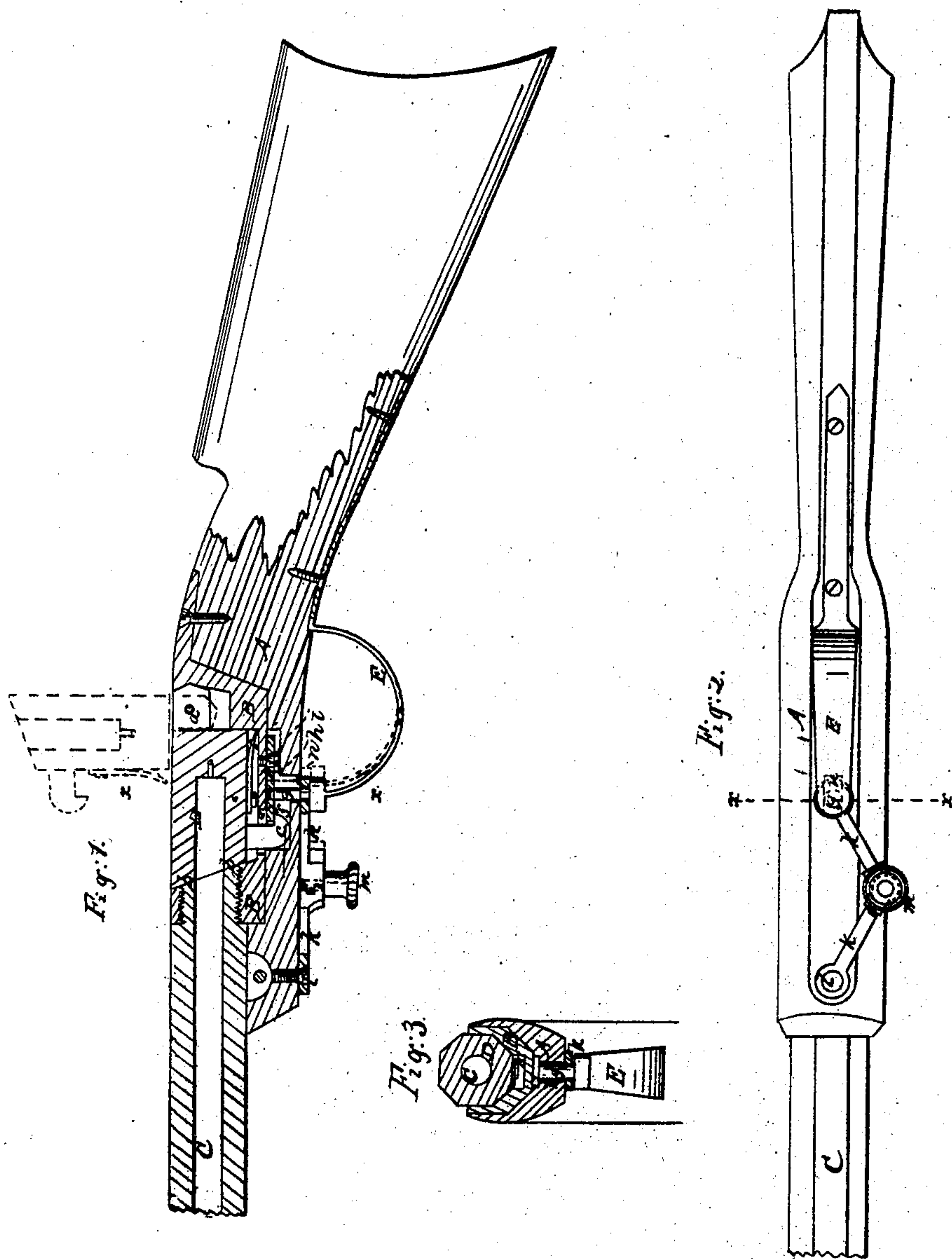


BARBER & REINFRIED.
Breech-Loading Fire-Arm.

No. 23.224.

Patented Mar. 15, 1859.



Witness,

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JOS. BARBER AND P. C. REINFRIED, OF BRIDESBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 23,224, dated March 15, 1859.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JOSEPH BARBER and PETER C. REINFRIED, of Bridesburg, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Breech-Loading Fire-Arms; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of the stock, breech, and part of the barrel of a rifle with our improvement. Fig. 2 is a bottom view of the same. Fig. 3 is a transverse section in the line *x x* of Figs. 1 and 2.

Similar letters of reference denote like parts in the several figures.

To enable others to make and use our invention, we will now proceed to describe its construction and operation.

A is the stock of the rifle.

B is a metal breech-supporter, into which the barrel *C* is screwed, and which is made with a cavity to receive the chambered breech *D*, which is attached at its rear by a hinge-joint, *a*, and which fits to the barrel with an oblique or wedge-like joint, as shown at *b b*.

c is a beveled catch on the under side of the chambered breech *D*, formed of the same piece of metal with said breech, or made in a separate piece, and firmly secured thereto. An opening, *e*, is made in the bottom of the breech-supporter *B*, for said catch *c* to pass through into a cavity, *f*, provided in the stock under the breech-supporter. *j* is the sliding bolt, consisting of a flat piece of steel or other metal attached to the bottom of the breech-supporter *B* by a slot-and-screw connection, *h i*, which permits it to slide back and forth within the cavity *f*, for the purpose of entering and being withdrawn from the catch *c*, to lock and unlock the breech. This bolt is connected by a pin, *g*, which passes through a slot, *n*, in the bottom of the stock, with the front end of a trigger-guard, *E*, which is made of tempered steel or other suitable metal to constitute a spring to force forward the bolt into the catch *c*, to lock the breech when the latter

is closed. The same pin, *g*, serves to connect the bolt with the rear extremity of the toggle *k k*, the front end of which is connected with the stock by a pin or screw, *l*, the said toggle being arranged to work laterally to the barrel close under the stock, and being furnished with a knob, *m*, at its joint, to serve as a bearing for the thumb or finger to press it laterally to force back the pin *g* against the pressure of the spring-guard *E*, for the purpose of drawing the bolt *j* from the catch *c*, to unlock the breech. The use of the trigger-guard as a spring obviously makes the locking arrangement simpler than if a separate spring were used for that purpose.

s is the spring by which the chambered breech *D* is thrown up from the breech-supporter, when it is unlocked, to present its muzzle to a convenient position for loading, said spring being secured to the bottom of the breech and resting, when the breech is closed, upon the bottom of the breech-supporter.

To open the breech for loading, it is only necessary to press laterally upon the joint of the toggle in a direction to straighten it with sufficient force to overcome the pressure of the spring *E* and force back the sliding bolt *j* out of the catch *c*, when the spring *s* instantly throws up the breech to about the position represented in red outline. To close and lock the breech, it is only necessary to press it down sufficiently hard into the breech-supporter, by which act the bevel on the back of the catch *c*, coming in contact with the front end of the sliding bolt, is caused to force back said bolt till the notch in the catch arrives opposite the bolt and permits the latter to be thrown forward into it.

What we claim as our invention, and desire by Letters Patent, is—

The arrangement and combination of the spring trigger-guard *E*, pin *g*, toggles *k k*, sliding bolt *j*, and catch *c*, substantially as and for the purpose herein shown and described.

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