

H. Johnson,

Mail Bag,

N^o 4,475.

Patented Apr. 25, 1846.

Fig. 2.

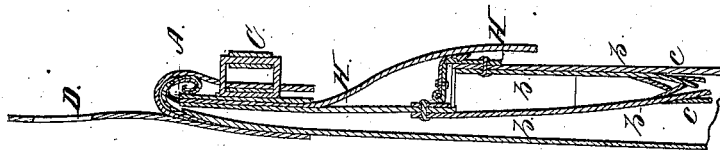
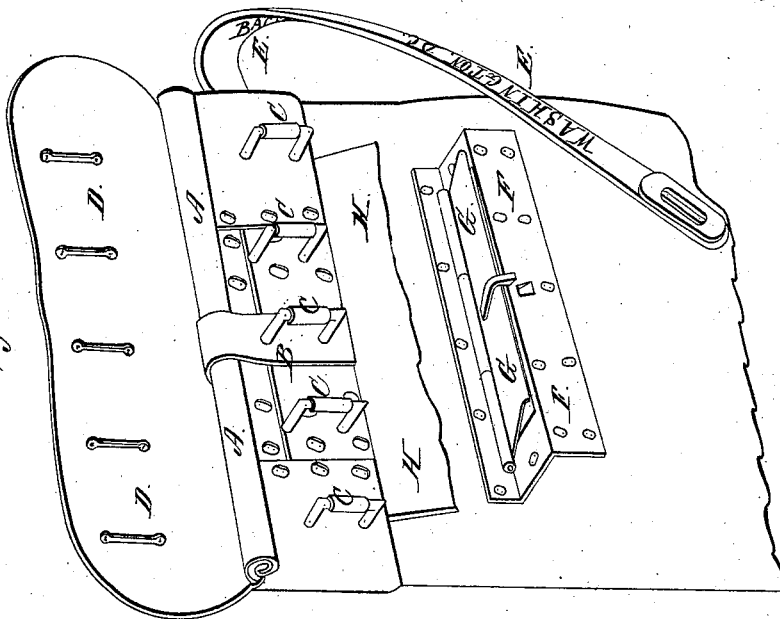


Fig. 1.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY JOHNSON, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

WAY MAIL-BAG.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 4,475, dated April 25, 1846; Antedated December 9, 1845.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY JOHNSON, of the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, have made certain new and useful

5 Improvements in the Manner of Constructing Bags for the Conveyance of Letters and Parcels, usually denominated "Mail-Bags;" and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof.
10 The improved main bags are of the kind known as way mail bags which are to pass to and fro on the same route; they are to be made of india rubber cloth or of other water proof material, and the improvements
15 therein consist in the so arranging and combining of the respective parts as that they may be submerged in water for a considerable length of time without the danger of wetting their contents; that there shall be
20 but little danger of their being mis-sent, as not unfrequently happens, from the manner in which they are labeled not being of that striking character which is necessary in establishments, such as post offices where
25 every thing should be promptly done; they are also to be provided with an aperture through which letters or papers may be put into the bag without its being necessary to open the lock, while the abstracting of them
30 through the same opening shall be rendered very difficult. By means of this last provision the services of many persons now employed as agents may be dispensed with, and economy thereby promoted in the Post-
35 Office Department.

In the accompanying drawings Figure 1 is a direct view of the upper part of one of my improved way mail bags with the necessary openings, and the means of securing
40 the same. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the same made vertically from front to back through the middle of Fig. 1.

The mouth or principal opening into this bag consists of flexible india rubber cloth,
45 which, when the bag is to be closed, is rolled up in the manner of a scroll as seen at A A; this will close it so completely as effectually to prevent the passage of water although immersed therein for many hours
50 or days. B is a strap which is passed over the roll of cloth on to one of the staples C C, after which the flap D D is folded down and passed on to the said staples.

E E is a strap by which the flap D D is

to be held down by passing it through the 55 staples in the manner in which the chains in general use are ordinarily passed; this strap is also labeled on each of its sides for the purpose of designating the two places
60 between which it is to travel; if, for example it is to go to and fro between Washington and Baltimore it is to have the name of Washington on one of its sides and the name
65 of Baltimore on the other. These names being conspicuously stamped thereon, it can scarcely be overlooked and mis-sent. It will also be known at intermediate stopping
70 places which route the bag is to go while in the ordinary modes of labeling this information is not communicated and they
75 sometimes go back to the place from which they started. The leather strap as used by me will be found not only more pleasant to use than the chains but more certain in
80 showing the clandestine opening of a bag as in this case the strap must actually be separated while the link of a chain may be opened and bent back in such a way as to
85 escape detection.

F F is a metallic box or secondary mouth 80 piece for admitting the passing of letters and papers into the bag without the necessity of unlocking and opening the principal mouth. This is to be made of stout sheet
85 metal which is to be riveted to the material of which the bag is made it has a lid or cover G G that is closed by a clasp or clasps a: The hinge part and the interior
90 of this lid may be covered with elastic india-rubber cloth so as to render its juncture impervious to water; the lid or cover is to be no wider than is necessary for the
95 insertion of papers: From this secondary mouth there proceeds a bag-like throat b b which is open at bottom where it terminates in fringe-like shreds c c that lend their aid
100 in rendering the abstraction of papers difficult even with the aid of any instrument devised for the purpose. A second flap H H is made to cover the box F F: In Fig. 1
105 the lower portion of this is not represented as it would hide said box.

Having thus fully described the nature of my improvements in mail bags what I claim as new therein and desire to secure
110 by Letters Patent, is—

1. The manner in which I have formed and arranged the rolled mouth piece as de-

scribed, I also claim the combining of the secondary mouth piece with the mail bag, arranged substantially as set forth.

2. I likewise claim the use of a flexible
5 strap, or belt, as a substitute for the chain; said strap or belt being made reversible, and labeled on its opposite sides, by the use of which strap additional security is

attained; the destination of the bag is indicated, and lightness and economy of construction are promoted. 10

HENRY JOHNSON.

Witnesses:

THOS. P. JONES,
ALLEN WARD.