

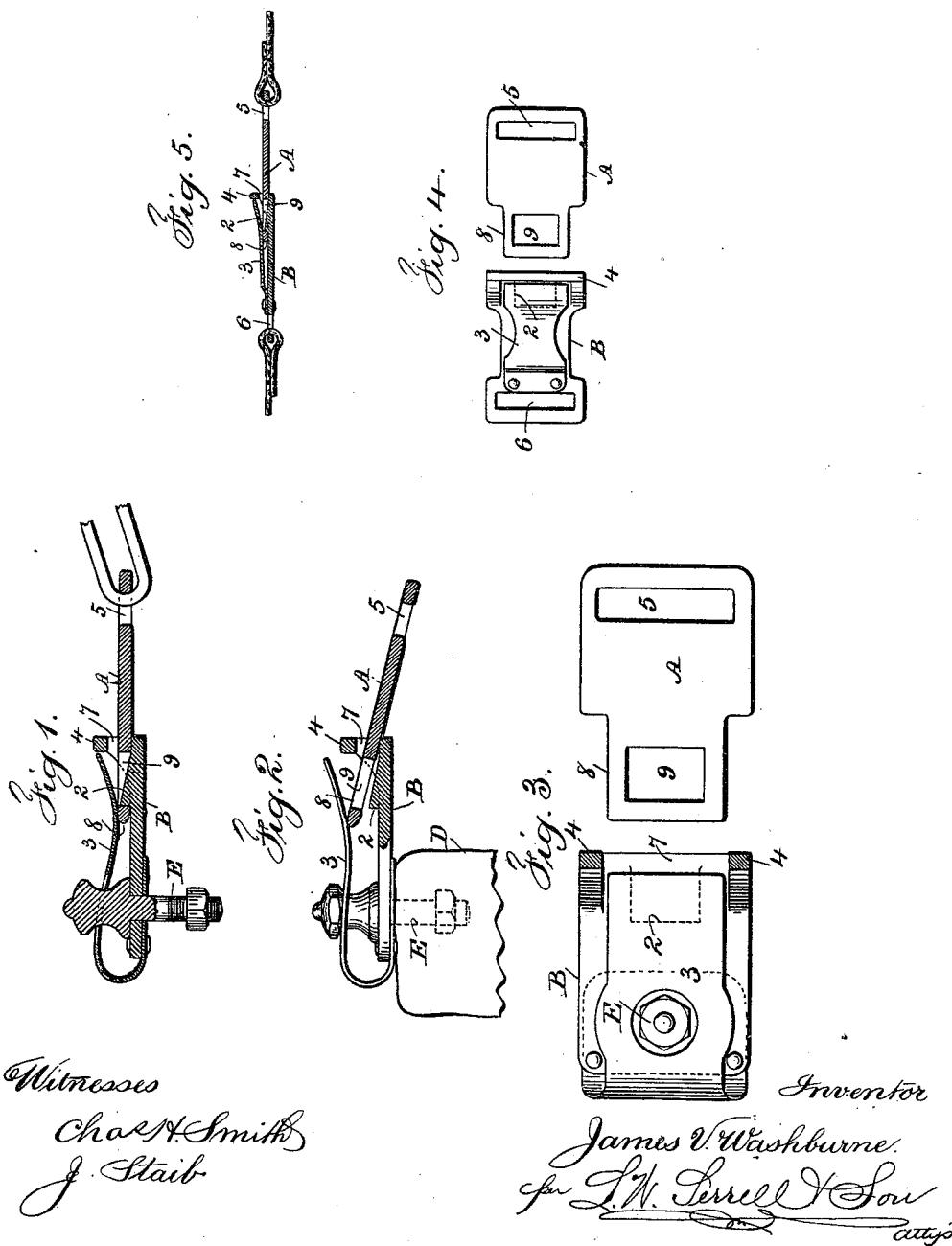
No. 643,431.

Patented Feb. 13, 1900.

J. V. WASHBURNE.
CLASP FOR CONNECTING STRAPS.

(Application filed Feb. 9, 1899.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

Chas. N. Smith
J. Staib

Inventor

James V. Washburne.
per L. W. Terrell & Son
attys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES V. WASHBURN, OF WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT.

CLASP FOR CONNECTING STRAPS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 643,431, dated February 13, 1900.

Application filed February 9, 1899. Serial No. 705,069. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES V. WASHBURN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Waterbury, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented an Improvement in Clasps for Rein-Holders, &c., of which the following is a specification.

In clasps or checkrein-holders, &c., there is a movement of one part upon the other that tends speedily to either wear the parts, so that they do not properly engage one another, or else to bend the spring, so that it ceases to properly hold the parts together.

The present invention is made with reference to overcoming the aforesaid difficulties; and it consists in two rigid metallic parts that are made to interlock and to remain in the proper relative position while in use, the spring simply serving to press one part toward the other, and the spring is preserved from undue strain either in connecting or disconnecting the parts in consequence of a limited motion that one part is permitted in relation to the other.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a section longitudinally of the two parts of the clasp in their connected positions and in a form adapted to hold a checkrein. Fig. 2 is a similar view representing the manner in which the two parts are disconnected. Fig. 3 is a plan view showing the two parts detached and one of the members partially in section. Fig. 4 is a plan, and Fig. 5 is a section, of the clasp in a form adapted to garments.

The clasp is made of the two parts A and B, which are advantageously of cast metal, and one is provided with the mortise 5, through which the rein or other strap is passed. The mortise may be of any desired character, according to the rein or strap with which the clasp is used, or the strap or straps may be connected in any preferred way. When used for a rein-holder, one part may be connected to the saddle, a portion of which is illustrated at D.

In Figs. 4 and 5 the clasp is represented with a mortise 6 at the end opposite to the mortise 5, so as to be adapted to receive a strap at each end, so as to adapt the clasp to a garment; but in Fig. 2 the clasp is illustrated as adapted to a rein-holder, with one part B connected to the saddle or other por-

tion of the harness, which is indicated at D. Upon the part B is a flange 4, through which is a mortise 7 of a size and shape adapted to pass the tongue end 8 of the portion A of the clasp, and in this tongue 8 is an opening 9, adapted to set over a lug 2 upon the portion B of the clasp, and the size and shape of the mortise 7 in the flange 4 is to be such that the tongue 8 will pass through the same and one part can be turned out of line to the other part sufficiently for the tongue to override the lug 2 as the parts are pressed together, and then the tongue rests upon the surface of the part B of the clasp, with the lug 2 passing into the hole or mortise 9, and the reverse movement is given to the parts when they are to be separated, and the width of the mortise 7 in the flange 4 should be sufficiently narrow to prevent the part A being turned too far in separating one portion of the clasp from the other. The spring 3 is represented in Figs. 4 and 5 as fastened upon the surface of the part B of the clasp, and its duty is simply to hold the tongue 8 in its position after the same has been hooked over the lug 2, and this spring yields when the parts are unhooked, as aforesaid, and the movement of the tongue being limited by the mortise through which it passes the spring is not exposed to unnecessary bending action. Hence the spring is not liable to injury, and in the position shown in Figs. 1 and 5 the end of the spring being closely adjacent to the flange 4 is protected from injury or liability to become entangled in any adjacent article and bent. The end of the spring 3 adjacent to the mortise 6 may stop short of such mortise or it may be extended around the mortise and have a coinciding mortise through it. In consequence of the tongue 8 passing through the mortise 7 and engaging the lug 2 both lateral and longitudinal motion are prevented, and to disengage the parts it is necessary to swing one part into an angular position to the other part to lift the tongue off the lug by a leverage action, and that movement being limited the spring 3 can be comparatively stiff and strong and without liability to become bent or set in the latching or unlatching, the back surface of the lug being advantageously beveled, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 5.

I remark that it is advantageous to round the end of the tongue 8, as shown, so that it may pass more freely in between the spring 3 and the lug 2.

5 Where it is desired to make the spring 3 longer, it may be bent and carried around beneath the plate B, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, and riveted or otherwise fastened, and when
10 this clasp is used for a checkrein it simplifies the parts to connect the plate B to the saddle, (indicated at D,) and this connection may be made in any desired manner. I, however, prefer and use a bolt E with a head or nut above the plate B, and this may pass through the
15 underturned end of the spring 3 to hold it in place, and the head or nut of the bolt may be ornamental and pass through a hole in the spring and extend above the same, as illustrated in Fig. 1. In this case the plate A will
20 be upon the checkrein, and there will remain nothing upon the saddle but the plate B and spring, and this will not be in the way or objectionable in appearance, even if the checkrein is left off. The bar in the flange that

crosses above the mortise 7 can extend all 25 across or the middle part can be removed without changing the action of the same.

Although the two parts A and B are stated to be advantageously made of cast metal, it is obvious that they can as well be made of 30 sheet metal, which in some instances will effect a saving and produce a better article.

I claim as my invention—

A clasp composed of two parts, one part having a tongue at the end of it and the other 35 part a flange with a mortise through it for the passage of the tongue, a lug on one part and a mortise on the other part for interlocking the two parts and a spring attached to one part and acting upon the tongue of the 40 other part for pressing the two parts together, substantially as set forth.

Signed by me this 4th day of February, 1899.

JAMES V. WASHBURN.

Witnesses:

ROBERT A. LOWE,
MICHAEL J. BYRNE.