

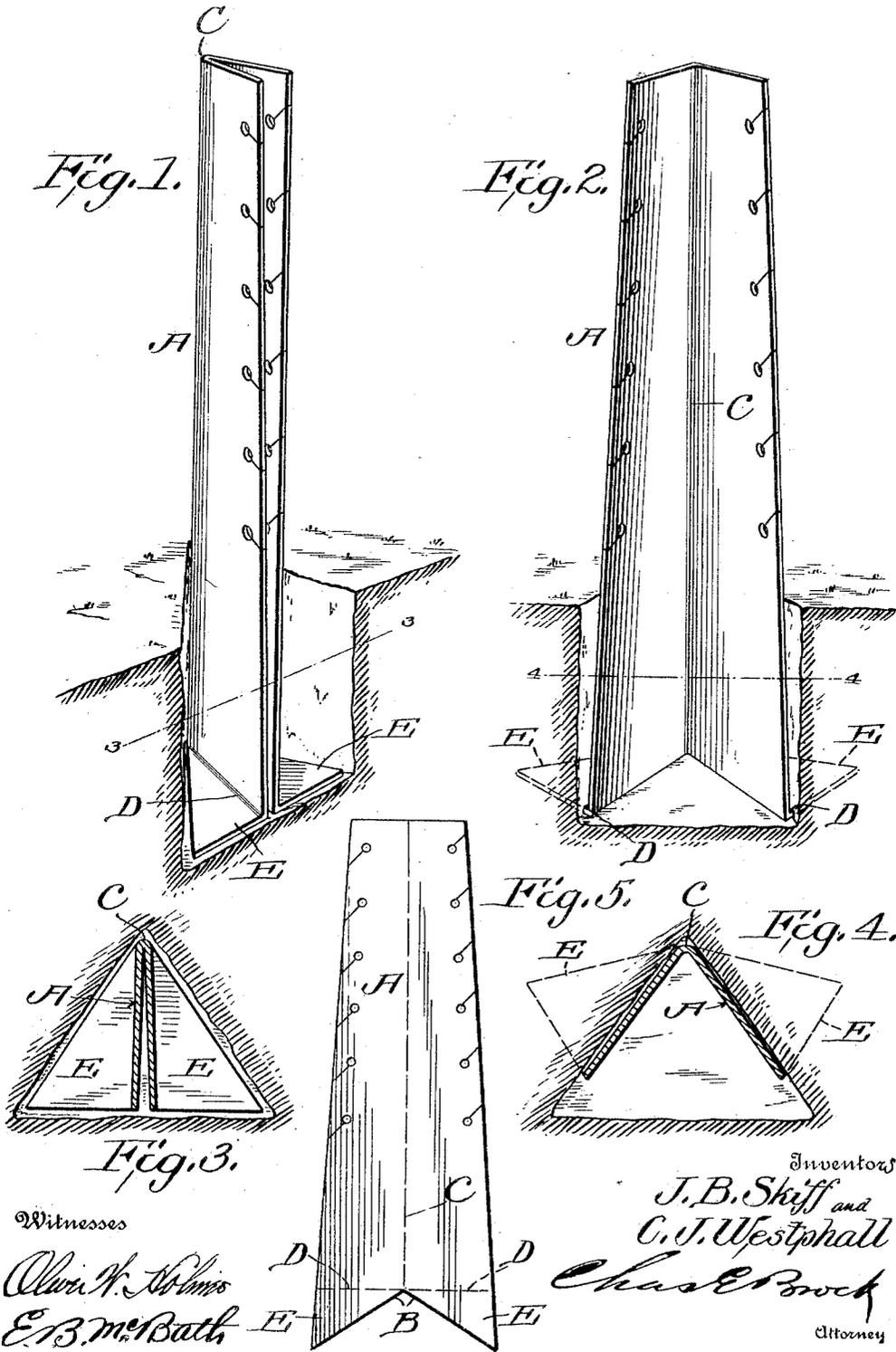
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FENCE POST.

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1,108,535.

Patented Aug. 25, 1914.



Witnesses

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FENCE-POST.

1,108,535.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES J. WESTPHALL, of Portland, in the county of Multnomah and State of Oregon, and JOSEPH B. SKIFF, of Clinton, in the county of Clinton and State of Iowa, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fence-Posts, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates generally to fence posts and more particularly to a metallic fence post, the object of the invention being to provide an exceedingly cheap and simple post, the lower end of which shall be so shaped that the base of the post can be quickly and easily set in the post hole and then spread or expanded so as to force the base of the post into solid earth, thereby more securely anchoring the post in the earth.

Another object of the invention is to provide a post and base of such construction that said base can be inserted in the hole in contracted form and then spread laterally for the purpose of securely anchoring the base within the earth.

The invention consists in certain features of construction hereinafter fully described and pointed out in the claim.

Figure 1 is a detail perspective view showing the position of the various parts when the post and base are first inserted in the post hole. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the positions the parts assume when the post is arranged ready for use. Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a similar section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a plan view of the blank from which the combined post and base is formed.

In carrying out our invention we employ a sheet metal blank A, which as shown tapers slightly toward the upper end. At the lower end this blank is bifurcated or cut away upon an angle as shown at B.

C indicates a vertical longitudinal center

on the blank along which the blank is bent, and D indicates the line of juncture between the post proper and the base, the bifurcated end of the blank being bent upwardly along this line as more fully explained hereinafter.

The side edges of the blank may be constructed in any suitable manner for the purpose of receiving and fastening the wire strands which will constitute a portion of the fence. In shaping the fence post the bifurcated base is bent upwardly at each side providing laterally projecting triangular shaped base portions E, said base portions resting in a horizontal plane as most clearly shown. The post is bent along the central line C, and when the post is to be inserted in the ground, the lower end is contracted as much as possible in order to provide as small a base as possible. Any suitable tool may be employed for contracting the post as shown, and when so contracted it is set into the post hole which may be triangular as shown. When the post is set so that it rests firmly upon the bottom of the post hole, the lower end thereof is released and the inherent elasticity of the metal blank will tend to spread the post to its normal position shown in Figs. 2 and 4, and in so doing the pointed ends of the base portions will be forced into solid earth thereby providing a secure anchorage, but in case the expansion of the blank is not sufficient for this purpose any suitable spreading means may be employed and this spreading operation is continued until the post has been spread to the position shown in Figs. 2 and 4, and it will be noted that the laterally projecting wings or base portions will be forced into the solid earth a distance equal to the height of the triangle of said base portions. The post hole is then filled with earth and the sheet metal post will be maintained in a thoroughly upright position and all danger of working loose is avoided inasmuch as the laterally projecting base wings are firmly seated or

projected into the solid earth upon opposite sides of the hole. It will thus be seen that we provide an exceedingly cheap and simple form of metallic fence post, capable of being
5 quickly and easily anchored in solid ground.

What we claim is:—

10 A fence post comprising a spring metal body portion, said body portion being folded longitudinally upon itself, and provided at its lower end with triangular shaped lateral extensions, said extensions projecting in opposite directions, said post being adapted to

spring into open position and force said extensions horizontally into the earth.

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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."