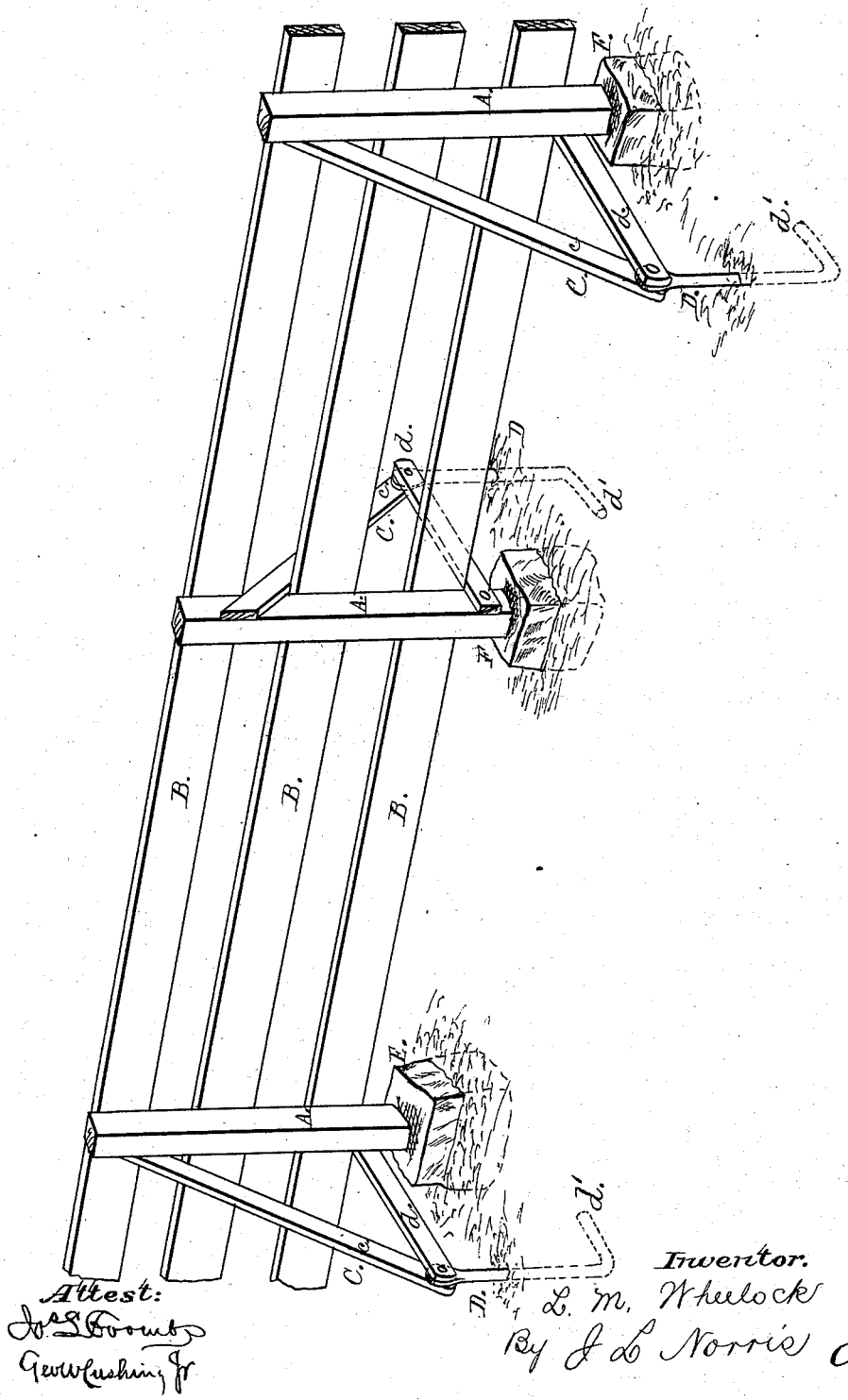
L. M. WHEELOCK.

Farm Fence.

No. 164,788. Patented June 22, 1875.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEWIS M. WHEELOCK, OF YORKSHIRE CENTRE, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN FARM-FENCES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **164,788**, dated June 22, 1875; application filed March 20, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEWIS M. WHEELOCK, of Yorkshire Centre, in the county of Cattaraugus and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in the Construction of Fences, of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to that class of fences in which the posts or upwrights are sustained in position on top of the ground by inclined and horizontal bars, they being heretofore anchored by wooden stakes driven into the ground.

My invention consists in combining, with that class of fences which are sustained on the top of the ground by inclined and horizontal braces, an iron anchor having a flanged foot which is buried in the earth and its upper end attached to the outer extremities of the horizontal and inclined bar, so as to form a strut and chord, as will be hereinafter set forth.

The drawing represents a perspective view of a fence with my improvement applied thereto.

The letter A indicates the fence-posts, and B the bars attached to the same. Said posts are made flat on their lower end so as to rest upon the ground, or upon the stone supports F. The letters C represent the braces, consisting of two bars, *c d*, of wood or other suitable material, screwed to the posts A, near their upper and lower ends. The two free ends of the post are secured to the upper end of the anchor D, which is provided with a loop, or bored for the purpose by means of rivets, or otherwise, as may be convenient.

Said anchor is constructed of wood, metal, or stone, with a foot, *d*, extending at or about a right angle away from the main body of the same, which serves to bind said anchor firmly in place when buried in the ground.

The fence is set up as usual, with the lower ends of the posts resting upon the ground, or upon suitable supports F provided for the purpose. The anchors are then buried in the ground with their upper end projecting above the surface, and the ends of the bars *c d* are attached thereto, securely holding the same and supporting the fence.

The feet at the ends of the anchors secure the same against all strain, preventing them from working loose and being withdrawn, and being formed of comparatively indestructible material, they are not liable to decay and become useless.

It is evident by placing said anchors at some distance away from the foot of the post, and attaching the two bars *c* and *d* as shown in the drawing, that the bar attached to the top of the post will act as a chord to hold the top of the post in a firm position against any strain brought to bear upon that side of the fence where said bars are attached, and that the lower bar will serve as a strut to prevent the foot of the post from moving toward or from the anchor, or if that be in a firm position will prevent the anchor from being drawn toward the post, and therefore these two bars will co-operate together, substantially as a chord-strut co-operates with the beam of a bridge to hold it in a rigid position, and as is manifestly evident the flanged foot to the anchor in such a combination is greatly superior to a simple stake driven in the ground, which only depends upon its frictional contact with the earth for support in contra-distinction to the weight of the earth upon said flanged foot as well as the friction, which can only belong to the stake and is liable to be lifted without any other resistance by the frost.

I am aware that it has been proposed in the construction of fences to support the post by a vertically inclined and horizontal bar connected with the post, and an ordinary pointed wooden ground-stake, and it has also been proposed to support the post by an inclined bar connected with a rod attached to a block, set in the earth at a short distance from the post, but such construction is not my invention, and cannot accomplish the results and functions obtained by the construction of my anchor combined with the inclined and horizontal bars, as claimed by me.

Having thus described my invention, what

I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In combination with a fence resting on the surface of the ground, the anchor formed with the flanged foot and the horizontal and vertical bars forming a chord and a strut to said post, and both attached to the end of the anchor, as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

LEWIS M. WHEELOCK. [SEAL.]

Witnessess:
ALPHEUS HARMON,
WM. B. STACY.