

C. A. COOK.
Portable Files.

No. 133,923.

Patented Dec. 17, 1872.

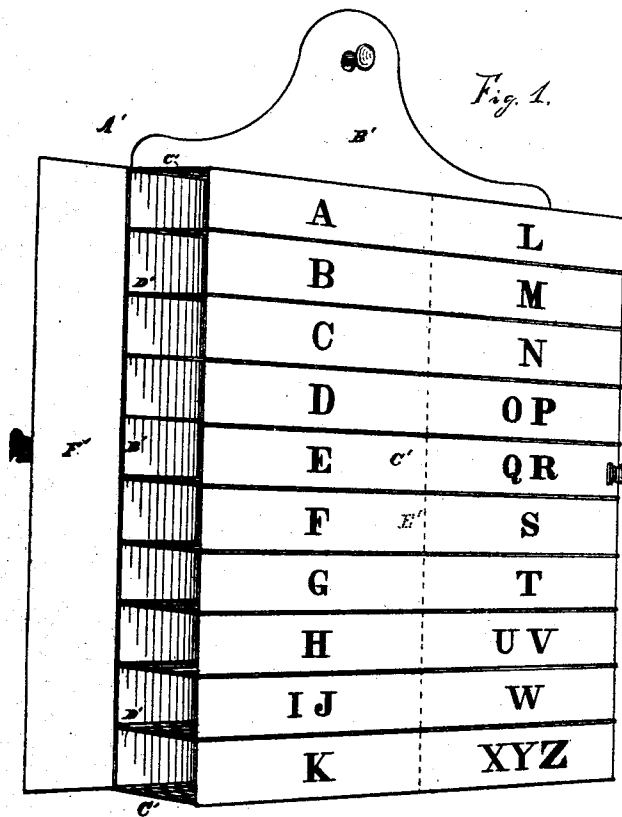
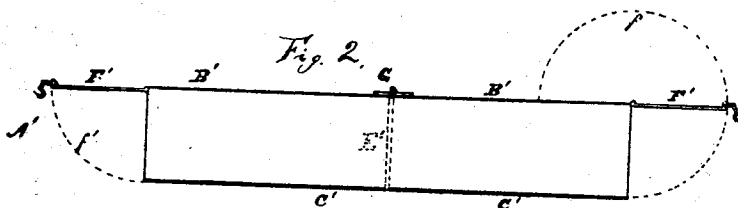


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

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IMPROVEMENT IN PORTABLE FILES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 133,923, dated December 17, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CARLOS A. COOK, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portable Files, for letters, papers, &c., of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, which will enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming a part hereof, in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of my improved portable file; Fig. 2, a top view of the same; and Fig. 3 a vertical transverse sectional view through one of the side pieces of the same, and showing the manner in which the partition-slides are held in their proper places.

My invention relates to that class of devices which are made in the form of a box, divided into compartments open at one end, and commonly known as "pigeon-holes." Such devices are commonly used for the purpose of filing letters, papers, and other documents therein; but an objectionable feature in their use, as now made, is that, in hanging or otherwise placing them against the walls of an office or other room with the open ends of the compartments parallel to the wall, as is frequently desirable in order to economize space, they project further into the room than is necessary, for the reason that the compartments project longitudinally from the wall. Another objectionable feature of devices of this kind so made is that, in order to render them light and readily portable, the partitions forming the compartments are made as thin as possible without impairing their strength sufficiently to destroy their utility, and an insufficient space is thus left whereon to plainly designate the contents of each compartment; and this objectionable feature would be still more objectionable if these devices were made of thin metal, such as sheet tin or zinc.

The object of my invention is to remedy these defects and simplify the construction of devices of this kind, so that they may be rendered compact, readily portable, and cheap; and to that end, my invention consists in the arrangement of the various parts of the device herein shown and described.

In the drawing, A' represents my improved portable file. B' is the back piece or rear side thereof. This back piece may be extended above the compartments, and perforated, so that the file may be suspended in the manner shown, if desired. C' is the front of the file. In making the file of light metal, such as tin or zinc, which material I deem preferable for its construction, the front piece may be bent back at each end and attached to the rear piece, so as to form a case for the reception of the horizontal slides or partitions. The side pieces B' and C' may also be grooved or channeled, as shown at *a a*, Fig. 3, for the purpose of supporting the horizontal slides or partitions. D' are horizontal slides or partitions, dividing the case into compartments. A vertical slide, E', may also be inserted in the case for the purpose of dividing the same into two series of compartments, and preventing the forward side of the case and its attachments from sagging when papers and documents are filed therein. Each compartment may be plainly designated by the letters of the alphabet, marked on the face of the file, as shown, or in any suitable manner. F' F' are doors hinged to the rear piece B', so as to be capable of swinging back in the manner indicated by the dotted line at *f* in Fig. 2, and so as to swing forward and close the open ends of the compartments, as indicated at *f'*, Fig. 2; but these doors may be dispensed with if not deemed desirable.

It will be perceived from the foregoing description that my improved file is compact, readily portable, and capable of being conveniently made of light sheet metal, such as tin or zinc, although it may be made of any other suitable material.

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

A portable file for letters, papers, and other documents, consisting of a series of compartments or pigeon-holes, arranged substantially as shown and described.

CARLOS A. COOK.

Witnesses:

N. O. GRIDLEY,
F. F. WARNER.