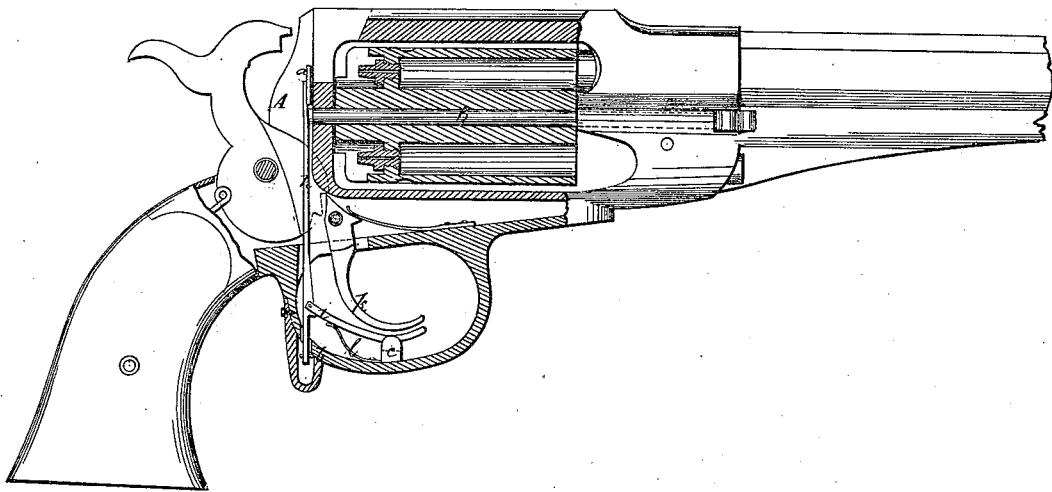


Randall D. Hay.

Safety Guard for Pistols.

109513

PATENTED NOV 22 1870



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RANDALL D. HAY, OF CROOKED CREEK, NORTH CAROLINA.

IMPROVEMENT IN SAFETY-GUARDS FOR PISTOLS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 109,513, dated November 22, 1870.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RANDALL D. HAY, of Crooked Creek, in the county of Stokes and State of North Carolina, have invented a new and Improved Safety-Guard for Pistols; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, making a part of this specification, in which the figure is a sectional elevation.

This invention has for its object to prevent the premature discharge of pistols and the accidents continually resulting from this cause.

The invention consists in a guard that automatically interposes itself between the hammer and nipple of an ordinary muzzle-loader, or between the firing-pin and metallic cartridge in breech-loaders, or between any two parts in a pistol, whatsoever they may be, which, by striking together, produce an explosion of the charge, such interposition of the guard taking place whenever said parts are separated, the said guard being automatically withdrawn from between the nipple and hammer, considered as types of the aforesaid parts, previous to the falling of the hammer upon the nipple, the said guard being retractible in no other way than by means of the trigger, and being always on the nipple, so as to prevent the communication of the spark to the charge whenever the hammer accidentally falls.

In the drawing, *a* is the guard, the same consisting of a steel plate that is affixed to the upper end of a rod, *h*, that slides vertically in a guideway formed in the frame *A* of a pistol, in rear of the revolving cylinder *B*. The lower part of the rod *h* enters a cavity in the hinder portion of the trigger-guard *b*. A curved finger, *i*, pivoted at its rear end in the sliding rod *h*, extends forward and bends upward under the trigger *k*, passing between lugs *c*, that

project upward from the trigger-guard *b*, beneath the trigger. A spring, *l*, affixed at one extremity to the trigger-guard beneath the curved finger *i*, bears at its upper end against the lower side of the latter. The function of the spring *l* is twofold, it having to press the rod *h* and guard *a* upward against the hammer, so that the guard may slip over the nipple whenever the hammer is sufficiently drawn back, and thus prevent premature explosion in case the hammer is let fall before cocking, or is accidentally disengaged from the discharging mechanism at half or full cock, the hammer in that case striking the guard instead of the cap, the spring *l* having also to press the curved finger *i* continually upward against the trigger *k*, in order that when the trigger is pulled it may force the rear end of the finger *i* and the rod *h* downward, and thus withdraw the guard *a* from the nipple before the trigger strikes the dog that liberates the hammer. The discharge having taken place, the trigger *k* flies back to the position proper for the next firing, and the spring *l* throws upward the finger *i* against the trigger, and the guard *a* against the hammer, as before. It will thus be seen that the guard *a* operates perfectly as a safety device, being always on the nipple when it is needed there, and off the nipple when it should be elsewhere.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination of the guard *a*, rod *h*, curved finger *i*, spring *l*, and trigger *k*, substantially as described.

RANDALL D. HAY.

Witnesses:

Z. S. ALLEY,
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