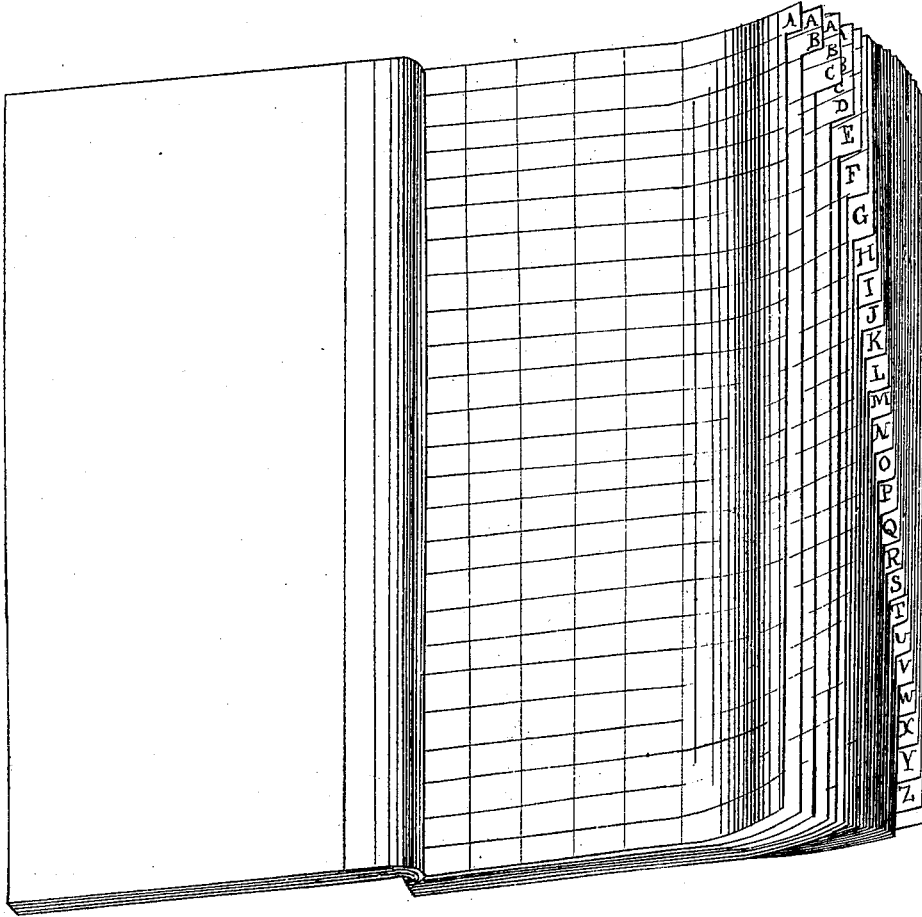


O. F. Bullard.

Indexing.

Nº 113,015. Patented Mar. 28, 1871.



Witnesses

J. Stewart
Chas. Page

O. F. Bullard

Inventor.

PER *J. R. Hayes*
Associate Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

O. FLAGG BULLARD, OF MEDIA, ASSIGNOR OF TWO-THIRDS OF HIS RIGHT TO F. C. HOOTON, OF WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA, AND J. R. HAYES, OF NEW YORK CITY.

IMPROVEMENT IN INDEXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **113,015**, dated March 28, 1871.

I, O. FLAGG BULLARD, of the borough of Media, in the county of Delaware and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in Indexes for any or all purposes for which indexes are used; but the invention is more particularly adapted to county offices of record, where searches are required among a large quantity of names, affording both accuracy in indexing a name and rapidity in finding it, so that, at most, among fifty thousand names not more than a moment's time would be consumed in searching for a particular name.

The following description is sufficiently full and complete to enable any one skilled in the manufacture of such work to comprehend and construct the same.

By this system of indexing all names are classified and arranged so that those whose initials of the first as well as last names are the same are found together.

All names commencing with the initials A B, A C, B C, &c., are also arranged in separate classifications. Thus, by using this plan there are made six hundred and seventy-six classifications, or twenty-six for each letter of the alphabet.

The accompanying sheet of drawing represents my index-book in perspective, and the arrangement of the letter preceding the sight-letter, as clearly set forth.

I make no claim to this classification, but merely describe it for the purpose of giving a clear description of the key or supplemental index to said classification, which is the subject of my invention.

This alphabetical key is arranged and constructed as follows, and is bound with the book containing the classifications above referred to either preceding or following them: I so arrange the letters of the alphabet upon the right-hand margin of twenty-six leaves that by cutting away all but the letter A upon the first leaf, all but the letters A and B on the second, all but A, B, and C on the third, &c., through the whole twenty-six letters and leaves, a person, upon opening the key at A, would have before him the twenty-six letters of the alphabet upon as many leaves. If the

key now be opened at B, we still have in view the full alphabet, but now only requiring twenty-five leaves, for while opening at B we take away the letter A on the A-leaf, there is another letter A printed or written on the B-leaf, so that if the key be opened at C we still have in view the full alphabet.

The first leaf of the key has upon it but one letter—the letter A—the second leaf A and B, and so on till finally the last leaf has the full alphabet.

The letter indicating the point at which the key is opened is used for surnames beginning with that letter, while the full alphabet in view is used for Christian names, and the figures opposite the letters designate the page of the index where all names commencing with those initials are to be found. Thus, if the key is opened at A, then A is used as the initial of the surnames, and the full alphabet now in view, A included, as the initial of Christian names. If the key be opened at S, then S is used as the initial of the surnames, and the full alphabet now in view, S included, as the initial of the Christian names, &c.

Now, to find the name Charles Agnew, open the key at the letter A, the initial of the surname, and opposite the letter C, the initial of the Christian name, the figure 1 is found. This represents the particular page in the index where all names commencing with the initials C A are found.

To find the name Allen Chegneg, open the key at C, and opposite A the figure 3 is found, and by turning to the page in the index represented by this figure, we find all names commencing with the initials A C.

The figures in the key opposite the letters are not arbitrary, but can be arranged to suit any locality or business, changing as the space set apart for particular classifications change.

Upon the leaves of the key, and extending across both pages, are ruled horizontal and perpendicular lines, thus forming spaces for the purpose of placing the figures to represent the page of the index upon which all names commencing with the initials required are found.

The spaces contiguous to the letters are first

used; but if at anytime the space in the index appropriated to a particular classification of names is filled, that classification can be carried to the first vacant page, and the figure representing such page be placed in the next space to the left in the key; but the classifications may, in nearly all cases, be so arranged in reference to space required, as not to require more than one figure for each one in the key for a period of many years.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new is—

Providing a key or supplemental index, consisting of the ordinary index-margin, each one with all the letters of the alphabet preceding the sight-letter, in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

O. FLAGG BULLARD.

Witnesses:

W. B. HUSTON,
N. F. WALTER.