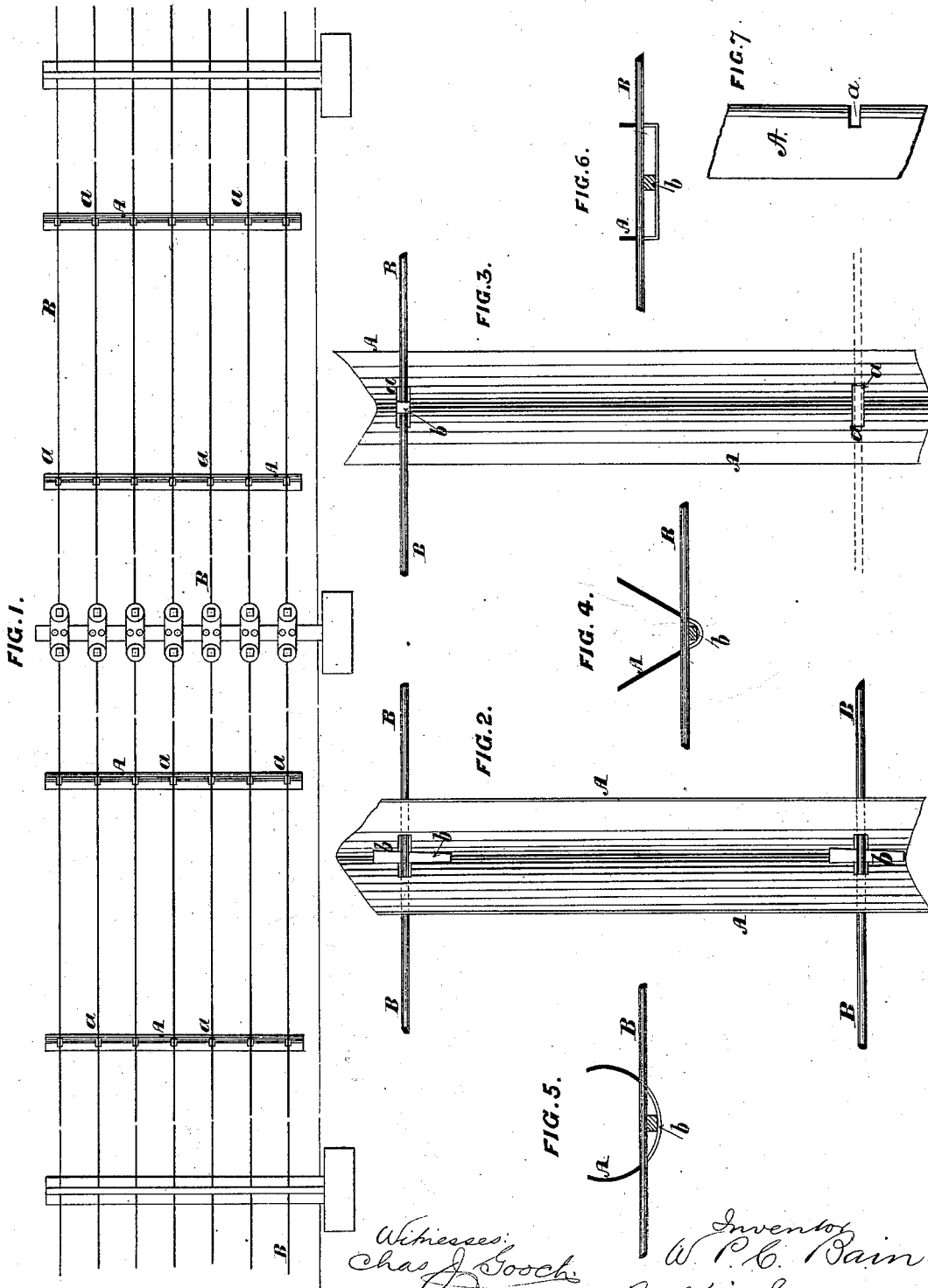


W. P. C. BAIN.
Fence-Wire Retainer.

No. 199,490.

Patented Jan. 22, 1878.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM PHILPOT CURRAN BAIN, OF EDINBURGH, NORTH BRITAIN.

IMPROVEMENT IN FENCE-WIRE RETAINERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **199,490**, dated January 22, 1878; application filed October 18, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM PHILPOT CURRAN BAIN, of Edinburgh, in the county of Mid-Lothian, North Britain, have invented a new or improved apparatus or dropper, to be employed in retaining the wires of wire fences at proper distances apart, of which the following is a specification:

My said invention has for its object to retain the lines of wire constituting a wire fence at the proper distances apart, or to prevent the said lines from becoming bent at any point between two straining or supporting posts or standards, thereby preventing irregularities in the line of fence.

The invention consists of an apparatus or dropper composed of a V or other suitably shaped strip or length of metal or equivalent material, constructed with a single series of open cuts or notches, cut horizontally across the ridge or angle, at distances apart corresponding to the distance desired to be maintained between the lines of wire.

This apparatus is hung vertically upon the fence, with the wires passing through the cuts, and it is retained in position by pins or wedges driven downward in the channel of the V between the wires and the open slots.

Figure 1 on the accompanying sheet of drawings represents a portion of a wire fence fitted with my improved dropper. Figs. 2 and 3 are, respectively, a front and back view of a portion of the dropper as applied to wire fences, the opening cut across the ridge to receive the wire being seen at *a*, Fig. 3.

The dropper A is composed of a V or other suitably shaped strip or length of metal or equivalent material, in which a series of openings, *a*, are cut horizontally across the ridge or angle, at distances apart corresponding to the distances desired to be maintained be-

tween the wires B, on which latter, after these have been strained in the usual manner, the droppers A are hung. The droppers are so suspended as to be clear of the ground, and they are secured in position by pins, wedges, or keys *b*, driven vertically downward between the wires and the ridges of the droppers, as seen more particularly at Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a transverse section of the dropper A, and shows the wedge *b* inserted in the angle of the dropper, between it and the wire B. The number of droppers between any two standards may be varied at will; and as the droppers are attached to the wires while these latter are in position and strained, the inconvenience of drawing the wires through the droppers is obviated.

Under modifications the droppers, instead of being V-shaped in transverse section, may be elliptical or semi-elliptical, as seen at Fig. 5; or they may be semicircular, or of other curved form; or in horizontal section they may present a rectangular figure, as illustrated at Fig. 6. The edges of the droppers may be slightly bent or folded, to obviate the possibility of cutting or injuring animals coming in contact therewith.

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

The improved wire-fence dropper A, constructed with open cuts or notches *a*, and secured to the fence-wires by wedges *b*, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WM. P. C. BAIN. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

JAMES McCUNKIE,
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