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H. SAMPSON.

ADJUSTABLE NAME HOLDER.

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Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Witnesses

H. Sampson

A. Harmon

H. Sampson, Inventor.

By

R. A. Racey, Attorney.
To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRISON SAMPSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Coleman, in the county of Midland and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Adjustable Name-Holders, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide an improved holder for letters designed particularly to designate the names of parties residing along a rural free-delivery route, so that each mail-box of the respective parties may conveniently show the number of the route and the name of the householder owning the mail-box to which my device is applied.

The invention consists, essentially, of a preferably metallic plate designed to be secured by nails, screws, or the like to a rural free-delivery mail-box, said plate being provided with opposite inturned flanges forming a guideway into which letters and other characters may be independently slid, so as to be presented in a conspicuous place, and a wedging or spacing strip, preferably of spring-steel or similar resilient material, designed to be inserted between the face of said plate and the back face of the letters after the letters have been inserted, so as to retain them securely in place against accidental displacement, while at the same time permitting the letters to be withdrawn and others substituted whenever desired.

For a full description of the invention and the merits thereof and also to acquire a knowledge of the details of construction of the means for effecting the result reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device. Fig. 2 is a similar view with part broken away. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view. Fig. 4 is a detail fragmentary view illustrating one end of the spacing bar or wedge. Fig. 5 is a longitudinal central section of the device on a reduced scale.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 1 designates a preferably metallic plate provided near each end with a nail or screw hole 2, by which it may be conveniently fastened to a rural free-delivery mail-box or the like, said plate being also provided at top and bottom with inturned flanges 3, as shown. The plate 1 is provided between its ends with a longitudinally-extending depressed portion 4, which is bounded at each end with a transversely-extending ridge 5, preferably struck up from the metal when the plate 1 is formed.

The plate 1 constitutes a holder in which independent wood or metal letters 6 may be inserted from either end, said letters containing the number of the route and the name of the party owning the mail-box. After some of the letters have been inserted into either end of the plate or holder 1 a spacing-strip or wedge 7 is inserted behind the letters and into the depressed portion 4, whereby to exert pressure upon the back faces of the letters to press them firmly against their retaining-flanges 3, and the remaining letters are then slid into place. The spacing-strip thus constitutes a pressure-bar, and to effect this function satisfactorily it is preferably slightly curved in cross-section, as shown, with its two projecting edges lying against the back faces of the letters. The ridges 5 provide stops to limit the movement of the spacing or pressure-bar 7 in either direction after it has been properly inserted, and by this means all of the letters are properly retained in place and are secured against accidental displacement. Preferably the spacing strip or bar is beveled at its ends, as shown at 7, so that it may be conveniently inserted back of the letters and fit snugly against one of the ridges against which it abuts. It is to be understood that the letters or characters may be raised, if desired, and either painted or not painted, according to taste.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

A device of the character described comprising a plate having inturned longitudinal edges constituting retaining-flanges and provided with a longitudinally-extending depressed portion and with transverse ridges at each end of said depressed portion, said plate constituting a holder for the insertion of let-
ters or the like, and a spring spacing-bar designed for insertion in said depressed portion back of the letters whereby to brace them against the retaining-flanges, the ends of said strip abutting against said ridges whereby to secure the stop against accidental longitudinal displacement.

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

HARRISON SAMPSON. [L. s.]

Witnesses:
EUGENE BENNETT,
W. W. SIMONS.