(No Model.)

R. V. CLARK.

FENCE STAY.

No. 589,593. Patented Sept. 7, 1897.

Fig. 1.

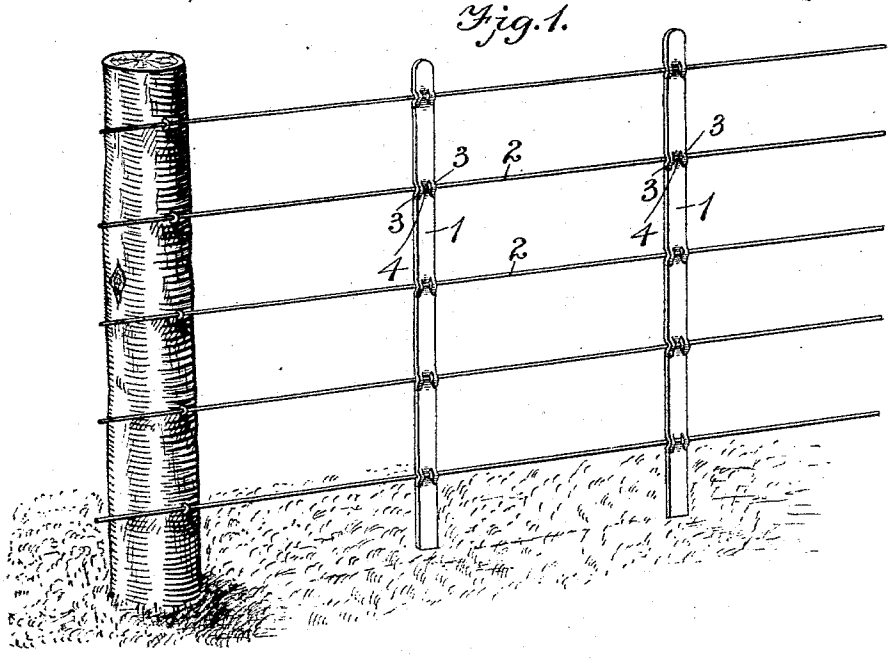


Fig. 2.

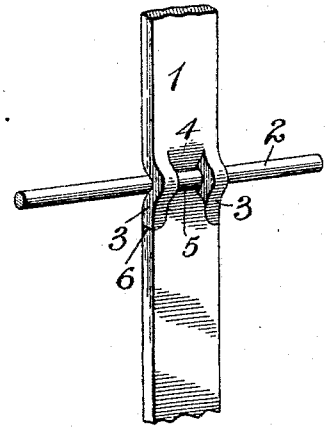


Fig. 3.

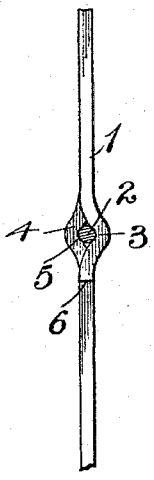
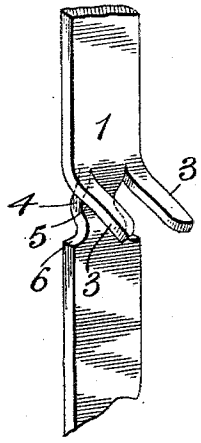


Fig. 4.



Inventor
Robert V. Clark.

Witnesses
Edwin G. McKee

By his Attorneys,

C. A. Snow & Co.

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT V. CLARK, OF TIFFIN, OHIO.

FENCE-STAY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 589,593, dated September 7, 1897.

Application filed May 15, 1897. Serial No. 636,656. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT V. CLARK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Tiffin, in the county of Seneca and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Fence-Stay, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to fences, and particularly to stays for use in connection with wire fences to engage and secure the runners in the desired relative positions; and the object in view is to provide a simple and efficient construction of lock or runner-engaging device whereby the parts are securely held against independent relative movement and whereby in case of necessity the runner may be disconnected to provide for replacing or splicing a broken runner.

Further objects and advantages of this invention will appear in the following description, and the novel features thereof will be particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a view of a fence having its runners connected by means of stays constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a detail view in perspective of a portion of a stay with a lock thereof engaged with a runner. Fig. 3 is an edge view of the same. Fig. 4 is a detail view in perspective of a portion of a stay with the tongues of the lock deflected, as seen before applying the same to a runner.

Similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

1 designates a stay provided at intervals with locks for engagement with runners 2, the intervals between the locks corresponding with the desired intervals between the runners. Each lock is formed by providing longitudinal cuts or slits in the stay contiguous to and parallel with the side edges thereof, and thereby providing tongues 3, which are free at their lower extremities, in order to engage over a runner, said tongues being integral with the stay; also, the reduced portion 4 of the stay between the upstruck tongues is crimped to form a transverse seat 5 for the reception of the runner, while the tongues are crimped in the opposite direction by the operation of folding them toward the plane of the stay after the introduction of the runner, whereby the distance between the point of junction of each tongue with the body portion of the stay and the lower end of the recess from which the tongue has been struck is equal to the length of the tongue. Hence when the tongue is folded rearwardly until its extremity is in the plane of the body portion of the stay said extremity is also approximately in contact with the lower end of the recess from which it was struck. The shoulder 6 at the lower end of the recess thus forms a guard, approximately in contact with which the extremity of the tongue is arranged, whereby passing objects are prevented from being caught by the extremities of the tongues, and yet a forward pressure upon the lower extremities of the tongues, applied from the rear of the stay, will be sufficient to displace the free ends of the tongues, and thereby enable a stay to be disconnected.

From the above description it will be seen that the essential feature of the invention resides in the fact that the tongues are formed at opposite side edges of the stay by means of cuts or slits formed approximately parallel with said side edges, said tongues and the intermediate reduced or neck portion of the stay between said tongues being crimped, respectively, in opposite directions and to the same extent, whereby the shortening of the tongues is equal to the shortening of the neck portion, and hence of the recesses from which the tongues were struck, and therefore when the tongues are folded to bring their extremities into the plane of the stay they are approximately in contact with the shoulders at the lower extremities of the recesses, and are thereby protected.

Various changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

Having described my invention, what I claim is—

The herein-described cross-sectionally flat metallic fence-stay for connecting runners, the same being provided at intervals with runner-locks, each consisting of parallel lateral tongues 3 upstruck from the body of the

stay at its edges, to form side recesses and an intermediate reduced or neck portion, and said tongues and reduced or neck portion being crimped or bowed respectively in opposite directions to equal extents to receive a runner therebetween, and the extremities of the tongues being pressed rearwardly into the plane of the body portion of the stay to fill the lower ends of the recesses and lie in contact with the shoulders at the lower extremities thereof, substantially as specified.

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

ROBERT V. CLARK.

Witnesses:
H. J. WELLER,
JNO. B. SCHWARZ.