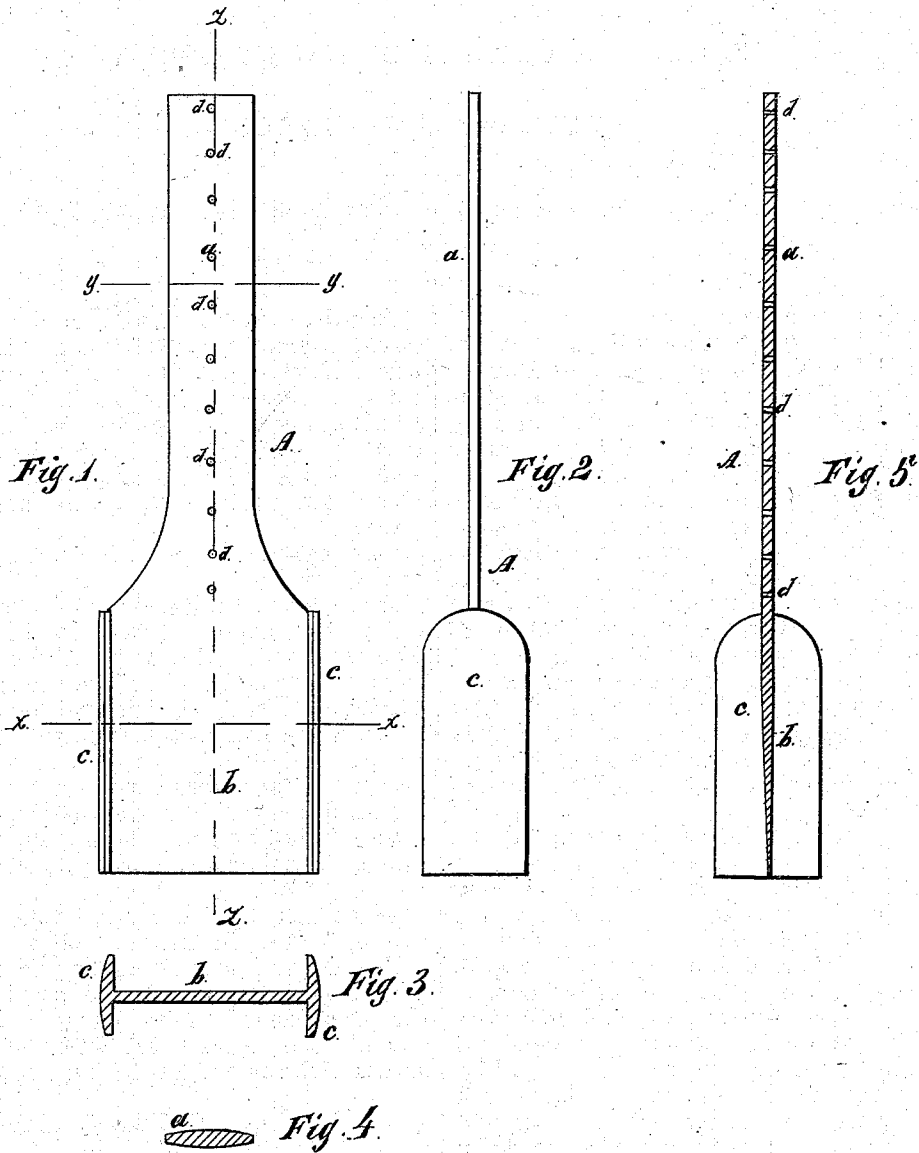


P. J. RICKARD.

FENCE POST.

No. 186,271.

Patented Jan. 16, 1877.



Witnesses:
E. A. West.
O. W. Bond.

Inventor:

Peter J. Rickard

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PETER J. RICKARD, OF DE KALB, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN FENCE-POSTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **186,271**, dated January 16, 1877; application filed May 24, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PETER J. RICKARD, of De Kalb, De Kalb county, State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Iron Fence-Posts, of which the following is a full description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation; Fig. 2, an edge view; Fig. 3, a section at *x* of Fig. 1; Fig. 4, a section at *y* of Fig. 1; Fig. 5, a vertical section on line *z* of Fig. 1.

The object of this invention is to construct an iron post so that it can be easily set in the ground, and when in place retain its upright position under ordinary circumstances, and at the same time be furnished at slight expense; and this I accomplish by making that portion of the post which enters the ground broad and comparatively thin, and with flanges upon the edges.

In the drawings, A represents the post complete. *a* is the upper end, or that portion which is above the ground. *b* is the lower end, which is intended to be placed in the ground. This portion *b* is broad and quite thin at the lower end, as shown in Fig. 5. The upper portion *a* can be somewhat narrower than the lower part, and to secure strength with the least quantity of metal, its form may be as shown in cross-section in Fig. 4. *c c* represent two flanges, one upon each side of the lower portion *b* of the post, and projecting from each side thereof, as shown in Fig. 3. The lower ends are somewhat thin. *d* are holes, designed to receive hooks or staples to hold wires, which are to be attached to the posts to complete the fence.

Boards, however, may be used with these posts, in which case a portion of them may be provided with two rows of holes, suitably located, to receive wrought-nails, by means of which the boards can be secured to the post; or the single row of holes can be used, the ends of the boards overlapping, or being placed alternately on opposite sides of the posts.

The post can be made either from wrought or cast iron.

If made as described it can be driven into the ground under ordinary conditions, thus dispensing with the cost of digging holes therefor; and when in place the broad flat surface *b* of the post and the flanges *c*, between which flanges the earth will be tightly packed, will sustain the same in an upright position under all ordinary circumstances.

I am aware that iron posts of various forms suitable for driving have been used, and therefore I do not claim, broadly, such a post; but

What I do claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is as follows:

The metal fence-post A, having its lower portion *b* broad and flat, and provided with the perforations *d* and the flanges *c*, as shown, extending full width to the bottom of the post, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

PETER J. RICKARD.

Witnesses:

E. A. WEST,
O. W. BOND.