

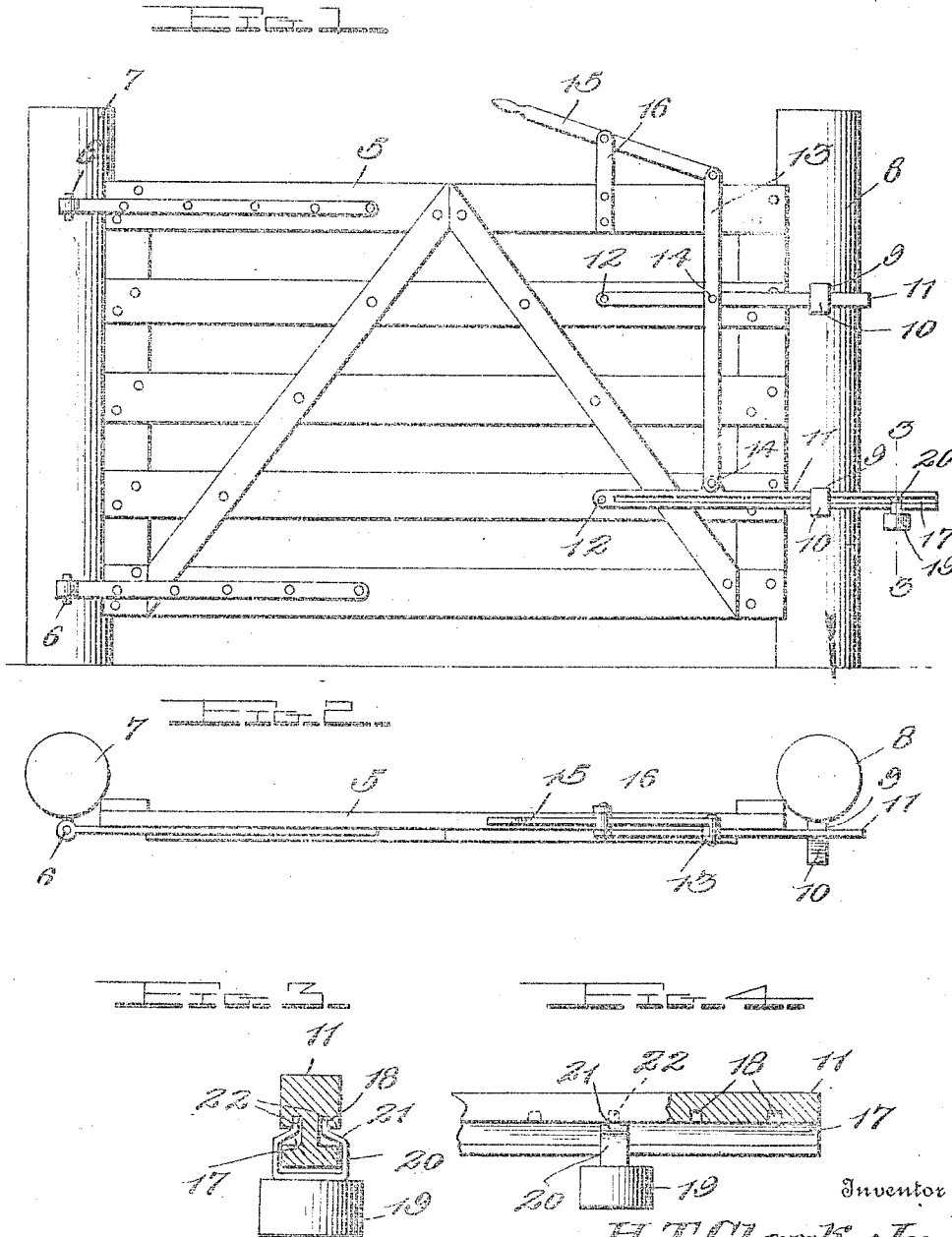
H. T. CLARK, JR.

GATE LATCH.

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1,049,453.

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Witnesses

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HENRY T. CLARK, JR., OF HENDERSONVILLE, TENNESSEE.

GATE-LATCH.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY T. CLARK, JR., a citizen of the United States, residing at Hendersonville, in the county of Sumner and State of Tennessee, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Gate-Latches, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

10 This invention relates to gate latches and has for its primary object to provide an improved device of this character which is extremely simple in construction, may be manufactured and sold at comparatively
15 small cost and can be easily and quickly applied to a gate without necessitating the employment of skilled labor.

Another and more specific object of the invention is to provide a gate latch including pivoted latch members carried by
20 the gate and adapted to engage keepers on the gate post, means connected to said latch members to lift the same from engagement with the keepers, and a weight carried by
25 one of the latch members and improved means for easily and quickly adjusting said weight longitudinally upon said latch member toward and from its pivot.

With the above and other objects in view
30 as will become apparent as the description proceeds, the invention consists in certain constructions, combinations and arrangements of the parts that I shall hereinafter fully describe and claim.

35 For a full understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a gate latch
40 embodying my invention; Fig. 2 is a top plan view thereof; Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary view
partly in section of the lower weighted
5 latch bar.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and designated in the accompanying drawing by like reference characters.

50 Referring in detail to the drawing 5 designates a gate which may be of any preferred construction and is hingedly mounted as at 6 upon a gate post 7. The other
gate post 8 is provided with spaced keepers
55 9 arranged thereon in vertical alinement, said keepers having inclined faces 10 over

which the latch bars are adapted to ride as will be fully understood from the following description.

Upon the gate 5 at a point adjacent the
free end thereof, the inner ends of the longitudinally disposed latch bars 11 are pivoted as indicated at 12. The outer ends of these latch bars project beyond the end of the gate for engagement with the keepers
65 9 when the gate is moved to swing to its closed position. A vertically disposed bar 13 is pivotally connected to the spaced latch bars 11 as shown at 14. The upper end of said vertical bar projects above the upper
70 edge of the gate 5. To this upper end of the bar 13 one end of an operating lever 15 is pivotally connected. This lever is fulcrumed intermediate of its ends between
spaced ears 16 which are secured to the uppermost bar of the gate and is adapted to
75 be oscillated to move the bar 13 upwardly and lift the outer ends of the latch bars 11. The lower latch bar 11 is provided in its opposite faces with longitudinal channels 17.
80 The upper walls of these channels are provided with spaced rectangular recesses or sockets 18. A metal block or other weight 19 is adapted to be moved longitudinally upon the latch bar 11 and to the upper
85 face of said weight block a resilient metal plate 20 is secured. The ends of this plate are vertically extended upon opposite sides of the bar 11 and inwardly flanged as shown
90 at 21 to extend into the channels 17 of said bar. The extremities of the plate 20 are bent at right angles to the portions 21 thereof and vertically extended as shown at 22
for engagement in the recesses 18. It will be noted that the channels 17 are sufficiently
95 wide to admit of the portions 21 of the plate 20 being forced downwardly to disengage the upwardly extending ends 22 of the plate from the recesses 18 so that the ends of the plate 20 may be moved longitudinally in
100 the channels. Thus the weight 19 may be easily and quickly adjusted toward or from the pivot of the latch bars 11.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I have devised a simple and efficient latch for
105 gates and similar structures whereby the gate may be easily and quickly released for movement to its open position, while the latch bars 11 will automatically assume their locking
positions in engagement with the keepers 9 and be retained in such positions by
110 means of the weight member 19. When it

is desired to open the gate, the operator simply forces downwardly upon the inner end of the lever 15, thereby lifting the latch bars 11 and overcoming the weight block 19 so that the outer ends of said bars may be disengaged from the keepers 9.

As the device comprises but few elements and the use of springs and similar parts which are liable to become easily deranged, is avoided, it will be apparent that the device is extremely durable and efficient in practical use.

While I have shown and described the preferred construction and arrangement of the several elements, it will be understood that the invention is susceptible of considerable modification without departing from the essential features or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. In a latch of the character described, the combination with a keeper, of a latch bar pivotally mounted at one end and adapted for engagement with the keeper at its other end, said latch bar being provided with longitudinal channels in its opposite faces, a weight to move longitudinally upon said bar, and means carried by the weight and engaged in the channels of the bar to retain the weight in an adjusted position thereon whereby the latch bar will be normally held in locking engagement with the keeper.

2. In a latch of the character described, the combination with a keeper, of a latch bar pivotally mounted at one end and adapted for engagement at its other end with said keeper, said bar being provided with longitudinal channels in its opposite faces, the upper walls of said channels having spaced recesses therein, a weight movable longitudinally upon said bar, and means carried by the weight for movement in the channels thereof and engageable in said recesses to retain the weight in an adjusted position upon the bar.

3. In a latch of the character described, the combination with a keeper, of a latch bar pivotally mounted at one end and adapted for engagement at its other end with said keeper, said bar being provided with longitudinal channels in its opposite faces and spaced recesses in the upper walls of said channels, a weight adjustable longitudinally upon the bar, and a plate fixed to the weight and having free resilient end portions movable in the channels of the bar, the extremities of said plate being adapted for engagement in said recesses to retain the weight in an adjusted position upon the bar.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

HENRY T. CLARK, JR.

Witnesses:

HEWITT SHUTE,
B. H. HURT.