G. J. SHOEMAKER.

Fence-Post.

No. 206,624. Patented July 30, 1878.

Fig. 1.

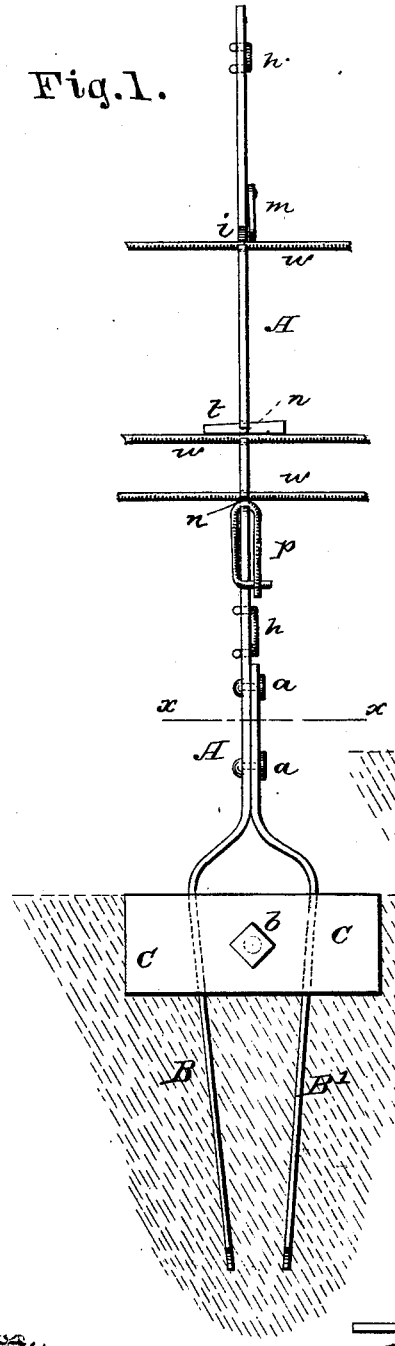


Fig. 4.

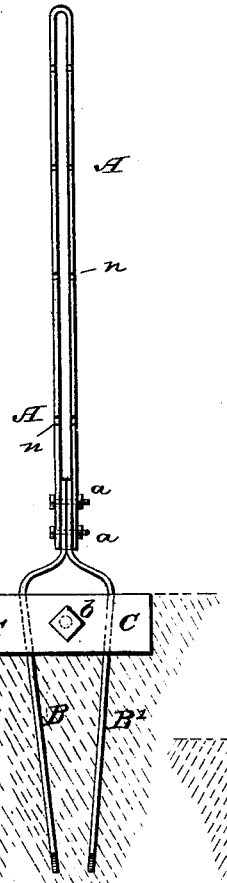


Fig. 2.

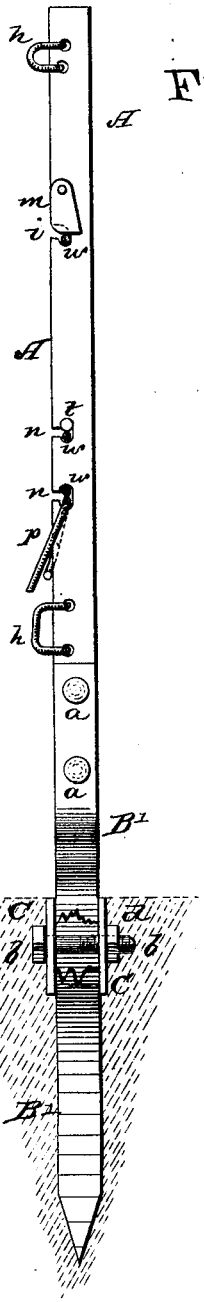
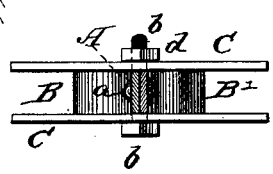


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GILBERT J. SHOEMAKER, OF ALBION, IOWA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FENCE-POSTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **206,624**, dated July 30, 1878; application filed June 19, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GILBERT J. SHOEMAKER, of Albion, in the county of Marshall and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fence-Posts; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The nature of my invention consists in the construction and arrangement of a metallic fence-post for wire or board or picket fences, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In the annexed drawing, to which reference is made, and which fully illustrates my invention, Figure 1 is a front elevation of my improved fence-post. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section through the line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a modification of the construction of the post.

A represents the post proper, made of a single piece of strap-iron, having its lower end bent outward and then downward, forming the prong B. A second prong, B′, is made of similar material, and having its upper end bent inward and upward, and fastened to the body of the post A by means of rivets or bolts *a a*.

The two prongs B B′ are pointed at their ends and slightly inclined inward toward each other, so that their lower ends will be a little closer together than their upper ends. When these prongs, which form the foot of the fence-post, are then driven into the ground, their points will approach each other and, as it were, compress or clamp the ground between them, which renders the post firm and solid in the ground, and the post cannot be taken up without the earth between the prongs also coming up with them.

On each side of the foot, near the top, is a plate, C, extending beyond the same in both directions. These plates C C lie against the edges of the prongs B B′, and are clamped firmly thereto by means of a bolt, *b*, passing centrally through them, and a nut, *d*, screwed up tightly on its end.

The plates C C are preferably arranged at such a point on the foot that when the foot is placed in the ground their upper edges will be level, or nearly level, with the ground, and when thus placed in position these plates prevent any forward or backward movement of the post, the prongs preventing any side movement, as well as clamping and holding the post firmly in the ground.

Where greater strength is required, I may make the post A double, as shown in Fig. 4—that is to say, the piece of iron of which the post is made is bent in the center, the two arms running parallel to each other and a short distance apart. The prongs B B′ are, in this case, both made separate from the post, and their upper ends inserted between and fastened by bolts or rivets to the lower ends of the arms of the post.

The fence-post as thus constructed may be used either for wire fences, board, or picket fences.

When designed for board fences, the boards are held to the post by means of wire staples *h*, passing around the boards, and having their ends fastened in holes in the post.

For picket-fences, these wire staples are arranged to hold the board or scantlings to which the pickets are fastened.

For wire fences the wires may be held to the post by various means. For instance, I have shown the wire *w* passed through or dropped into an inclined notch, *i*, in the post, and held by a pivoted latch, *m*; but I prefer to make a T-shaped slot, *n*, in the edge of the post, into which the wire is passed. An open wire loop, *p*—that is, a loop having its ends capable of being opened—is then passed through the same slot, which holds the wire therein and prevents the same from becoming detached unless the loop be first opened and removed.

In some cases I may use a wedge-key, *t*, instead of the loop.

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

A sheet-metal fence-post consisting of a single or double strap post, A, with a foot composed of two inclined pointed prongs, B B′, and the cross-plates C C, adjustably fastened to the prongs by a bolt, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

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

GILBERT JOSEPH SHOEMAKER.

Witnesses:
J. B. CRIPPS,
DAVID WORCESTER.