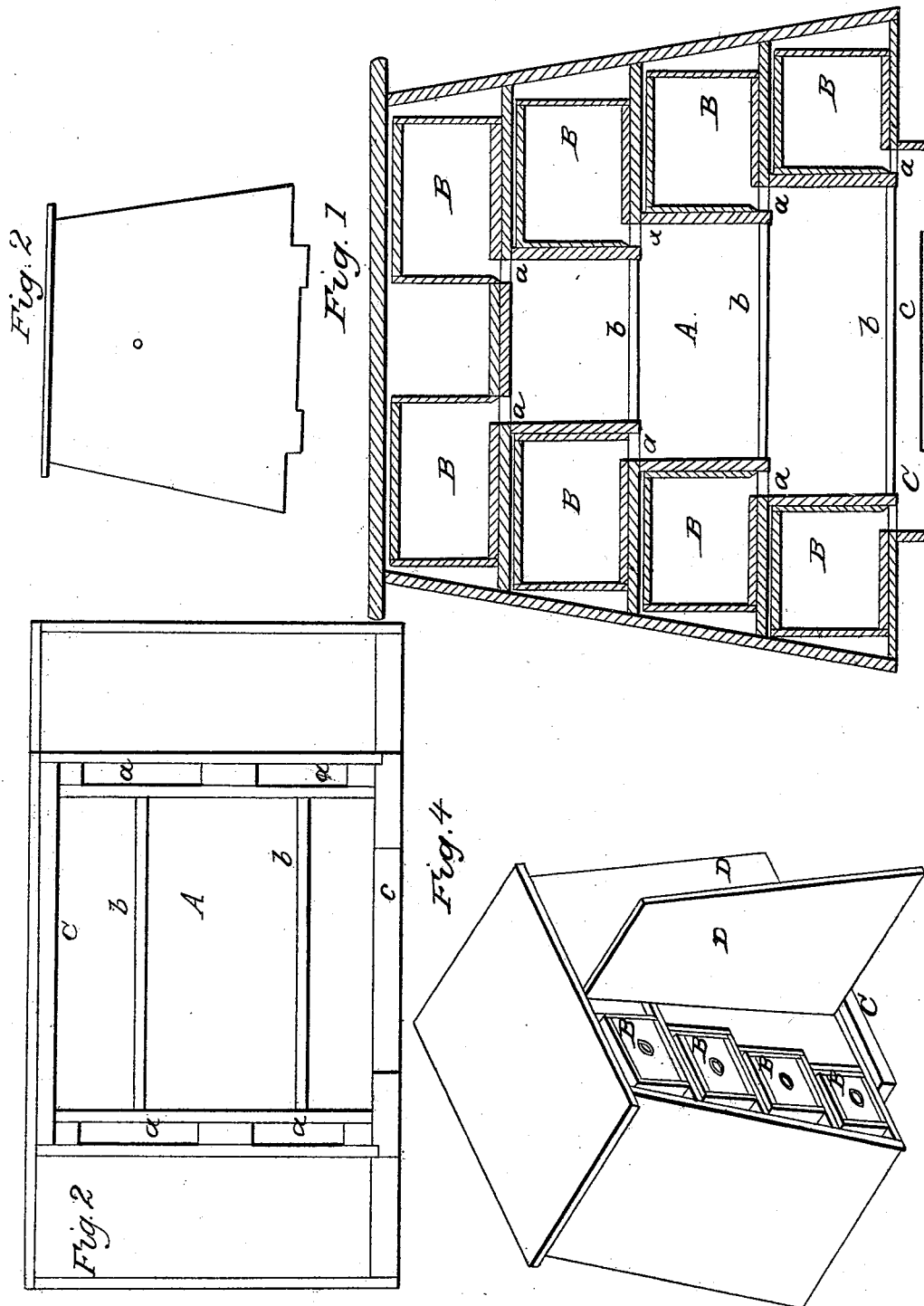


A. COLTON.

Bee Hive.

No. 4,343.

Patented Dec. 31, 1845.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AARON COLTON, OF PITTSFIELD, VERMONT.

BEEHIVE.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 4,343, dated December 31, 1845.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AARON COLTON, of
Pittsfield, in the county of Rutland and
State of Vermont, have invented a new and
5 Improved Beehive, which I denominate
"Colton's Improved Beehive;" and I do
hereby declare the following to be a full
and exact description thereof, reference be-
ing had to the accompanying drawings,
10 making a part of this specification.

Figure 1, is a vertical section; Fig. 2, is
a view of the bottom of the hive in a re-
versed position; Fig. 3, is an elevation of
the rear side of the hive; and Fig. 4 is a
15 perspective elevation of the hive with one
of its doors open.

The nature of my invention consists in
arranging movable drawers, in chambers on
each side of the main interior portion of
20 the hive, and connecting them with the same
in such a manner that from the nature and
habits of the bees, they are certain to go
into and fill them with honey; when they
can be removed and empty drawers take
25 their places to be again filled by the bees.
The following is the form of my hive—the
front and rear sides are vertical; the right
and left sides of the exterior portion of the
same slant inward considerably from the
30 bottom to the top of the hive; the chambers
for the reception of the drawers are ar-
ranged on the right and left sides of the
hive, inside of these is the main interior por-
tion of the hive where the bees commence
35 their labor and where they lay up their
stores of honey.

In the accompanying drawings, A, is the
main interior portion of the hive.

B, B, &c., are the drawers arranged in
40 their respective chambers. Each chamber
projects inward beyond the one next below
it about two inches, and the sides of the in-
terior of the hive are carried up vertically
until they reach the next projecting cham-
45 ber, and so on to the top of the hive.

a, a, are the openings from the interior of
the hive into the drawers, these in all cases
should be just an inch and a half broad.

b, b, are rods extending across the hive to
50 support the honey, these rods are secured to
the sides of the hive just above the center
of each opening into the drawers. There
are two openings from the interior of the
hive into the chambers and drawers. I

sometimes have one drawer extend the 55
whole depth of the chamber, and sometimes
two, one in the rear of the other, one over
each opening.

C, is the base upon which the hive stands.

c, is the aperture in the base for the bees 60
to enter into the interior of the hive.

d, d, are small glass windows, placed in
the front ends of the drawers.

D, D, are the doors which close up the
chambers in which the drawers B, B, are 65
placed.

It is well known to those familiar with
the habits of bees, that they commence im-
mediately after they are placed in a hive,
at the top of the hive first, and always lay 70
their comb in the direction of the greatest
length of the same, provided the supporting
rods or sticks cross the hive in an opposite
direction. Honey comb is always composed
of sheets or layers one and half inches in 75
width.

In my improved hive the bees commence
their comb at the top of the hive laying it
in the direction of the length of the draw-
ers, and bring it down to the offset at the 80
first set of drawers, here they find an en-
largement of the hive, sufficient to extend
their comb another sheet in width, and as
they never fail to fill every part of the hive
as they work downward, they extend their 85
comb into the recesses under the openings
to each drawer, and finding a sufficient
width in the openings into the drawers to ad-
mit of a layer of comb, they carry the same
up into the drawers and continue working 90
in the same until they are filled. The size
of the openings into the drawers is so large
that the bees have no difficulty in passing
and repassing from the interior of the hive
into the drawers, which prevents all diffi- 95
culty in getting the bees to work, imme-
diately after giving them new drawers.
When the bees work through a round hole,
from the main hive into the center of the
drawers, they never will commence working 100
in the drawers or boxes, connected with the
interior of the hive, until the bees get too
numerous to work in the main hive. The
top set of drawers, in my improved bee hive,
are not always filled with honey, but the re- 105
mainder of the drawers are invariably
filled. Whenever I wish to remove a drawer
that has been filled with honey, to replace

it by an empty one, I take a piece of tin and insert it under the drawers, which cuts through the comb; I then remove the drawer from the hive, and replace it by an empty drawer, and then remove the tin slide; the bees immediately perceive that their comb has been broken and commence repairing the same; in doing so they carry it up into the empty drawer, and fill it with honey.

Having thus fully described the construction and operation of my improved bee hive,

what I claim as new therein and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The manner in which the honey or lateral boxes are arranged, in combination with a pyramidal central hive, constructed and operating substantially in the manner and for the purpose herein set forth.

AARON COLTON.

Witnesses:

Z. C. ROBBINS,
O. H. THROOP.