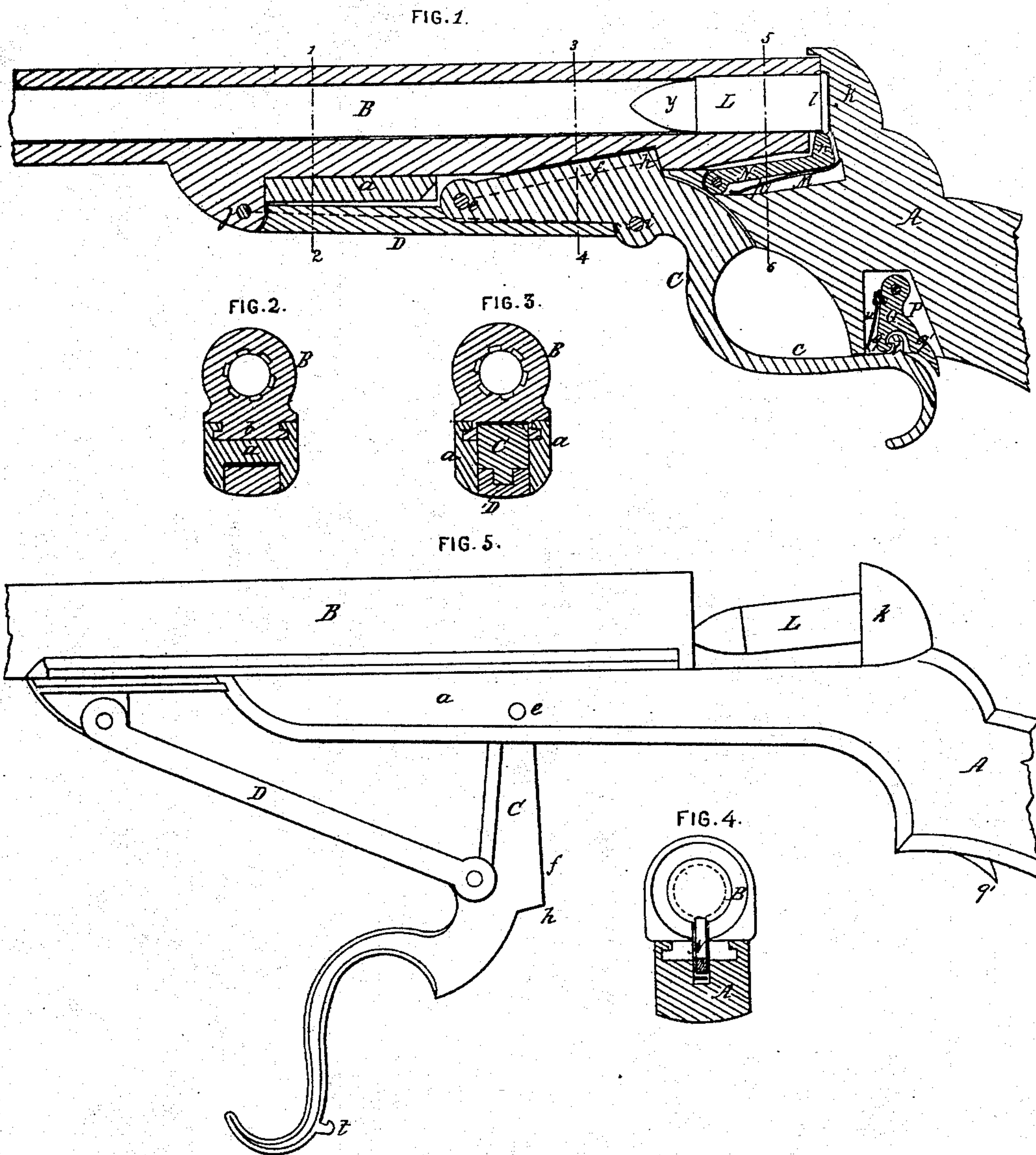


C. SHARP.  
BREECH LOADING FIRE ARM.

No. 32,790.

Patented July 9, 1861.



Witnesses.  
Charles Houston  
Charles E. Potter

Inventor.  
Henry H. H. H.  
Atty for C. Sharp



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHRISTIAN SHARPS, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 32,790, dated July 9, 1861.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHRISTIAN SHARPS, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Breech-Loading Fire-Arms; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

My invention relates to an improvement in breech-loading fire-arms in which a barrel or barrels arranged to slide to and fro on the stock are used; and my improvement consists in a device, described hereinafter, for locking and releasing the lever which operates the barrel.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation.

On reference to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of my improved fire-arm; Fig. 2, a transverse section on the line 1 2, Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a transverse section on the line 3 4, Fig. 1; Fig. 4, a transverse section on the line 5 6, with the barrel removed; Fig. 5, an exterior view of the fire-arm.

A represents the stock and B the barrel of the fire-arm, the projecting portion *a* of the former having a longitudinal recess or groove adapted to a longitudinal projection on the under side of the barrel, the said projection and recess being of such a form that the barrel can slide freely in the projecting portion *a* of the stock in a line parallel, or thereabout, with its bore, but can have no other movement independently of the stock.

To a pin, *e*, passing through the projecting portion *a* of the stock, is hinged the lever C, the bent arm *c* of which is of such a shape as to form a trigger-guard. This lever C has an angular projection, one side, *f*, of which consists of a gradual inclination adapted to an inclined recess in the under side of the barrel, the other side, *h*, of the angular projection being more abrupt and forming part of the circumference of a circle of which the fulcrum-pin *e* of the lever is the center, the end of the recess in the barrel being of a form to coincide with this end of the projection.

To a pin, *i*, which passes through a projection of the lever C, is jointed one end of the

rod D, the opposite end of which is connected to a pin, *j*, passing through a projection on the under side of the barrel. As this lever-arrangement for operating the barrel is described in my patent for breech-loading fire-arms, granted January 25, 1859, further explanation will be unnecessary.

The projecting portion *k* of the stock which forms the breech of the fire-arm has an annular recess for the reception of the end of the barrel, and within this recess is a second for receiving the collar or enlargement *l* of the metallic cartridge L, which is of the ordinary construction.

Within a recess, M, formed by cutting away a portion of the under side of the barrel and a portion of the stock in the neighborhood of the breech *k*, is hung an arm, N, at the outer end of which is a projection, *n*, with a notch at the top for catching against the inside of the enlargement *l* of the cartridge, a spring, *p*, secured within the said recess bearing against the arm, and tending to maintain its notched projection in close contact with the cartridge. As this spring-arm N forms no part of my present improvement it will suffice here to state that it serves the purpose of extracting the spent cartridge from the barrel as the latter is being moved forward.

Within a recess, P, formed in the under side of the stock, is hung a dog, Q, having two projections, *q* and *q'*, the former of which has a rounded end and a shoulder for catching hold of a shoulder formed on the rounded projection *t* on the bent end *c* of the lever C, the other projection, *q'*, of the dog Q being so situated as to be readily touched by the finger or thumb of the operator. The hold of the projection *q* on the projection *t* is maintained by a spring, *w*, which is secured to the dog and bears against one side of the recess P.

When the parts above described are in the position shown in Fig. 1 the fire-arm is ready for being discharged, which may be accomplished by any of the usual hammer and trigger arrangements—devices which are so well known that it has not been deemed necessary to illustrate them in the drawings.

After the discharge of the fire-arm the operator pushes the projection *q'* of the dog Q, and thereby releases the projection *q* from its hold on the projection *t* of the lever C, which is



now at liberty. It will be observed that this projection  $q'$  is in proximity to the trigger-guard, and that it occupies such a position in respect to the stock that when the operator applies his thumb to the guard with the nail in contact with the under side of the stock, the end of his thumb must first push the projection  $q'$  and release the guard before the body of his thumb is in actual contact with the bent end of the said guard, thus insuring the release of the latter before the operator commences to depress the guard, in doing which his thumb continues to maintain that position on the bent end of the guard which it previously held prior to its depression. It will be seen, therefore, that the under side of the stock is the guide in the first instance for the position of the operator's thumb, and that he has no movement to make for the purpose of unlocking the guard other than that absolutely necessary for seizing and operating the guard itself.

I do not desire to claim, broadly, a catch for locking and releasing the lever which operates the sliding barrel of a breech-loading fire-arm; but

I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The spring-dog Q, with its projections  $q$  and  $q'$ , in combination with the projection  $t$  of the guard-lever C, when the said projection  $q'$  is situated in respect to the under side of the stock and the bent end of the said guard-lever, as and for the purpose herein set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHRISTIAN SHARPS.

Witnesses:

HENRY HOWSON,  
JOHN WHITE.