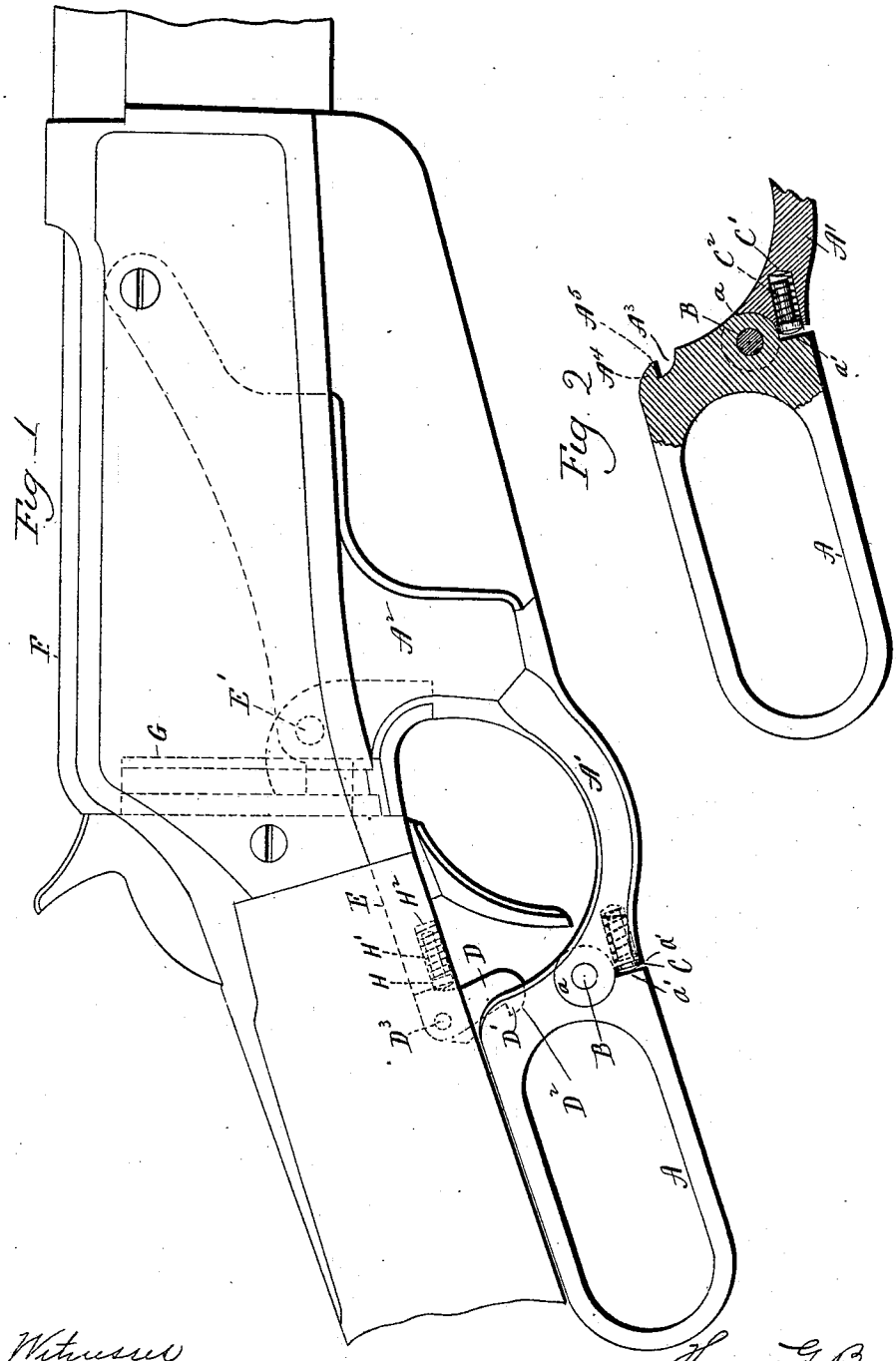
(No Model.)

T. G. BENNETT.

LOCKING MEANS FOR OPERATING LEVERS OF FIREARMS.

No. 589,201. Patented Aug. 31, 1897.



Witnesses
J. H. Shumway
Lillian D. Kelsey.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS G. BENNETT, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

LOCKING MEANS FOR OPERATING-LEVERS OF FIREARMS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 589,201, dated August 31, 1897.

Application filed June 14, 1897. Serial No. 640,618. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS G. BENNETT, of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Lever-Guns; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a broken view, in side elevation, of a gun constructed in accordance with my invention; Fig. 2, a detached broken view of the rear end of the lever, showing the adaptation of its bow to form a yielding hook.

My invention relates to an improvement in that class of portable firearms called "lever-guns," for the reason that they are operated by a swinging operating or finger lever, the object being to provide for the automatic locking of the levers of such guns in their closed positions in such a manner that they may be unlocked without appreciable effort.

With these ends in view my invention consists in an operating or finger lever having its bow pivoted to its shank and adapted to act as a locking-hook for locking the lever in its closed position.

My invention further consists in certain details of construction and combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In carrying out my invention as herein shown the bow A of the operating or finger lever, which also comprises a shank A′ and two arms A^2 A^2, is adapted to discharge the office of a hook by forming an undercut A^3 in its forward upper corner, thereby producing, as it were, a forwardly-turned nose A^4, having a rounded or beveled operating-face A^5, all clearly shown in Fig. 2. The forward lower corner of the said bow is knuckle-jointed in the usual manner of forming such joints to the rear end of the shank A′ of the lever, the bow and shank being pivotally connected by means of a heavy horizontally-arranged pin B, on which the bow swings within the very narrow limits permitted by the stop-shoulders *a a* and *a′ a′* of the knuckle-joint. Between the lower pair of stop-shoulders *a′ a′* I locate a plunger C, extending into a pocket C′, formed to receive it in the shank A′, and also containing a light coiled spring C^2, by which the plunger is operated. The bow as thus constructed forms, as it were, a yielding locking-hook for the operating or finger lever and may properly be called a "hook." It coacts, as shown, with a depending yielding frame-hook D, having a rearwardly-turned nose D′, formed with a rounded or beveled operating-face D^2. This hook I call the "frame-hook" because, broadly speaking, it is connected with and depends from the frame of the gun; but I do not wish to be understood as referring to any particular part of the gun by the term "frame of the gun." As shown, the said frame-hook depends from and swings upon the pin D^3, by means of which the rear end of the link E is connected with the frame of the gun. The forward end of the said link is connected by a pin E′ with the arms A^2 of the lever, while the forward ends of the said arms A^2 are connected in any approved manner with the breech-bolt F, which is maintained in its locked position by a vertically-movable recoil-block G, the lower end of which is engaged by the hooked forward end of the link E. These details of construction, however, need neither to be shown or described, as they may be of any approved construction and do not form a part of this present invention, which is applicable to lever-guns however constructed and not confined to use with such a lever-gun as herein shown. The said frame-hook D is free to turn within very narrow limits upon the pin D^3 and is yieldingly pushed rearward by means of a plunger H, engaging with its forward edge and encircled by a spring H′, the said plunger and spring being located, as shown, in a pocket H^2, formed for their reception in the link E. This frame-hook, however constructed and arranged, constitutes the locking member with which the pivotal spring-actuated bow of the operating or finger lever coacts.

It will be understood that just before the operating or finger lever is brought into its fully-closed position the beveled operating-face A^5 of the nose A^4 of the yielding lever-hook formed by its bow A will engage with the beveled operating-face D^2 of the nose D′

of the frame-hook D. The spring H′ encircling the plunger H will then be compressed, allowing the frame-hook D to yield and move forward for the interlocking of the noses A^4 and D′ of the two hooks. Just as soon as the nose A^4 passes above the nose D′ the spring H′ will reassert itself and push the frame-hook D rearward, so as to interlock the two hooks, whereby the operating or finger lever is positively held in its closed position and prevented from being disturbed in position by the recoil following the explosion of a cartridge in the chamber of the gun-barrel.

When it is desired to open the gun, its user, whose fingers are passed through the bow of the lever, exerts a slight outward movement with the backs of his fingers, whereby the spring C^2 will be compressed, permitting the bow to turn on the pin B and the nose A^4 to be cleared from the nose D′.

In view of the changes suggested and of others which may obviously be made I would have it understood that I do not limit myself to the exact construction shown, but hold myself at liberty to make such changes and alterations as fairly fall within the spirit and scope of my invention.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a lever-gun, the combination with an operating or finger lever having its bow pivoted to its shank, and having its said bow constructed at its forward upper corner to act as a hook; of means connected with the frame of the gun for being engaged by the pivotal bow when the lever is brought into its closed position for locking it therein.

2. In a lever-gun, the combination with an operating or finger lever having its bow pivoted to its shank, and having its said bow constructed at its forward upper corner with an undercut forming a nose; of a frame-hook depending from the frame of the gun in position to be engaged by the nose of the pivotal bow of the lever when the lever is brought into its closed position in which it is locked by the coaction of the nose and the hook.

3. In a lever-gun, the combination with an operating or finger lever having its bow pivoted to its shank, and constructed to act as a hook, a spring coacting with the said pivotal bow, and a yielding frame-hook depending from the frame of the gun in position to be engaged by the pivotal bow when the lever is brought into its closed position, for locking it in that position.

4. In a lever-gun, the combination with an operating or finger lever having its bow knuckle-jointed to its shank, and the two parts constructed with stop-shoulders limiting the pivotal movement of the bow, a spring located below the said joint and coacting with the bow to lift it into its locking position; and a yielding lever-hook depending from the frame of the gun in position to be engaged by the pivotal bow when the lever is brought into its closed position, for locking the same therein.

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

THOMAS G. BENNETT.

Witnesses:
DANIEL H. VEADER,
THOMAS C. JOHNSON.