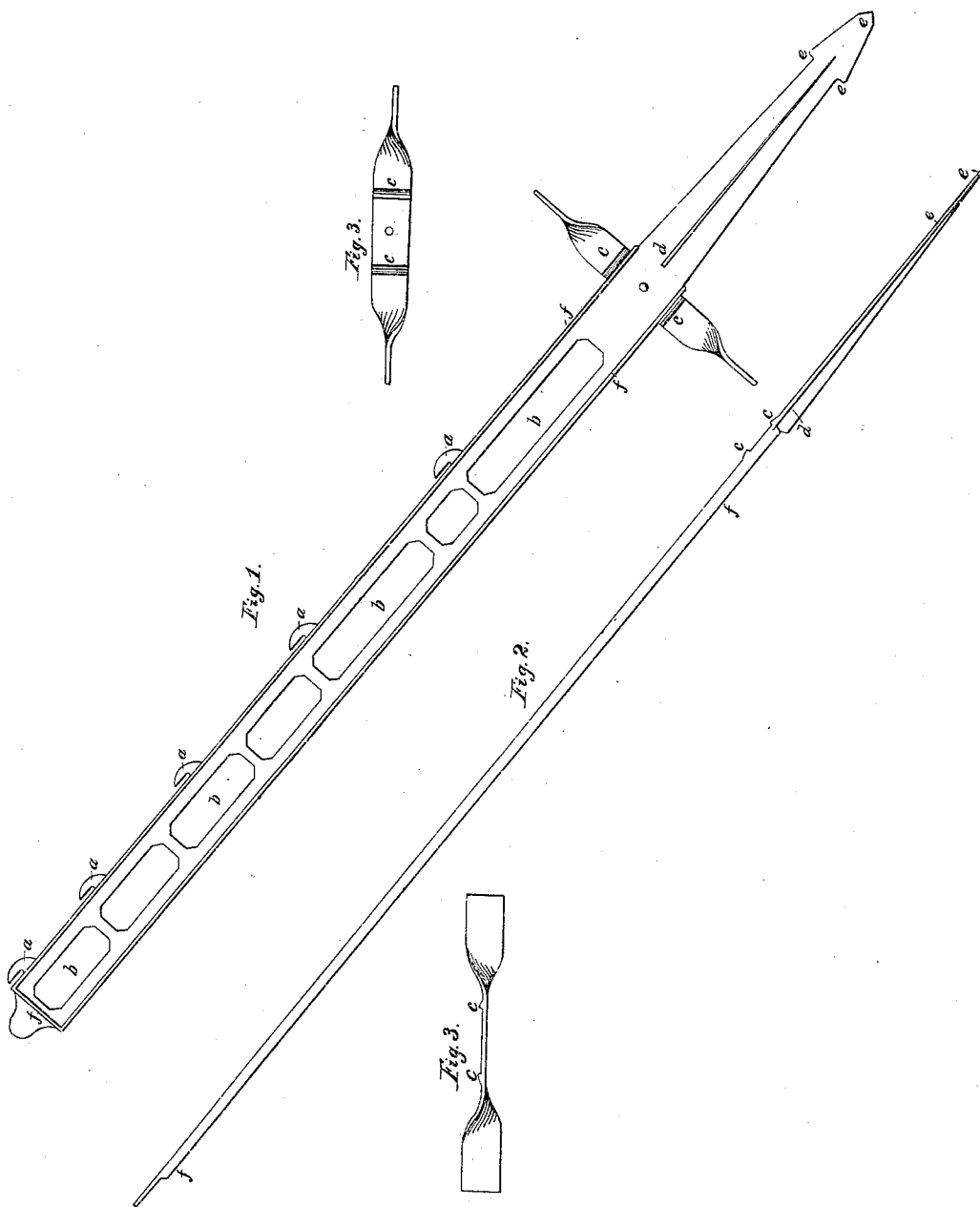


J. W. JENKINS.
IRON FENCE POST.

No. 9,921.

Patented Aug. 9, 1853.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. JENKINS, OF GREENPORT, NEW YORK.

IRON POST FOR FENCES.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 9,921, dated August 9, 1853.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. JENKINS, of the town of Greenport, in the county of Columbia and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Mode of Constructing Iron Fence-Posts; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description.

To enable others to make and use my invention the following is the description of it and of the mode of constructing and of using it.

Figure 1, of the drawings hereto attached and which form part of these specifications is a side or transverse view of my post one quarter its full size, the drawings being all one quarter the dimensions and proportions of the posts in all its parts. Fig. 2, is an edge view of the post, as it is supposed to stand in the fence, without the cross-piece. Fig. 3, are two views of the cross-piece or supporter showing how its extremities each side of the post are twisted.

a, a, a, a, a, are notches which may be cast in or on the edge of the post to support the wires of a wire fence.

b, b, b, b, are mortises into which the boards are inserted at their extremities in building a board fence.

c, c, c, c, are flanges on the cross-piece and on the post to lock the cross-piece to the post, to which it is also riveted or screwed, and to steady it when set the flat ends of this cross-piece resting in or upon the ground.

d, d, is the rib through the middle of the post, from the surface of the ground or the lower mortise—to the lower end of the post—this is for strengthening it.

e, e, e, is the lower extremity of the post, having the form of an arrow or spear head or nearly so.

f, f, f, &c., is a flange or band crossing the top and extending down both edges to strengthen it—this should extend to near the bottom of the post—something further than represented by the model and drawings.

This post may be made of either wrought or cast iron—I usually construct them of cast iron about six feet in length, leaving four or four and a half feet out of the ground when set, before the ridge is made. The cross-piece Fig. 3, is a flat piece of iron either wrought or cast about sixteen inches long and three wide, and from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch thick having two flanges, to fit the post, and is screwed or riveted to it. This cross-

piece is fitted on and attached to the post about twenty inches above the lower extremity, and is twisted, so that the two extremities of the cross-piece from the sides of the post outward present their broad or flat sides to the earth and rest upon it are buried in it. The lower extremity of the post being formed as represented in Fig. 1, facilitates the setting and prevents its being lifted by the frost. The boards can all be put in their place after the posts are set the same as bars in bar-posts and with no more trouble. They are made tight and kept firmly in their places by driving a small wooden wedge in between their tapping ends at the posts, without the use of a single nail, or one nail may be driven through the two lapping ends. Each end of the board being thus confined in the iron mortise of the post they cannot possibly warp or twist. In general no middle post or support is required. If the boards used should be unusually weak or thin a two inch lath or strip nailed across the middle of the panel and resting on the ground will serve to strengthen it. I find no necessity for this in the fences I have in use constructed as herein described. The kind of fence I prefer with these posts is three boards high having an eighteen inch embankment above the cross-piece. This makes a cheap, strong and durable fence. The notches on the edge are intended for a wire fence, so that an entire board or entire wire fence or one part board and part wire can be made. After the wire is tightened I key it in the notches with iron or wooden wedges or keys. If these posts are to be set in very stony land I use a flat iron bar to make the holes before driving the post. For a board fence it requires, after the first post, only one in every twelve feet,—for a wire fence, after the first, only one in about twenty feet. To set these posts safely and expeditiously I insert a hard wood block in the lower mortise and with a beetle or heavy hammer drive the post down until the cross-piece rests on the ground. Two men can easily set 200 of these posts per day. My posts I make about four inches wide at the ground or where the cross-piece is attached, tapering to about three at the top, and from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch thick. The notches for the wire may be made in the edge or in projections on the edge of the post.

Some of the advantages this post possesses over all others with which I am acquainted

are first, its cheapness for an iron post—
costing as I have them made not over thirty
six cents each; second, the permanency of
the post when set—not being subject to dis-
5 turbance by the action of the frost, particu-
larly if ridged up, nor by winds; third, the
facility with which the fence may be made
either of boards or wire, to say nothing of
its durability in common with other iron
10 fence posts and of its construction without
the use of nails. These posts should always
be well painted or coated with coal tar or

other durable pigment, particularly at and
near the surface of the ground.

What I claim as my invention and desire 15
to secure by Letters Patent is—

The arrow headed or barbed bottom *e, e, e*,
of the post in combination with the twisted
cross-piece Fig. 3, substantially in the man-
ner and for the purposes herein set forth.

JOHN W. JENKINS.

Witnesses:

ABEL BULLOCK,
JAY D. TEN BROECK.