W. Park,

Key.

No. 110,491. Patented Dec. 27. 1870.

Fig. 1

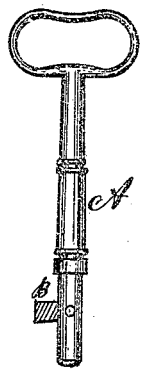
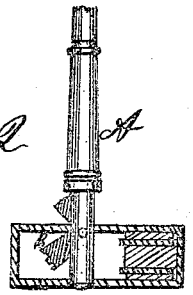


Fig. 4

Fig. 3

Fig. 2



Witnesses
Geo. M. Tibley
A. H. Park

Inventor
Webster Park

United States Patent Office.

WEBSTER PARK, OF NORWICH, CONNECTICUT.

Letters Patent No. 110,491, dated December 27, 1870; antedated December 15, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN KEYS FOR LOCKS.

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, WEBSTER PARK, of the city of Norwich, county of New London and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Keys for Locks; 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 annexed drawing making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the key when not in use.

Figure 2 is a view of the key partly inserted in the lock.

Figure 3 is a view of the stem A of the key, showing the groove in which the lever B, Figure 4, forming the bit of the key, operates.

The operation of the key is as follows:

When inserted in the key-hole of the lock the shorter arm of the lever B strikes the face of the lock and is turned down into the groove and held firmly there by the lock-plate, thereby raising up and securing the longer arm of the lever to operate the lock. The lever turns upon a pin in the stem, and is constructed so that it cannot move in opening or closing further than the positions required.

The nature of my invention consists in inserting in the stem of a lock-key an L-shaped lever, which turns upon a pin passing transversely through the stem, and is so constructed that the longer arm of the lever, which forms the bit of the key, shuts into a groove in the stem, so that the key may be inserted into a circular key-hole no larger than the stem, and when pushed into the lock the outer end of the short arm of the lever strikes against the side of the key-hole and is pressed back into the key-stem and held firmly there by the inner edge of the lock-plate surrounding the key-hole until the key is partly withdrawn from the lock, thus securing the long arm or bit upright to operate the lock in the same manner as the ordinary key.

The short arm of the lever should be made only long enough to prevent its being left unsecured by the surrounding key-hole when the key is fully inserted in the lock; and the L-shaped lever should be rounded out in the inner angle, so as easily to turn astride of the edge of the lock-plate through which the key-hole is made.

By this improvement no change is required to be made in the lock except to close up all but the central circular part of the key-hole.

While I am aware that keys with movable bits are in use, the object of this improvement is to accomplish the same result by mechanism of the simplest kind, which is both cheap and efficient, no springs being used to throw out the bit, nor does the bit act by its own weight or by pressure at the end of the stem.

I claim as my invention—

A lock-key, constructed as described, having a round, grooved stem, A, in which is arranged an L-shaped lever or bit, B, so adjusted as to turn astride the edge of the lock-plate when entering a circular key-hole, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

WEBSTER PARK.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. CILLEY,

A. F. PARK.