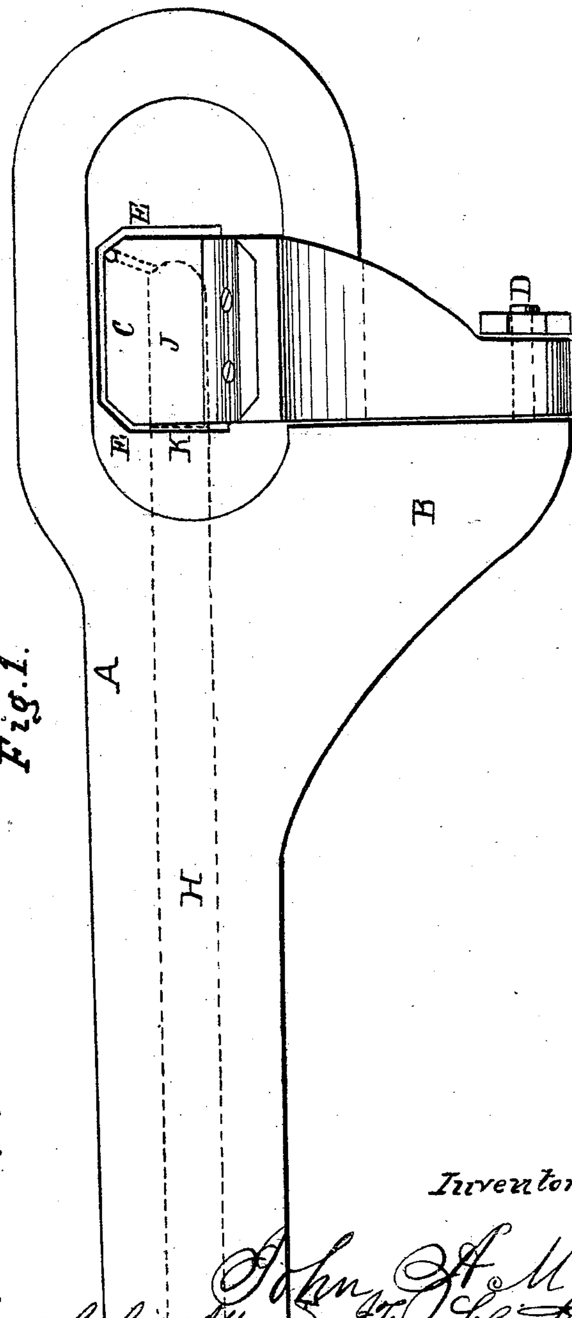
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. A. MILLER

Machine Gun.

No. 46,259. Patented Feb. 7, 1865.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses

L Luch

H. S. Dulaney

Inventor

John A. Miller

by his Attorney J. Franklin Reigart

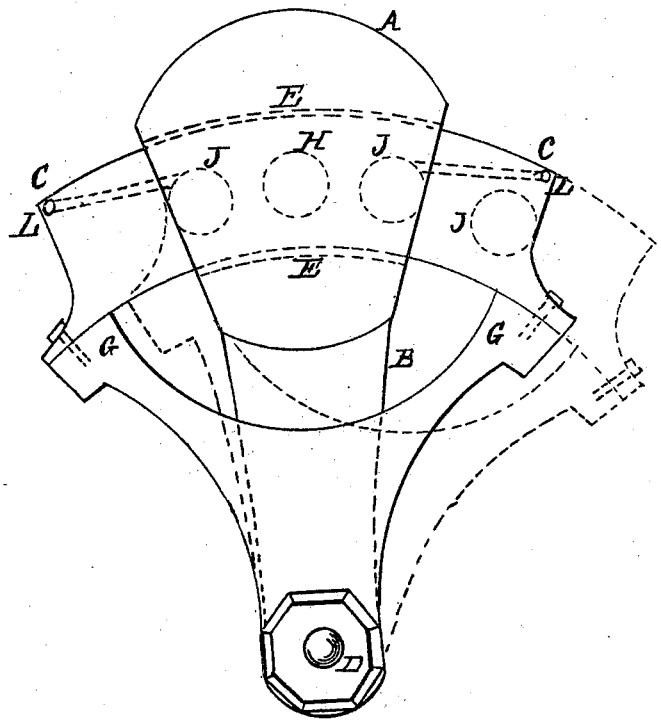
2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

J. A. MILLER.

Machine Gun.

No. 46,259. Patented Feb. 7, 1865.

Fig. 2.



Witnesses

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by his Attorney

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN A. MILLER, OF PADUCAH, KENTUCKY.

IMPROVEMENT IN BREECH-LOADING ORDNANCE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **46,259**, dated February 7, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN A. MILLER, of Paducah, McCracken county, State of Kentucky, have invented new and useful Improvements in Breech-Loading Cannons; and I do hereby declare the following to be an exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification.

The nature of my invention consists in a curved movable balance (containing two or more charge-chambers) operating in a section of a circle back and forward, and having the touch-hole at the side of the movable balance, the balance operating through the back end of the breech of the gun and moving from side to side.

Figure 1 represents a side elevation of the cannon with its movable balance. Fig. 2 shows the rear end of the cannon and the shape and movement of the balance.

A represents the cannon or gun; B, a solid support cast with the cannon, to which the center of the balance C is attached by a screw-bolt, D, that acts as a pivot for the balance C to operate on. The top of the balance C is curved in a section of a circle and fits into a corresponding curved aperture, E, through the breech of the gun. It can be made as heavy as may be required, according to light or heavy ordnance, and in light guns a small handle at each side will answer to operate it, and in large ordnance a strong lever may be attached. As the top of the balance C moves through the gun the weight of the one side carries it to its place.

The arms G on each side form a V-shaped support for the balance C.

The bore H of the gun and the bore J of the balance C project slightly, so as to fit closely at K when they are drawn together to fire the gun, the balance C having two bores, J, so that one is being loaded while the other is being fired.

The touch-hole L is at the end of the balance C, where it is most easily managed.

I am aware that a block or square breech has been used having a lateral motion for loading at the breech; but this I do not claim.

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

The shape and construction of the balance C, operating in a corresponding curved aperture, E, in the breech of the gun, in combination with the support B, as herein described, for the purpose of firing a cannon rapidly.

JOHN A. MILLER.

Witnesses:

J. FRANKLIN REIGART,

EDM. F. BROWN.