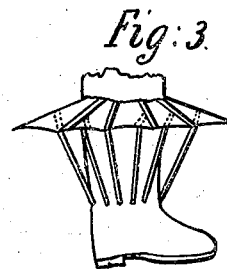
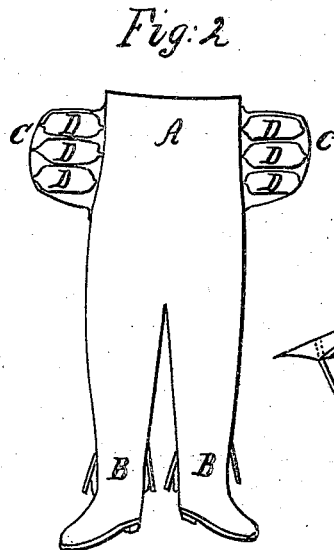
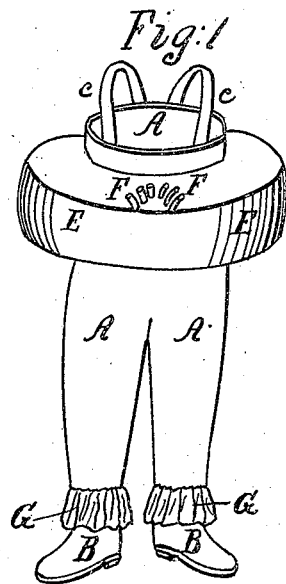


*R. Porter*  
*Life Preserver.*

*Nº 1,619.*

*Patented May 25, 1840.*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUFUS PORTER, OF BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN LIFE-PRESERVERS OR BUOYANT DRESSES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 1,619, dated May 25, 1840.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, RUFUS PORTER, of Billerica, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Buoyant Dress; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof.

A garment A A A, similar to pantaloons, with boots B B attached, and long enough to extend from the feet to the arms of the wearer, is made of water-proof cloth, and has shoulder-straps C C attached to the top. The body of this garment near the top is encircled by six air-chambers, each of which is made of water-proof cloth, in a curved form, extending from the back to the front of the garment, being three on each side and arranged one above another, as represented at D D D, Figure 2. These air-chambers are inclosed by a circular casing E E, made of the same material, one edge of which is firmly attached to the top of the garment, and the other edge is also attached to the garment by a water-tight seam ten inches below the first, thus enveloping and securing the chambers. From the front end of each chamber a small elastic or metallic tube projects upward, passing through the envelope, and terminates in a small metallic pipe F. Each pipe is furnished with a valve

or a stopper by which the escape of air from the chambers is prevented.

To each leg of the garment, about six inches above the foot, is attached a circular fin G G, which consists of a circular piece of cloth supported by a frame similar to that of an umbrella, which admits of its expansion upward or contraction downward, the rods of the frame being restricted in their motion upward by lines or cords extending from the rods to the foot, as shown in Fig. 3. These fins are intended to enable the person wearing the apparatus to propel himself forward.

Fig. 2 is a front sectional outline of the garment A with the fins B, the envelope C, and chambers D.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. Making the buoyant circle in several separate air-tight chambers, each provided with a tube for inflating, as described.

2. The circular fins or paddles, in combination with the water-proof garment, as described.

RUFUS PORTER.

Witnesses:

LUTHER A. TABER,

S. FREDERICK PORTER.