

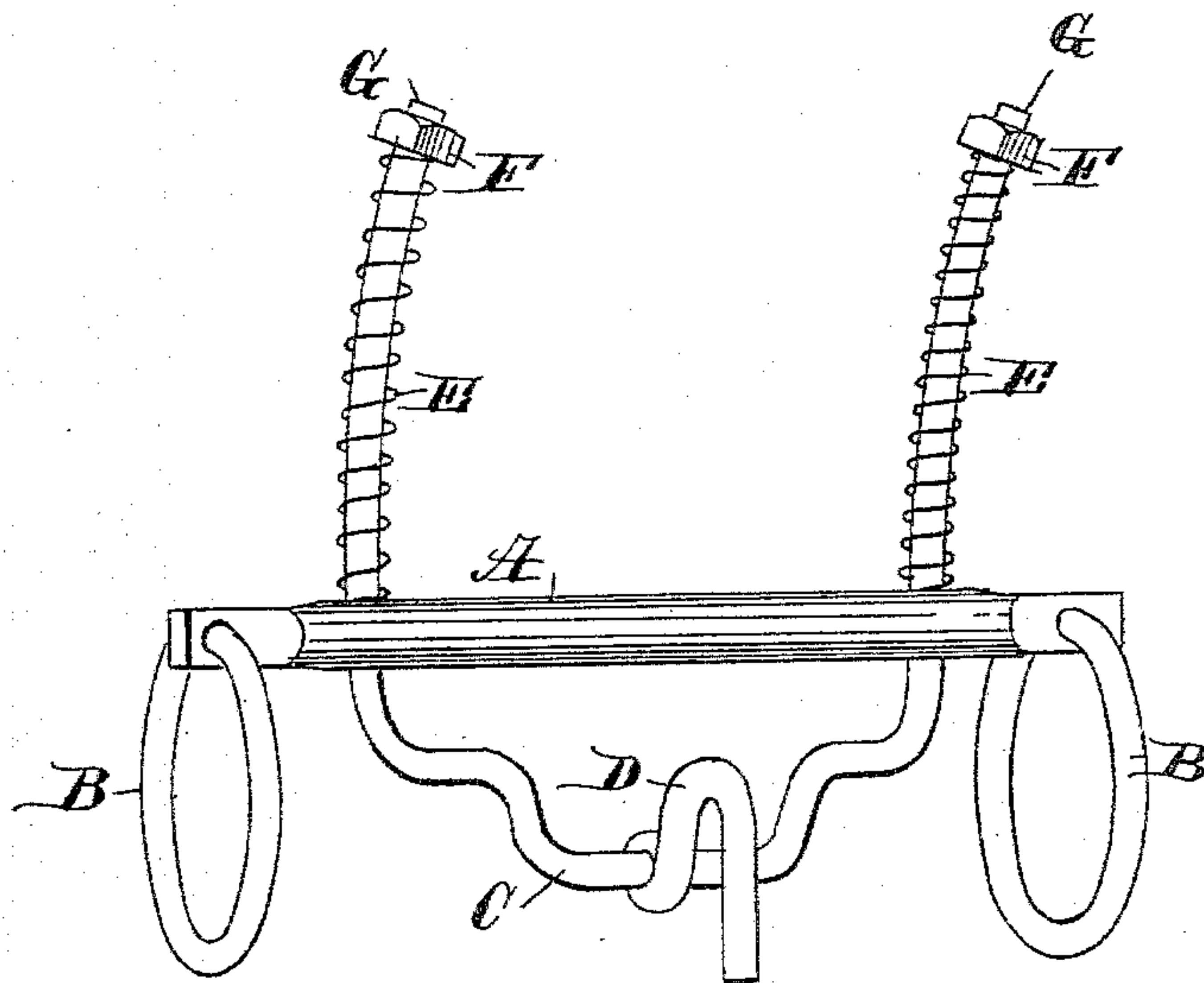
(No Model.)

M. STAPLETON.

BRIDLE.

No. 356,668.

Patented Jan. 25, 1887.



Witnesses
G. M. Gridley
C. R. Inman

Inventor
M. Stapleton
By Edwin P. Benedict
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MATT STAPLETON, OF STEVENS' POINT, WISCONSIN.

BRIDLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 356,668, dated January 25, 1887.

Application filed May 20, 1886. Serial No. 202,702. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MATT STAPLETON, of Stevens' Point, in the county of Portage and State of Wisconsin, have invented new and
5 useful Improvements in Bridles; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of said invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, and to the letters or figures of reference
10 marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a device for retaining the bit of a bridle in a horse's mouth without a headstall or straps.

15 The construction of my device is explained by a reference to the accompanying drawing, which represents a perspective view thereof.

In the drawing, A represents the bit of the bridle, and B B the rein-rings, which parts are
20 of the ordinary construction, and may be varied in style or shape to correspond with the style of the harness with which they are used.

The bit is retained in the horse's mouth by the metallic keeper C, which, when the bit is
25 placed in the horse's mouth, is drawn downward beneath his lower jaw, when the bit is moved back in place near the upper part of the horse's mouth, and is thus retained by the joint action of the keeper C and the upwardly-
30 projecting lug D. The lug D is adapted to bear against the under side within the cavity of the horse's under jaw, and it, with the keeper, is drawn up and held in position by

the spiral springs E E. The springs E E are compressed between the bit A and the tension-
35 nuts F F as the keeper C is drawn downward; but when said keeper is released it is drawn up against the horse's jaw by said springs, the tension of which is such as to securely hold
40 the bit and attachments in place. When desirous to increase or diminish the tension of the springs to conform to horses of various sizes, this end is readily accomplished by turning said nuts upward or downward upon the
45 arms G G of said keeper, the tension being increased by turning the nuts downward or decreased by turning them upward.

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

1. In a bridle, the combination, with the bit A, of the movable metallic keepers C, springs E E, and tension-nuts F F, substantially as and
for the purpose set forth.

2. In a bridle, the combination, with the
55 bit A and retaining-keeper C, provided with means for holding it in contact with the horse's jaw, of the lug D, adapted to engage within the cavity of a horse's lower jaw, substantially
60 as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

MATT STAPLETON.

Witnesses:

JAS. B. ERWIN,
E. R. INMAN.