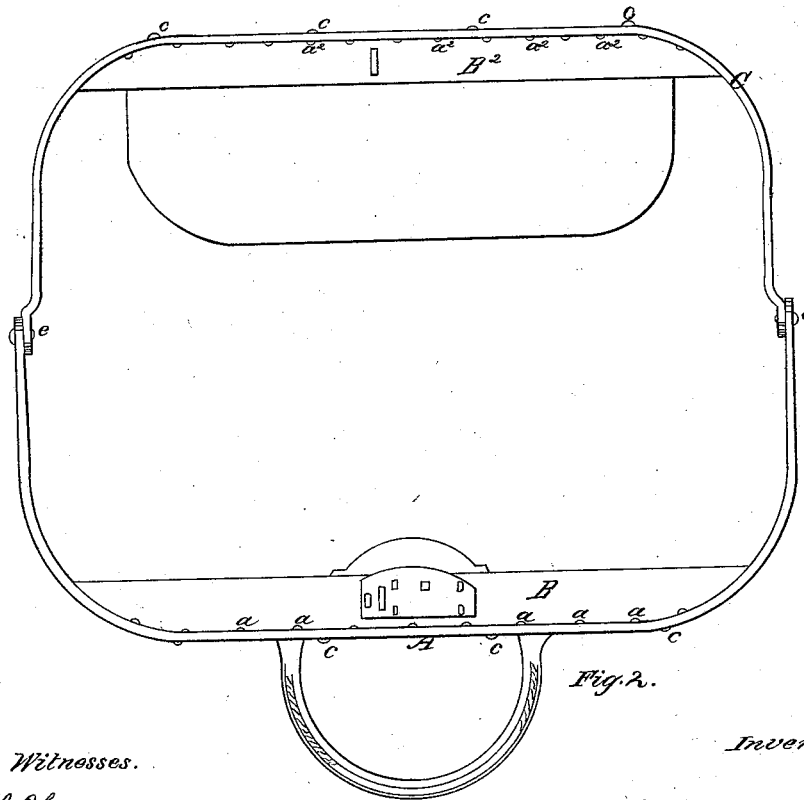
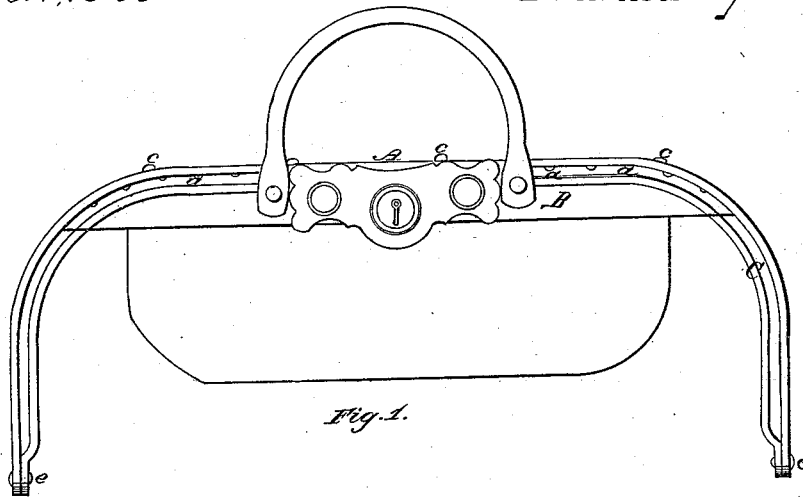


W. T. Mersereau,

Traveling Bag,

N^o 54,190.

Patented Apr. 24, 1866.



Witnesses.

C. O. Gordon
Geo. W. H. H. H.

Inventor.

W. T. Mersereau by his atty
Atkin & Bland

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM T. MERSEREAU, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

IMPROVED BAG-FRAME.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 54,190, dated April 24, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM T. MERSEREAU, of Newark, Essex county, New Jersey, have invented, made, and applied to use certain new and useful Improvements in the Construction of Carpet-Bag Frames; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and correct description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of my improved carpet-bag frame when closed; Fig. 2, a view of the same when opened.

In the drawings like parts of the invention are indicated by the same letters of reference.

The nature of my invention consists in certain new and useful improvements in the construction of carpet-bag frames, as hereinafter described.

The object of my invention is to greatly reduce the cost of manufacturing the frames of carpet-bags, and at the same time to produce a very much more substantial article than has heretofore been used.

To enable others skilled in the arts to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the same.

A shows the cover of my improved frame, formed of wrought-iron or any suitable metal, and bent into the proper or required shape.

B is a wooden support placed directly beneath the front edge of the same, to which it is secured by means of the nails *c*, which nails also pass through and hold the leather or other material forming the bag, one end of the same being inserted between the cover A and the support B before the nails are driven into the same.

On some occasions it may be preferable that the leather or other material forming the bag should be sewed to the frame rather than held by means of the nails *c*, in which case the wooden support B is provided with the openings *d*, through which the needle, in sewing the material to the frame, is passed.

C shows the jaw of my improved frame, which jaw may be made of wrought-iron or any suitable metal, and is riveted to the lower extremities of the cover A by means of the rivets *e* passing through the same. This jaw C, a short distance above the point of its being riveted to the cover A, is bent outward from the inside of the cover A, and is made sufficiently smaller than the cover A to admit

of its being closed fully within the same when the bag is closed and locked.

B² shows a wooden support placed directly beneath the jaw C, to which it is secured by means of the nails *c*, which nails also pass through and hold the leather or other material forming the bag, one end of the leather or other material being inserted between the jaw C and the support B² before the nails are driven into the same. This wooden support B² is also provided with the openings *d*², to admit of the leather or other material being sewed to the jaw C, as stated in the case of the cover A.

My improved carpet-bag frame being thus constructed, it will be observed that when the same is closed the jaw C is brought entirely within the cover A, thus closing the mouth of the bag much more firmly than in the carpet-bag at present in use, and preventing the hand being thrust between the jaw and the cover into the bag, as is quite common in bags mounted upon a frame constructed in the usual way. In fact, no access can be had to the interior of a bag mounted upon a frame constructed as described without first unlocking the same.

Again, by constructing the bag-frame as described the cost of manufacturing the same is greatly reduced, as the use of stays or brackets heretofore employed is dispensed with, while the same is much more substantially constructed, and is rendered more durable and economical in every respect.

The wooden supports B and B² may have attached to them the lock and handle of the bag.

While I have shown the jaw C as bent outward from the inside of the cover A, I am aware that precisely the same result may be attained if the cover, instead of the jaw, be bent outward, the object to be attained by said bending being that the jaw shall, when closed, be closed entirely within the cover.

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

The jaw C, in combination with the cover A, when the same shall be constructed and combined, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

WM. T. MERSEREAU.

In presence of—

A. SIDNEY DOANE,
STEPHEN M. OSTRANDER.