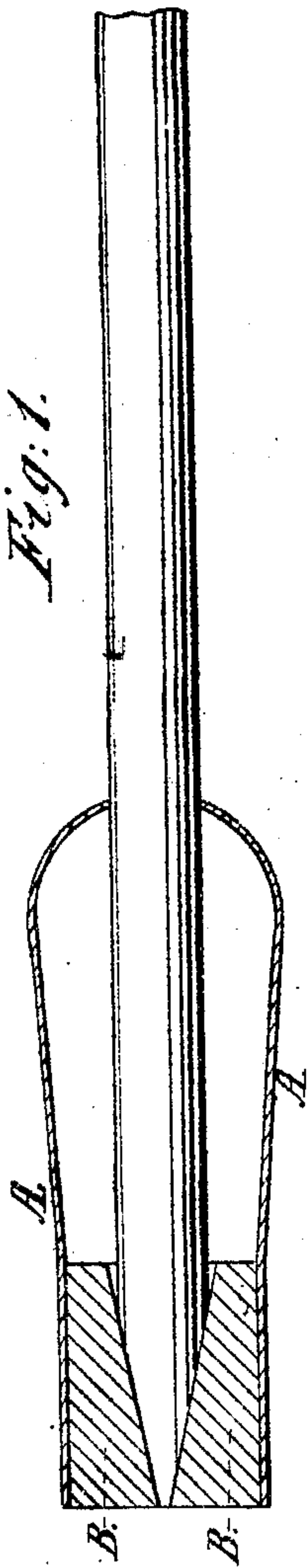


*A.C. Funstone.*  
*Slate Pencil Sharpener.*

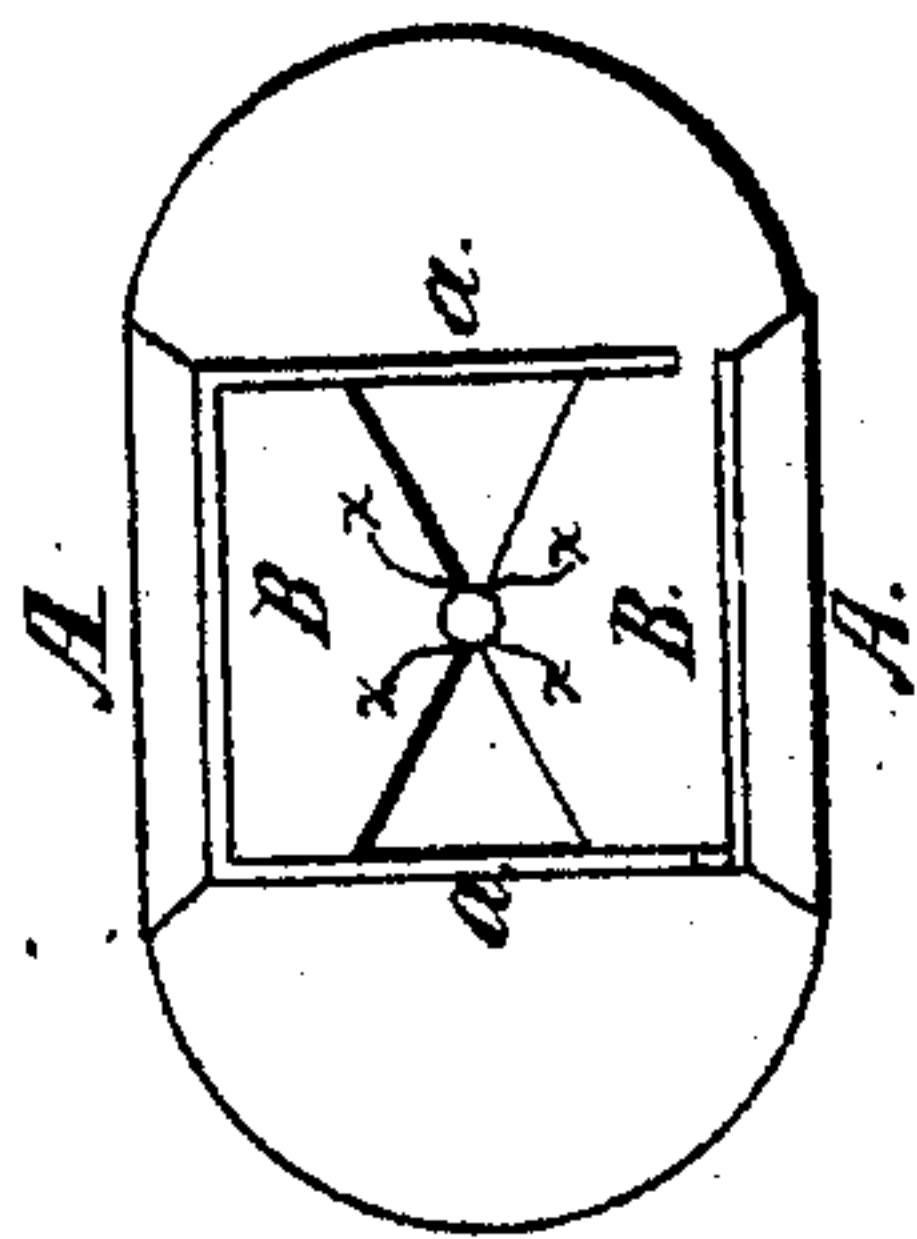
*N<sup>o</sup> 1,936.*  
*32,940.*

*Patented Jul. 30, 1861.*

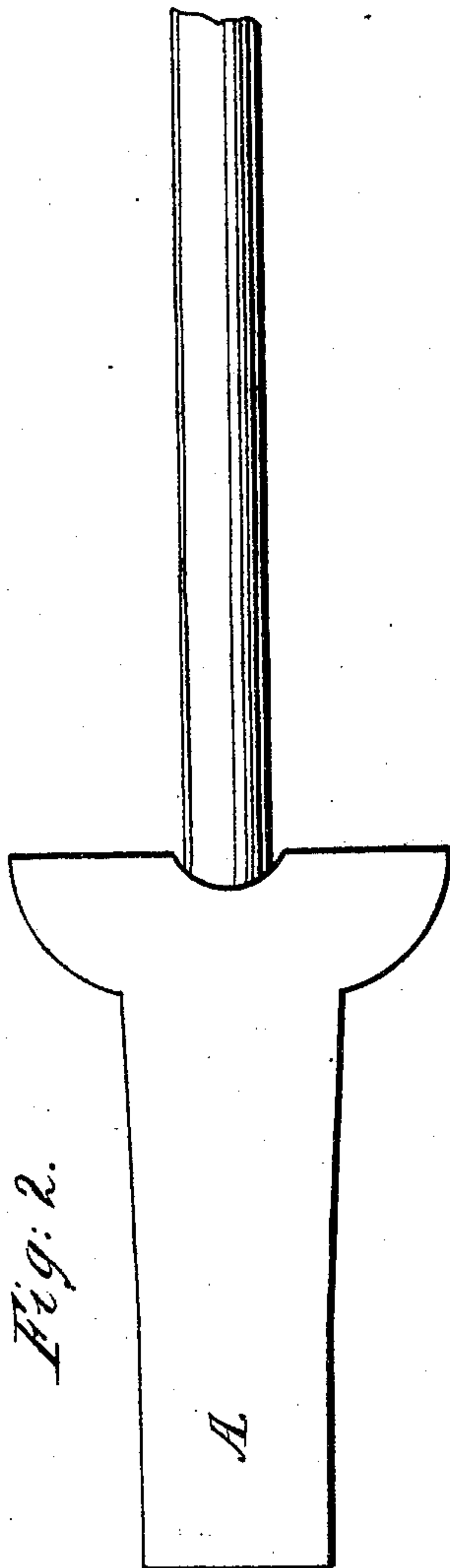
*Fig: 1.*



*Fig: 3.*



*Fig: 2.*



*Witnesses.*

*Charles E. Foster*  
*Charles Howson*

*Inventor.*

*Henry Howson*  
*Atty for A.C. Funstone*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

A. C. FUNSTON, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND THOMAS L. MORSS.

## SLATE-PENCIL SHARPENER.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 32,940, dated July 30, 1861.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, A. C. FUNSTON, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented a new and Improved Instrument for Sharpening Slate-Pencils; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

10 My invention consists of an instrument described hereafter whereby slate pencils may be reduced at the end to a uniform taper and readily pointed as they become worn.

15 In order to enable others to make and use my invention I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation.

On reference to the accompanying drawing which forms a part of this specification, 20 Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of my instrument for sharpening or pointing slate pencils. Fig. 2 an external side view of the same, and Fig. 3 an end view.

Similar letters refer to similar parts 25 throughout the several views.

A is a plate of steel, brass, or other metal or alloy of metals possessing the necessary elasticity. This plate is bent to such a form, and is of such a width as to be easily held 30 between the finger and thumb, the bent portion of the plate being enlarged as seen in Fig. 2, so that the opening alluded to hereafter may not impair its elasticity.

Each end of the bent plate is furnished on 35 the inside with a block B of steel, and each block has a recess, concave in form when viewed transversely as in Fig. 3 and increasing gradually in size from the outer to the inner end of the block as seen in Fig. 1. 40 The recess of each block is in fact of such a form that when the blocks are nearly in contact with each other the two recesses combined present a space of the same conical form as that to which it is desirable to reduce the end of the pencil. Each block 45 (when viewed transversely) is so inclined from the edges of the recess to the edges of the block as to present two cutting edges  $w w$ . In order that the blocks may retain their 50 proper lateral position so that the recess of

one may at all times coincide with that of the other, one of the arms of the bent plate A is furnished with a wing  $a$  on each edge these wings embracing the block on the other arm of the bent plate as seen in Fig. 3. 55

An opening large enough to admit a slate pencil of the ordinary size is made in the bent end of the plate A, at a point central with a line drawn horizontally through the center of the conical opening formed by 60 the recesses of the blocks B, B.

In handling this instrument the plate H is held between the finger and thumb of one hand, at a point near the blocks while the slate pencil is held in the other hand, passed 65 through the opening in the bent portion of the plate, and its end inserted into the conical opening formed by the recess of the blocks the latter being in the first instance a short distance apart from each other and more or 70 less force being exerted on the plates by the finger and thumb while the pencil is turned around, or backward and forward, so that the cutting edges  $w$  will soon impart the desired shape to the point of the pencil. As 75 the point is reduced by the cutting edges the pressure on the plates is increased until the blocks nearly touch each other when the pencil will have received a point of the desired sharpness. 80

It is important that the pencil should be retained in the same longitudinal position during the above operation otherwise the point would be in danger of breaking hence the importance of the opening in the bent 85 end of the plate A the said opening serving as a guide.

It should be understood that prior to commencing the sharpening process a slight taper approximating to that which it has 90 subsequently to assume should be imparted to the point of the pencil by means of an ordinary knife the above described instrument being intended more for retaining the pencil in a properly pointed state than for reducing 95 it in the first instance.

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

1. The bent plate A, with the opening in the bent portion of the blocks B B, each 100



block having a tapering recess and cutting edges  $x x$ , the whole being arranged and operating substantially as set forth.

2. In combination with the bent plate A 5 and its blocks B B, the wings  $a a$  arranged as set forth for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my

name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

A. C. FUNSTON.

Witnesses:

HENRY HOWSON,  
JOHN WHITE.