2. It will be evident that when the safe is lowered and covered by the plate G it is effectually protected from injury by fire, owing to the surrounding reservoir of water. Even should the reservoir be heated by any burning mass which may fall upon it, the surrounding water would escape slowly in the form of steam through the vent-pipe, and this steam would have a tendency to extinguish

the surrounding fire. There are three prominent sources of protection of the safe from the operations of burglars: First, they would find great difficulty in obtaining command of the hoisting mechanism, which may be situated in an upper room, and rendered useless for hoisting purposes during the night by the withdrawal of some indispensable part of the machinery; second, the plate G, independently of its weight and solidity, may be suitably locked; and, third, even if the burglars gained access to the lowered safe, the space within which they had to operate would be too contracted to enable them to gain an entrance within any reasonable time. If desired, the reservoir B may be surrounded by a supply of water contained within the water-tight wall of the pit. It will be seen that by the use of the reservoir B, detachable from the vault, and adapted to receive the safe, the expense, time, and labor necessary to form a water-tight well or reservoir of masonry is avoided, while by the use of such reservoirs the ordinary safes may easily and economically, and without alteration, be rendered perfectly fire-proof.

I do not desire to restrict myself to any specific mechanism for raising and lowering the safe, or to any positive shape of the vessel or pit; but

I claim as my invention—

1. The reservoir B, consisting of a detachable double casing arranged within a pit adapted to receive a safe, and supplied with water, as specified.

2. The combination of the said safe and its raising and lowering mechanism, with the water-reservoir B and sliding plate G, for inclosing the reservoir and supporting the safe when elevated from the reservoir, as set forth.

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

MICHAEL C. BOYER.

Witnesses:

WM. A. STEEL,  
JOHN K. RUPERTUS.