E. H. Ashcroft,

Fire-Proof Safe.

No. 66,062. Patented June 25, 1867.

Fig. 3.

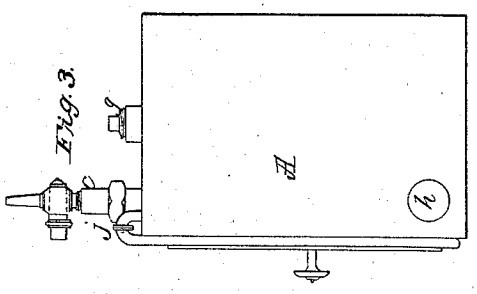


Fig. 4.

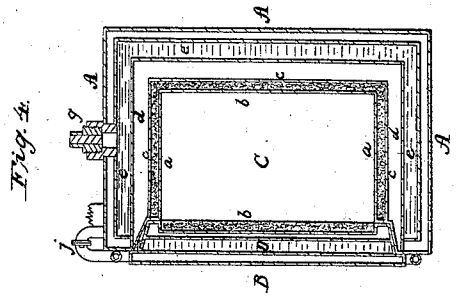


Fig. 2.

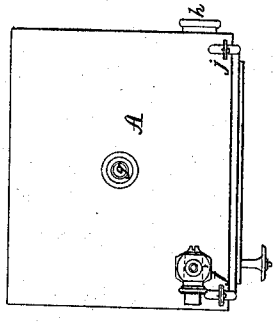


Fig. 5.

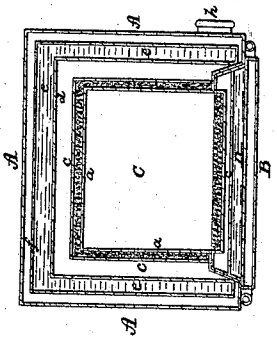


Fig. 1.

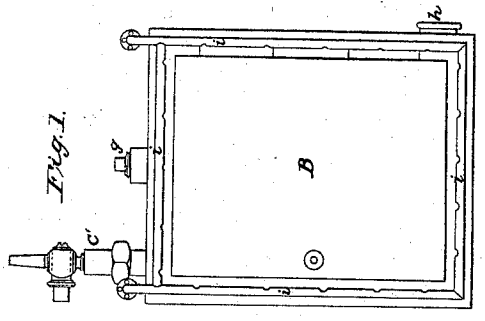
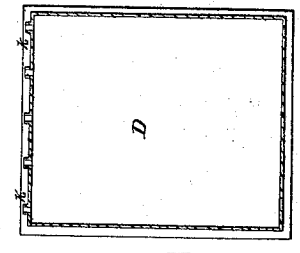


Fig. 6.



Witnesses:

Theodore Lang

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Inventor:

E. H. Ashcroft

By his attorney

S. S. Fahnestock

AM. PHOTO-LITHO. CO. N.Y. (OSBORNE'S PROCESS)

United States Patent Office.

E. H. ASHCROFT, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent, No. 66,062, *dated June* 25, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN FIRE-PROOF SAFES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, E. H. ASHCROFT, of the city of Lynn, in the county of Essex, in the State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Safes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention consists in constructing a fire-proof safe to be hereafter described.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

Figure 1 is a front elevation of my safe.

Figure 2 a top, and

Figure 3 a side view.

Figure 4 a vertical, and

Figure 5 a horizontal section; and

Figure 6 a section of water-chamber of door.

Although great improvements have been made in safes, they are still found to be more or less not sufficiently fire-proof, to remedy which I have made certain improvements.

The exterior of my safe is constructed of metal plates A, having a door, B, opening into a chamber, C, which chamber may be lined with wood *a*, which can be made removable. Around this wooden lining or attached to it, I put a covering of hair felting, *b*, which is a good non-conductor of heat, which will also contribute to absorb dampness. Next to this is a metal lining, *c*, and surrounding this is a lining or filling of cement, *d*. Surrounding this, again, on the several sides, top, and bottom, is a water-chamber, *e*, and between this and the exterior the space is filled with cement *f*. In the door B the fillings and linings come in the same order. Water is supplied to its chamber *e* through any suitable opening in the top, closed by a screw-plug, *g*, and at the bottom of the safe there is a screw-plug, *h*, connecting with the water-chamber *e*, by which the water may be drawn off. *i* represents perforated pipes around the door B and near its joint. These connect with the water-chamber *e* inside of the safe, and when steam is generated in said chamber by the heat, these pipes perform two offices, namely, relieve the water-space pressure and deaden the fire around the door joints. These pipes have fine wire gauze in them at their joint or bend *j* to prevent the too rapid discharge of water from the water-chamber *e*, and, should the safe fall, will allow enough to pass through, under pressure, to protect the door from becoming overheated to destruction. C is a cock connecting with the water-chamber *e*, having a fusible plug inside of it. When a safe is permanently located on a good foundation, water pipes may connect with it, and when the plug melts it will permit the flow of water into the water-space. The nut or fitting on the top of the safe by which water is ordinarily supplied to the chamber *e* is a hollow safety-plug, screwing down upon a fusible disk, and which will fuse inside of bursting pressure, and thus relieve the safe from bursting. The water-chamber D in the door may have any number of suitable openings, *k*, in its top, for the escape of steam through the joints of the door B, and these may be covered with gauze for the same purpose as that mentioned in the pipes *i*. The water-chambers should be made of galvanized metal to prevent rusting or oxidation.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is as follows:

1. In a fire-proof safe, the combination of a water-space or chamber, *d*, with the pipes *i* leading therefrom and surrounding the door, constructed and operating in the manner shown and as set forth.

2. In a fire-proof safe, a lining of felting, *b*, or the equivalent thereof, for the purpose specified.

3. In a fire-proof safe, the combination of a water-chamber with a safety-plug, *g*, or its equivalant, for the purpose set forth.

E. H. ASHCROFT.

Witnesses:

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