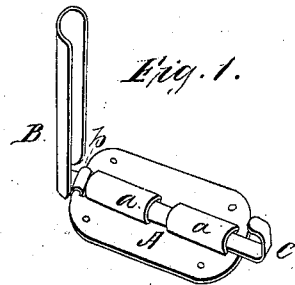


*F. D. Ballou,*

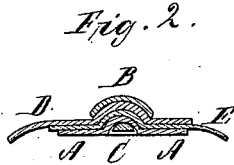
*Buckle.*

*N<sup>o</sup> 55197.*

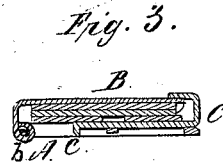
*Patented May 29, 1866.*



*Fig. 1.*

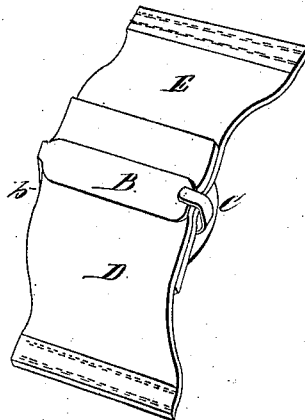


*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*

*Fig. 4.*



*Witnesses:*  
*Thomas Westoupe*  
*W. Kelly*

*Inventor:*  
*Francis D. Ballou*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANCIS D. BALLOU, OF ABINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO  
ALFRED B. ELY, OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## IMPROVED BUCKLE-CLASP.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **55,197**, dated May 29, 1866.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANCIS D. BALLOU, of Abington, Massachusetts, have invented a new and Improved Buckle-Clasp for Fastening the Straps of Shoes, Belts, &c., where one part is lapped over the other; and I declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, in connection with the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a view of the instrument with the lid raised. Figs. 2 and 3 are sections of the same with the straps in place. Fig. 4 is a view of the same closed with the straps in place.

The object of my invention is to furnish a simple method of fastening together the straps of shoes, &c., without the trouble of tucking the ends through slits, as in ordinary buckles.

A is a flat piece of metal or other suitable substance struck up from underneath, or otherwise provided with a chamber or chambers, *a*, in which a bolt, C, may move back and forth.

B is another piece of thin metal or other suitable substance, hollowed upward more or less from the outer side edges, hinged to A at *b*, and of essentially the same length as A.

C is a bolt working back and forth in the chambers *a*, constructed so as not to pull entirely out, and having its head bent up and over, so as to reach over the top of B when shut down over A.

D and E are two straps of leather, placed one over the other and between A and B, and confined in place by the pressure of the lid B when held down by the head of the bolt C. A may be fastened upon the instep of the shoe, or upon the strap E, or both.

The shape and ornamentation of the clasp-lid B may be varied at pleasure, and it may be held down by a spring-catch or slot with a turnkey, but I prefer the use of the bolt, substantially as described.

What I claim therefore is—

The buckle clasp, substantially as and for the purposes described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name.

FRANCIS D. BALLOU.

Witnesses:

THOMAS WESTON, Jr.,  
W. N. ELY.