

H. WICKHAM, Jr.  
Hand Branding-Stamp.

No. 200,418.

Patented Feb. 19, 1878.

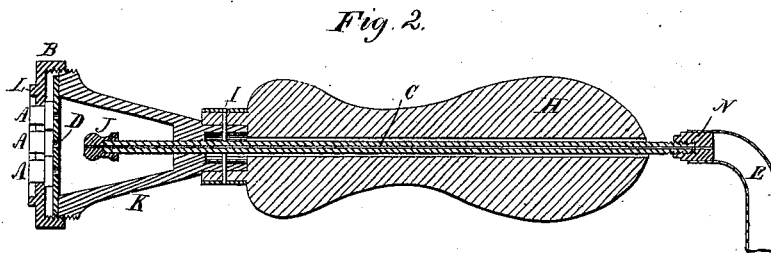
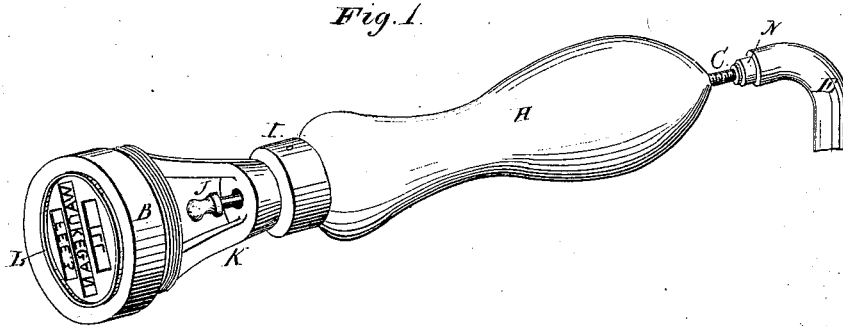
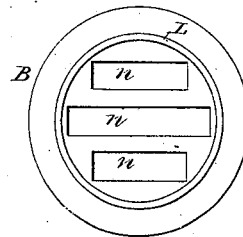


Fig. 4.



Fig. 3.



Witnesses;

*E. M. Johnson*  
*F. O. Caldwell*

Inventor

*Horace Wickham Jr*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HORACE WICKHAM, JR., OF WAUKEGAN, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS  
RIGHT TO HENRY P. CALDWELL, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN HAND BRANDING-STAMPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **200,418**, dated February 19, 1878; application filed  
April 10, 1877.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HORACE WICKHAM, Jr., of Waukegan, Lake county, State of Illinois, have invented a Hand Branding-Stamp, of which the following is a specification:

The object of my invention is to produce a hand branding-stamp or branding-iron that can practically be made use of by the different governments to effectually cancel any kind of postage or revenue stamp, so as to make their reuse impossible.

There are several other uses to which this hand-stamp can be applied, among which I may mention the use by bankers and others, to prevent the "raising of checks," by railroads to date tickets, &c., by cigar-manufacturers to brand cigar-boxes, and any of the uses to which a branding-stamp or branding-iron can and may be applied.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the stamp divided lengthwise through the center. Fig. 3 is the cap B. Fig. 4 is a type enlarged.

The following is a true and exact description of my hand branding-stamp, and a mode of making and using the same.

In the drawing, H is a handle, to be made of any good non-conductor of heat. To said handle H is connected a metal base, K, by means of a pin, I, (or by any other suitable means,) whereby a slight play is given to the skeleton base K, so that it can adjust itself to a surface if it is not brought squarely down.

B is a metal cap screwed (or otherwise attached) to the skeleton base K, and holds the hard metal types A A in an upright position upon the base-plate D. The plate D is supported by resting upon the skeleton base K.

The types A A A have a flange on both sides, to prevent them from falling out through the slots *n n n* in the cap B. The cap B has one or more slots, *n n n*, straight across its face, (or they may be curved, circular, or otherwise, as may be desired,) through which the types A A A project, so as to be flush with the raised border L, which is around and upon the face of the cap B.

A pipe, C, passes through the handle H, one end of which projects into the hollow of the

base K, on which end is placed one (or more, if desired) burner, J. The other end projects from the upper end of the handle H, to which end is attached a flexible tube, E, which conducts a supply of gas to the pipe C, which supplies the burner J.

It will readily be seen that a flexible tube is one of the essential features of my invention, for without it my hand-stamp would prove impracticable. With a flexible tube a hand branding-stamp or branding-iron can be turned, moved upward or downward. In fact, it can be used in any direction desired or required.

A reservoir to receive compressed gas may be attached to this hand branding-stamp or branding-iron, at the end of the tube C marked N in the drawing, without a flexible tube; but using a flexible tube with a reservoir somewhat removed I consider superior to this mode.

My hand branding-stamp can be made in any size or shape desired or required, according to the purpose for which it is designed.

In order to have a perfect combustion of the gas when ignited at the burner J, the base K is to be made in a skeleton form, for the purpose of allowing the greatest possible amount of air to come in contact with the gas issuing from the burner J, so that a free and unconfined combustion of the gas can take place. If the base K is not so constructed, imperfect combustion takes place, and the desired result is not obtained.

Operation: The desired name, date, &c., being in their proper position, one end of the flexible tube is then connected with a supply-fount, (of gas.) The other is then connected to the end of the tube C. The gas being then turned on, the burner J is then lighted through the skeleton base K. The flame made by the burner J heats the plate D, by which means the heat is communicated to the types A A and cap B, and raised border L, and to the parts below the handle H. It is then ready for use. To use it, press the face of the stamp against the object to be marked. Upon so doing a fac-simile of the letters and devices will be scorched or burned upon or into the object pressed against.

It is obvious that the longer the stamp is held upon the object the deeper will be the impres-

sion; also, the larger the flame the stronger the heat, and vice versa. The size of the flame is regulated by the size of the opening in the burner J.

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

1. In combination with the skeleton base K, the tube C, flexible tube E, handle H, and burner J, substantially as described, and for the purposes set forth.

2. The combination of the skeleton base K, tube C, flexible tube E, handle H, burner J, cap B, plate D, and types A A, substantially as described, and for the purposes set forth.

HORACE WICKHAM, JR.

Witnesses:

E. M. SOLOMON,  
F. O. CALDWELL.