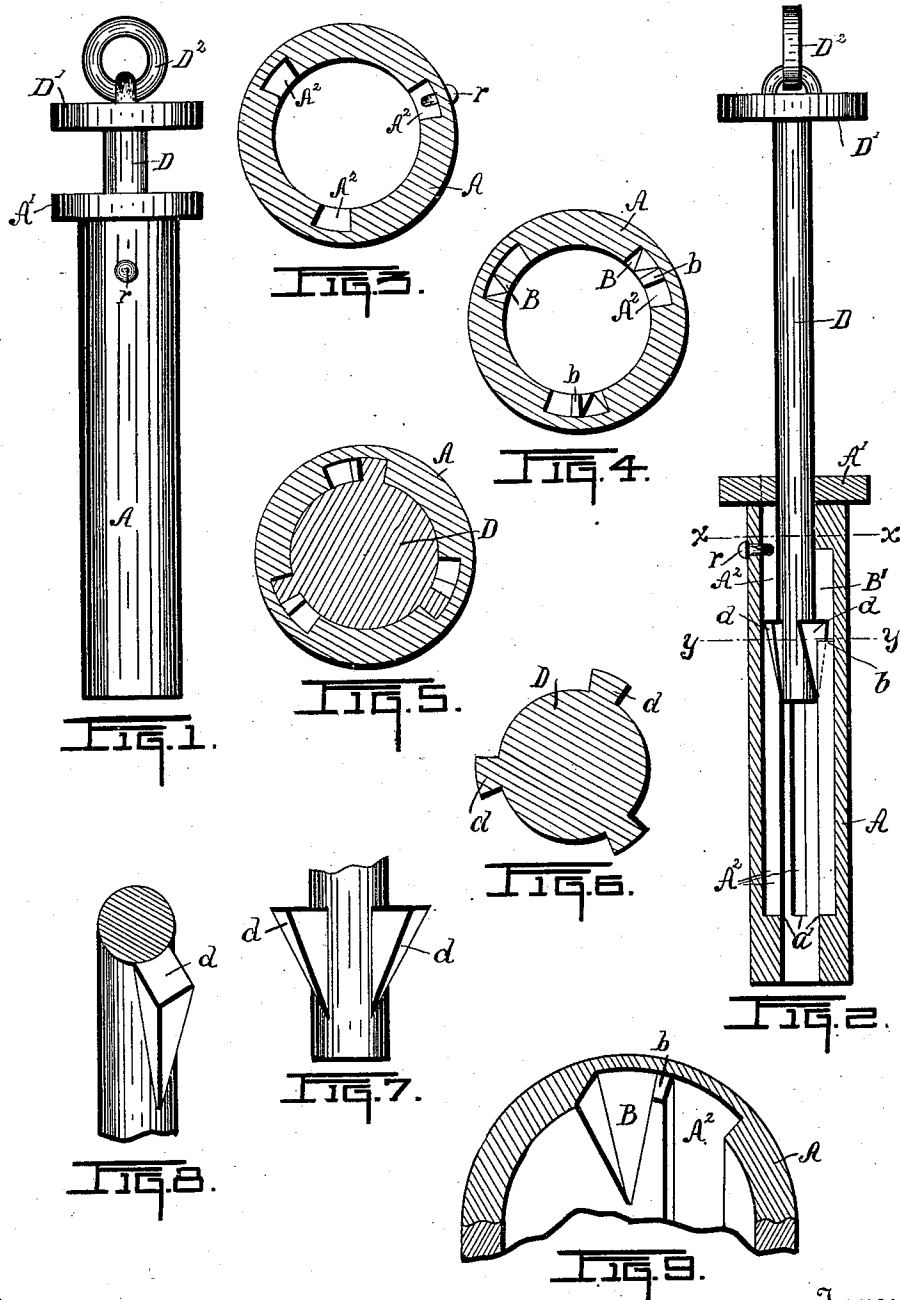


(No Model.)

W. B. MUSSELMAN.
HITCHING POST.

No. 560,299.

Patented May 19, 1896.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WEIDLER B. MUSSELMAN, OF LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA.

HITCHING-POST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 560,299, dated May 19, 1896.

Application filed February 12, 1895. Serial No. 538,093. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WEIDLER B. MUSSELMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing in Lancaster, in the county of Lancaster and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in Hitching-Posts, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in that class of hitching-posts constructed to be lowered into the ground when not required for use, so as to be out of the way; and the object of the invention is to produce a post cheap and simple in construction, and which will be held immovable when in an elevated position.

The invention consists in the construction and combination of the various parts, as hereinafter fully described, and then specifically pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 is an elevation of the case and post, the post being shown partially raised from the case. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the case, the post being shown in an elevated position therein. Fig. 3 is a section of the case on broken line *x x* of Fig. 2; Fig. 4, a section of the case on broken line *y y* of Fig. 2; Fig. 5, a section of the case and post on said line *y y*, and Fig. 6 a section of the post on broken line *y y*. Fig. 7 is an enlarged side view of the lower end of the post; and Fig. 8, a perspective view of the same part, but showing only one wedge on the post. Fig. 9 is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of the case just below broken line *y y*.

Similar letters indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Referring to the details of the drawings, A represents a hollow case having a cap A' formed or removably secured on the top thereof. In the inner wall of the case are three vertical grooves A², extending from the top of the case to a point *a'* near the bottom thereof. Above the center of the case wedge-shaped recesses B are formed on corresponding sides of grooves A² and taper both on the sides and back, so that each recess has the form of half of an inverted pyramid, the recesses being separated from said grooves by partitions *b*. From the tops of partitions *b* recesses B are extended vertically upward, as

shown at B', somewhat higher than the length of the wedge-shaped wings on the post, to be hereinafter described, and above partitions *b* extended recesses B' open into grooves A².

D indicates the post, which passes through an orifice in cap A' and has a collar D' on the upper end that rests upon said cap when the post is housed in the case. A ring D² is secured on the top of the post, whereby it is raised and lowered, and to which the hitching-strap is fastened. On the lower end of post D are formed inverted wedge-shaped wings *d*, tapering on their front and side faces from their bases downward and of greater depth than recesses B, but of corresponding taper and adapted to engage therein. When the post is housed in the case, wings *d* are engaged with grooves A², of somewhat greater width than the butts of said wings. For use the post is raised until wings *d* are opposite the upper part B' of recesses B, when the post is turned so as to carry the wings into said recesses. The post is then dropped or lowered to engage said wings with the correspondingly-shaped recesses B. The wings are of greater depth than recesses B, to allow for the wear of the contacting parts. To again lower the post into the case, the manner of manipulating it is reversed.

Grooves A² are carried up through cap A', but after the post is introduced into the case a stud *r* is inserted through an opening in the wall thereof into one of the grooves A², to limit the upward movement of the post.

The engagement of the wings with recesses B secures the post in a rigid position when elevated. The wings and the corresponding recesses may be tapered in but one way—either on the edges from top to bottom or on the faces from top to bottom; but the shape shown and described is preferred. I also prefer to use three recesses and three wings, as giving the post greater stability. By reason of their shape the wings automatically take up the wear of their own sides and of the sides of the recesses engaged thereby, for as the contacting parts wear away the wings will continue to settle

of wedge and wedge-recesses. Neither do I restrict myself to the particular construction and arrangement of the grooves adjoining the wedge-recesses herein shown and described.

- 5 My invention involves a radical departure in the construction and principle of operation in hitching-posts, the invention consisting, broadly, in a vertically-movable post having a tapering wing adapted to engage a similarly-shaped recess in an inclosing case.

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

1. The combination, in a hitching-post, of
15 a case having a recess therein of the shape of a wing on the post, a vertically-movable post in said case, and a tapering wing located on the post with its butt upward, said wing being adapted to engage the recess in the case,
20 for the purpose specified.

2. The combination, in a hitching-post, of a case having three recesses therein of the shape of wings on the post, a vertically-movable post in the case, and three tapering wings
25 located on the post with their butts upward and adapted to engage the recesses in said post, for the purpose specified.

3. The combination, of a case provided with vertical grooves therein extending to, and
30 open at, the top of said case, and having recesses opening into the grooves, said recesses extending below the openings into the

grooves, a revoluble post constructed to be raised and lowered in the case, wings on the post adapted to pass through the openings
35 between the grooves and recesses and to engage the lower portions of said recesses, and a stud removably engaging a perforation in the back of one of said grooves above the openings into said recesses, said stud pro-
40 jecting into the path of travel of the wing engaging said groove, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

4. The combination, in a hitching-post, of a case provided with vertical grooves therein
45 extending to, and open at, the top of said case, and having recesses opening into the grooves, said grooves having tapering lower ends extending below the openings into said grooves, a revoluble post constructed to be raised and
50 lowered in the case, tapering wings on the post adapted to pass through the openings between the grooves and recesses and to engage the tapering ends of said recesses, and a stud removably engaging a perforation in the back
55 of one of said grooves above the openings into said recesses, said stud projecting into the path of travel of the wing engaging said groove, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

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