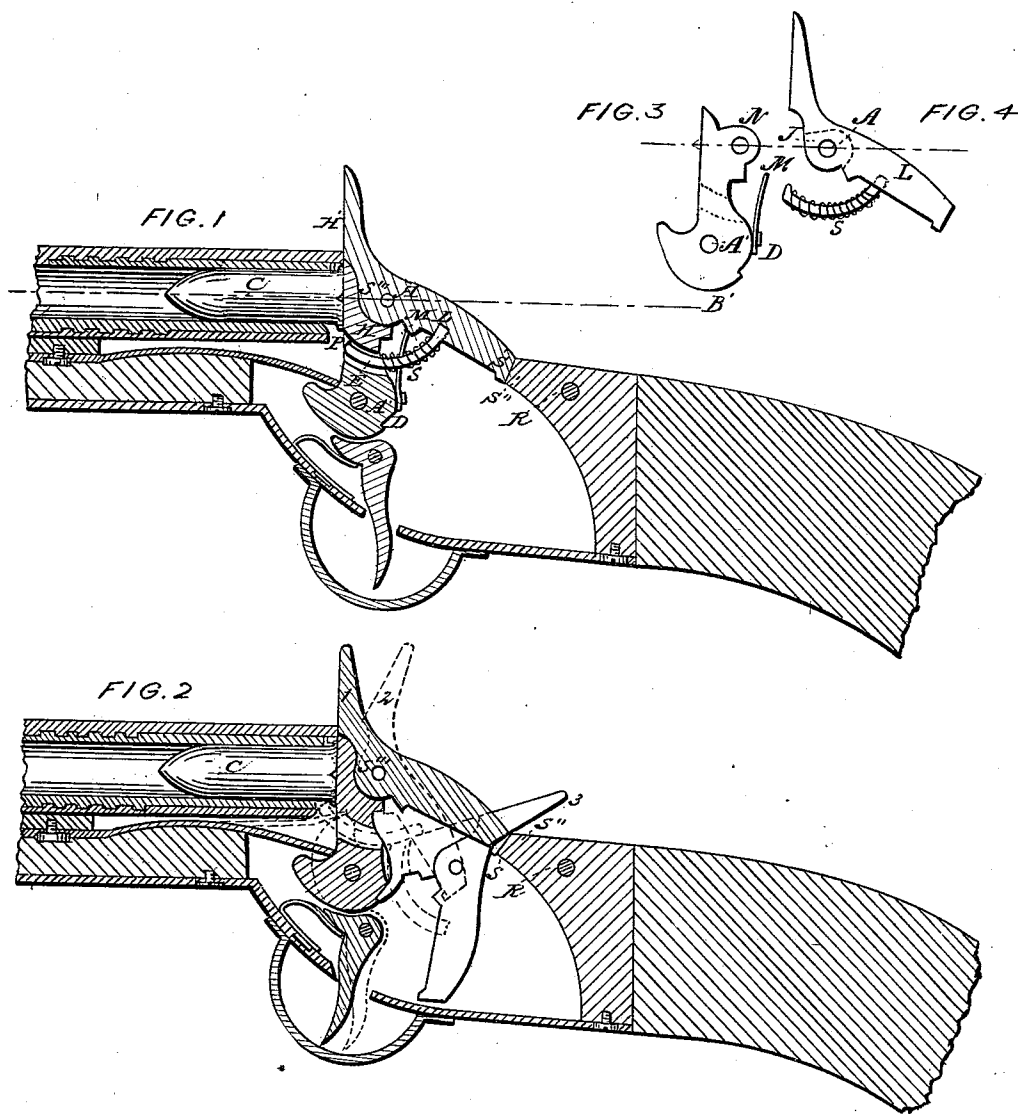


J. M. WHITTEMORE.
Breech Loading Fire Arm.

No. 104,387.

Patented June 14, 1870.



WITNESSES:
E. W. Whitehouse
A. J. Fuller

INVENTOR:
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United States Patent Office.

JAMES M. WHITTEMORE, OF AUGUSTA, MAINE.

Letters Patent No. 104,387, dated June 14, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES M. WHITTEMORE, of Kennebec Arsenal, Augusta, Maine, in the county of Kennebec, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Breech-loading Fire-arms; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings making a part of this specification.

The nature of my invention consists in attaching to the stock or barrel of a breech-loading fire-arm a self-locking hammer and extractor combined, or a self-locking hammer without the extractor, or the extractor without the locking arrangement.

To enable others to understand and make lawful use of my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

Figure 1 represents a section through the axis of the bore of a breech-loading fire-arm, and perpendicular to the axis upon which the hammer turns.

C is a cartridge-case, inserted into its chamber.

H, the hammer, turning upon the axis A'.

L, the locking-piece, hinged to the hammer at A, and constituting with it and the spiral spring S or the feather spring D M, the self-locking hammer.

The locking-piece is retained against the surface S" of the recoil-block R by the feather spring D M or spiral spring S, working upon the extractor E, screwed into the locking-piece and passing through the hammer, so that its point, P, acts as a cartridge-case extractor, when the locking-piece is revolved downward around the axis A.

Without the end S' the locking-piece is an extractor alone.

Without the extractor, and with the feather spring D M, the locking-piece and hammer, hinged together, constitute the self-locking hammer.

1 2 3, in Figure 2 of the drawings, represent three positions of the locking-piece and two of the hammer. From 1 to 2 the locking-piece alone moves, carrying

the point of the extractor up under the flange of the cartridge-case; 2 to 3 the locking-piece and hammer move together around the axis of the hammer; at 3 the hammer is at full cock, and the cartridge-case drops out.

The locking arrangement works as follows:

The force of recoil produced by the discharge of the piece, acting to the rear in the direction C B', tends to turn the hammer about the axis A', which tendency is resisted by the surfaces S" and S' of the locking-piece, S' being pressed against the surface S" of the recoil-block, and the surface S" against the rear of the hammer, firmly locking it; yet, by a motion to the rear of the handle H' of the locking-piece, the hammer is easily unlocked.

Figure 3 in the drawings represents a section of the hammer, detached from the locking-piece and extractor, with the projection N in its rear, which fits into the jaw J of the locking-piece, represented in Figure 4.

The parts specified can be made of steel or malleable iron.

The space between the dotted lines in fig. 3 represents the hole in the hammer, through which the extractor passes. D M, in the same figure, is the feather spring.

Having thus described my invention,

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

1. The hammer H, the locking-piece L, the extractor E, with the feather spring D M or spiral spring S, all combined, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

2. The extractor E, hinged to the hammer H, (with the feather or spiral spring,) substantially as and for the purposes specified.

JAS. M. WHITTEMORE.

Witnesses:

H. L. FULLER,
C. P. RICHARDS.