

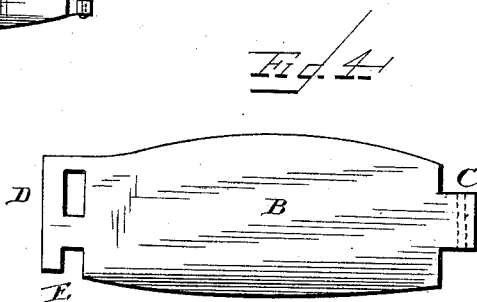
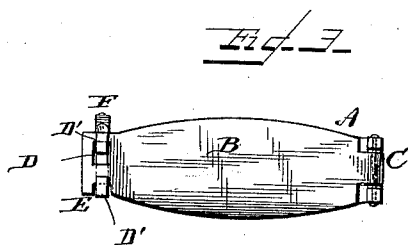
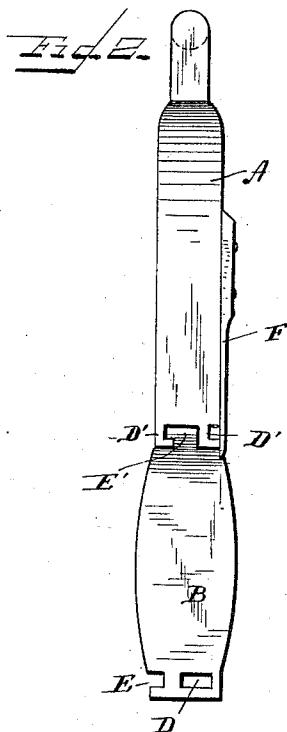
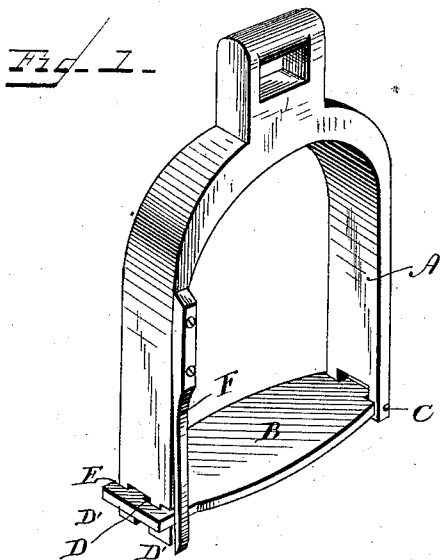
(No Model.)

L. D. O'ROARK.

STIRRUP.

No. 334,976.

Patented Jan. 26, 1886.



WITNESSES
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LORENZA DOW O'ROARK, OF LOUISA, KENTUCKY.

STIRRUP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 334,976, dated January 26, 1886.

Application filed June 9, 1885. Serial No. 168,145. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LORENZA DOW O'ROARK, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Louisa, Lawrence county, and State of Kentucky, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stirrups; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved stirrup. Fig. 2 is a side view of the same, showing the foot-piece unfastened from its catch. Fig. 3 is a view of the under side of the stirrup, and Fig. 4 is a detail view of the hinged cross-bar or foot-piece.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

My invention has relation to stirrups; and it consists in the construction of a stirrup with a hinged foot-piece and a spring adapted to engage and lock said foot-piece when the stirrup is in use in such a manner that the rider may unlock the foot-piece with his foot when he desires to dismount, and whereby he can readily disengage his foot from the stirrup if he should be thrown, thus avoiding the danger of being dragged by the stirrups.

In the accompanying drawings, A denotes the stirrup-fork, which may be of any desired shape and material, either wood or metal.

B is the lower cross-bar or foot-piece, the upper side of which is notched or serrated, as usual, so as to give the sole of the boot a firm foothold and prevent it from slipping. This foot-piece is hinged at C to one of the arms of the fork A, and has at its other end a catch or lock consisting of the aperture D and notch E. The fork-arm on the corresponding side of the stirrup is provided with a lock consisting of two downwardly-projecting hooks or catches, D' and E', adapted to engage and interlock with the aperture D and notch E, respectively.

Upon the front side of the stirrup, on that arm which has the downwardly-projecting lock D' E', is fastened a spring, F, the lower free end of which projects a little below the arm, so as to bear against the front side of the hinged foot-piece B when this is in its closed

position. Thus it will be seen that this spring prevents the foot-piece from slipping out of or becoming disengaged from the catches D' and E', with which it interlocks, so that the foot-piece is connected to the fork A as firmly as if it were made in one piece therewith. At the same time, when the rider desires to dismount or to release his feet from the stirrups he can do so in a moment of time by tilting his foot in such a manner as to press with the toe against the upper part or arch of the stirrup, and pressing with the heel against the rear edge of the foot-piece, which, forcing the latter against the spring, presses the same outwardly, and thus disengages the aperture D and notch E from the two hooks or catches D' and E', when the foot-piece will of its own weight drop down into the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2.

For the purpose of permitting the hinged foot-piece to readily become disengaged from the lock, it should have sufficient play at the hinge or joint C to move sidewise a little.

If the stirrup is made of wood, the hinge and also the catch and that portion of the hinged foot-piece with which the catch engages may be ironed to add to its strength by covering said parts with thin plates of iron or other suitable sheet metal, said plates being cut of a shape to conform to the shapes of the parts which they are to strengthen and protect.

Having thus described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

The combination, with the stirrup-fork, one arm of which is provided with a recess forming two plain projections, the other arm being provided with a notch and a recess forming two notched projections, of a foot-piece hinged within said plain projections at one end, and provided at the other end with an aperture and a notch engaging with the notched projections of the arm of the stirrup-fork, and a spring secured to one of said arms and extending below the bottom of said arm, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereunto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

LORENZA DOW O'ROARK.

Witnesses:

M. REMMELE,
JOHN M. CLAYTON.