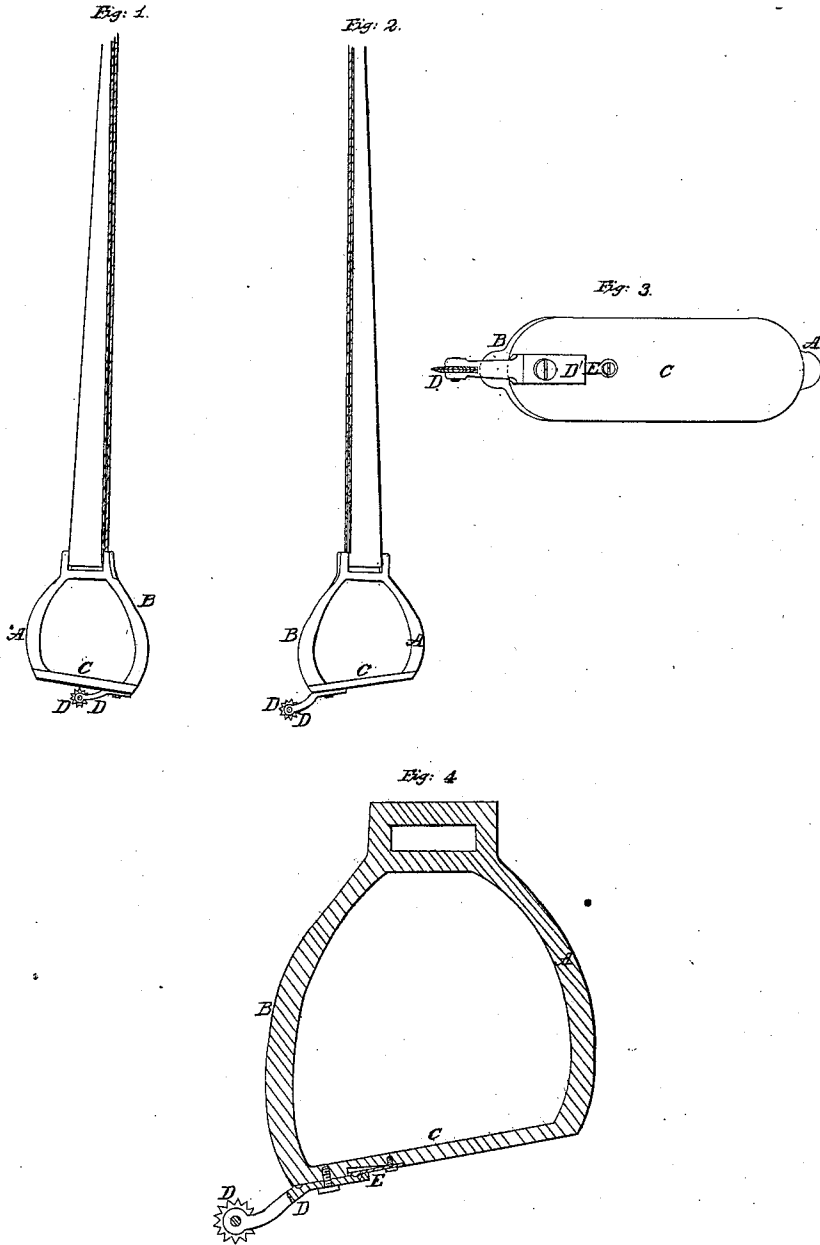


W. H. Towers,

Riding Stirrup,

No 38,995.

Patented June 23, 1863.



Witnesses:  
E. H. Miller  
James C. Cooper

Inventor:  
W. H. Towers

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. TOWERS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## IMPROVEMENT IN STIRRUPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **38,995**, dated June 23, 1863; antedated June 18, 1862.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. TOWERS, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Saddle-Stirrups; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a front view of the improved stirrup designed for the right-hand side of the horse. Fig. 2 is a similar view of the stirrup designed for the left-hand side of the horse, the two stirrups represented being in the relation they assume toward each other when suspended from the saddle. Fig. 3 represents the under part of the improved stirrup full size. Fig. 4 is a vertical section of the same.

Similar letters in the figures refer to corresponding parts.

The nature of this invention consists in forming the outer side bars of the stirrups shorter than the inner bars in such a manner as to give an inclination inward to the foot rests or plates connecting the side bars below, in order to better adapt them to the proper position of the feet of the rider. The stirrups may be made plain, after the design represented in the drawings, or "shoe-shaped," or fanciful and elaborate in finish, to suit the taste of the constructor, and of any suitable material. The outer bars, A, of the stirrups are shorter than the inner bars, B, the relative lengths of the two being such as to give the foot rests or plates C, connecting them together at the lower ends, a slight inclination downward as they extend toward the horse, for the purpose of better conforming

with the bearing-weight of the feet of the rider when in proper position than if the said rests or plates were parallel with the loops by which the stirrups are suspended from the saddle. Not only does this peculiar relation of the foot rests or plates C of the stirrups render them more comfortable to the bearing of the feet of skillful riders, but it also has the effect of forcing unpracticed ones to turn the forward parts of their feet inward toward the horse, thereby causing the portions of the legs above the knee to rest or be braced against the sides of the saddle with just sufficient force to afford relief from their weight and prevent that fatigue that must otherwise ensue from the knees bulging or springing outward, as they have a tendency to do when stirrup foot-rests of the ordinary form are used. On this account these stirrups are peculiarly well adapted to cavalry, artillery, and other army-saddles, as, in fact, they serve to instruct riders in that part of the drill heretofore required to accustom them to keep the forward portions of their feet well in by the very act of pressing or resting them on the said inclined rests.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

Forming the outer side bars, A, of stirrups shorter than the inner ones, B, for the purpose of giving the foot rests or plates C a corresponding inclination downward toward the horse's side, substantially in the manner and for the purpose herein set forth.

WM. H. TOWERS.

Witnesses:

E. MAHER,  
JAMES G. COOPER.