W. LANGHAM.

Metallic Fence-Posts.

No. 200,206. Patented Feb. 12, 1878.

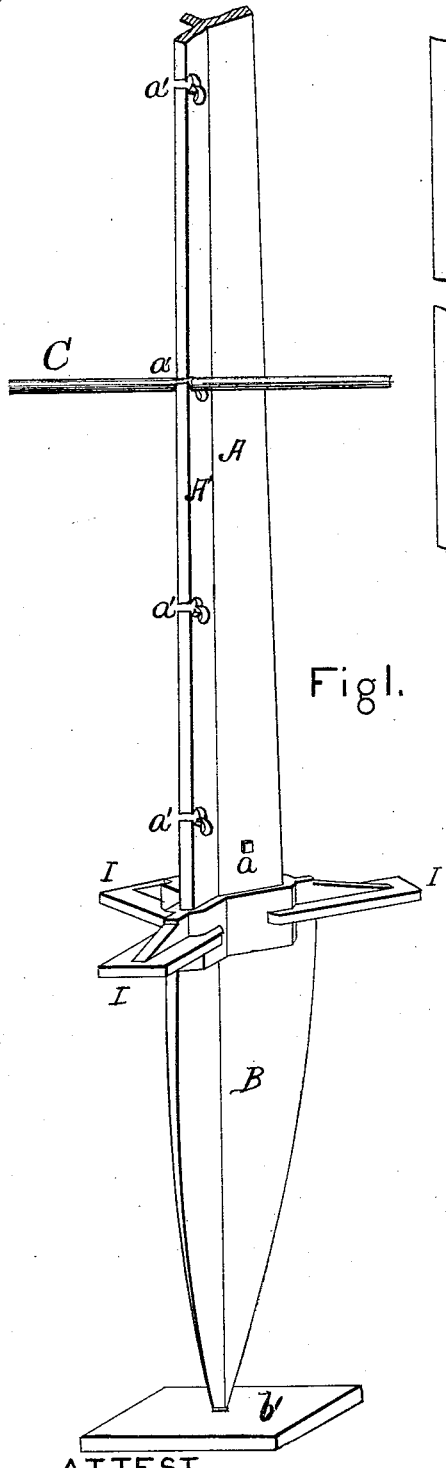

Fig 1.

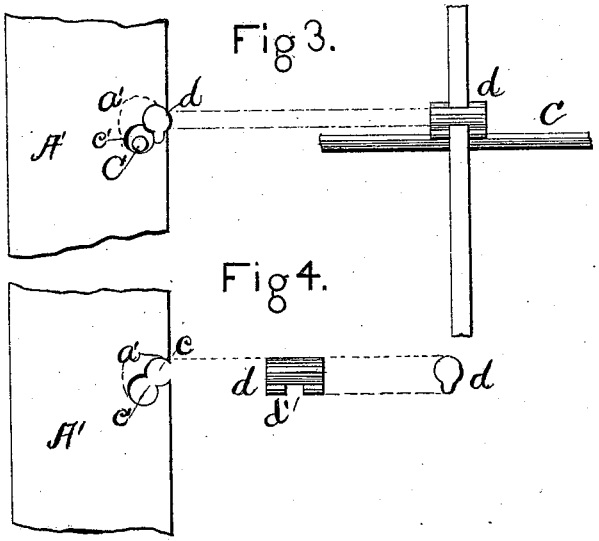

Fig 3.

Fig 4.

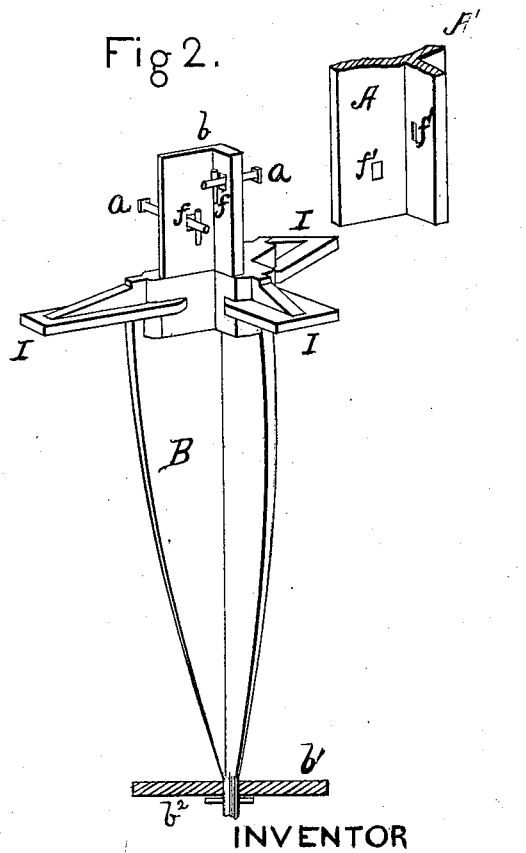

Fig 2.

ATTEST

Geo. K Reeder

J. H. Austin

INVENTOR

William Langham

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM LANGHAM, OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA.

IMPROVEMENT IN METALLIC FENCE-POSTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **200,206**, dated February 12, 1878; application filed July 23, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM LANGHAM, of Cedar Rapids, in the county of Linn and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Metallic Fence-Posts, of which the following is a description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the post. Fig. 2 is a rear view of the base and its parts. Figs. 3 and 4 show in detail the manner of fastening the wire to the post.

The nature of my invention consists in the construction of a fence-post, into which enter the cast-metal base B, with projecting stem *b*, and metal braces I I I, and metal anchor-plate *b'*, and the adjustable top A, with apertures *a' a' a' a'* in the edge of the front flange or rib A', all substantially as shown in the accompanying sheet of drawings.

My object is to construct a fence-post so as to secure great durability and wide range of use, as well as convenience and adaptability to the purposes intended, and at a comparatively moderate cost.

Fig. 1 gives a perspective view of my post as designed for wire fences. It also shows the most desirable form or shape to be used in its manufacture.

The top A may be of cast or wrought iron, or of wood, according to the use intended.

Fig. 2 gives a rear view of a section of the post, showing in detail the manner of attaching the top A to the base B.

The base B has projecting stem *b*, which is provided with holes *f f*, and corresponding to these are the slots *f' f'* in the top A.

The top A, being placed in position, is easily and securely fastened to stem *b* by means of the metallic bolts or pins *a a*.

The stem *b* is preferably of wrought-iron, and is made a part of the base B by having its lower end firmly inclosed in the cast metal—a thing easily accomplished in the process of manufacture.

The advantage claimed for a post whose top is adjustable is, that its use may be extended to picket-fences, (by substituting a wooden for an iron top,) to grape-stakes, to grape-trellises, and to all vine-supports, as well as to wire fences.

The top being adjustable permits the laying down of vines for winter protection or other purposes without disturbing the base, and, when necessary, it can be replaced in position in a moment.

In the mere detail of attaching the top A to the base B, I claim any manner or method equivalent to the one above described which convenience or necessity may suggest.

The fastening consists of aperture *a'* in the edge of front flange or rib A', in combination with metal key *d*. The aperture *a'* consists of two parts, *c* and *c'*. The wire C, when placed in position, rests in *c'*. The key *d*, having near the middle a slot or groove, *d'*, is then pushed into *c* and turned down one-quarter way round.

Fig. 3 is a section of front flange A', showing the wire C and key *d* in position, and giving both a lateral and a front view. Fig. 4 is also a section of the front flange or rib A', showing the aperture *a'*, with its two parts *c* and *c'* in proper form and relation in respect to each other. It also presents a side and an end view of the key *d*.

The anchor-plate b^1, Figs. 1 and 2, is securely yet loosely attached to the lower end of base B, and secured thereto by pin b^2. Its purpose is to prevent the post from being drawn out of the ground by the tension of the wires or action of the frost. It is especially intended for corner-posts, and for posts set in low ground, with abrupt or steep banks on the sides.

The braces I I I, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, are attached to and form an integral part of the post A B. They extend out and rest upon the surface of the ground when the post is set, and are designed to aid in keeping the same in a firm, upright position, and thus, by presenting great resistance to any lateral force or pressure, prevent sagging. They are especially adapted to prevent sagging or settling of the post in spring thaws, or in wet and sloughy ground.

It is not intended to limit the shape or number of these braces to that herein described; but the same may be of any convenient shape or number. Nor is it intended to limit their

manner of attachment to or their position in respect to the post to that herein described; but the same may be attached in any manner or position most suitable or convenient.

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

1. The within-described post, consisting of cast-iron base B, provided with braces I, and having stem or projection *b* cast or secured in its upper part, and top A, fastened thereto by the means *a f f'*, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. The key *d*, having a slot or groove near its middle, and adapted to and combined with flange A in the opening *a'* of the fence-wire hole *c* and *c'*, substantially as described.

3. The post herein described, having the base B, provided with the anchor-plate b^1, secured thereto by pin b^2, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM LANGHAM.

Witnesses:

E. K. FASSETT,

J. B. TAFT.