(No Model.)

W. A. PRATER.

FENCE POST.

No. 395,995. Patented Jan. 8, 1889.

Fig. 2.

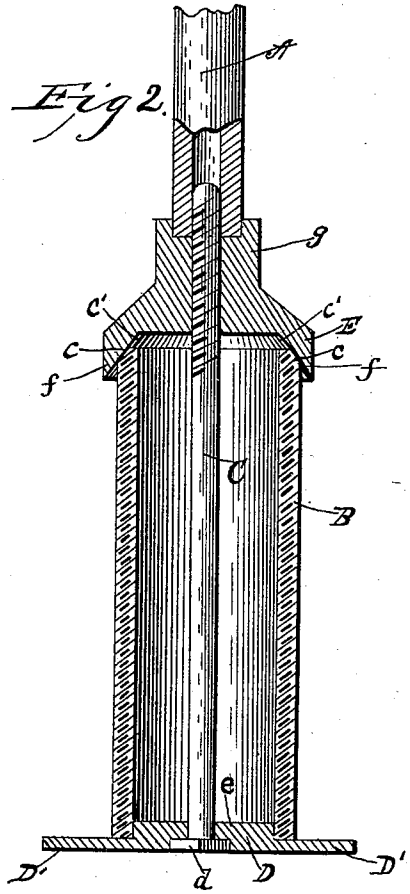


Fig. 3.

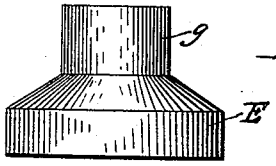


Fig. 4.

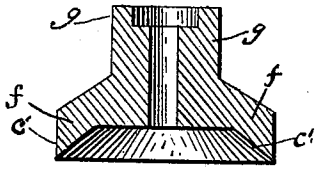
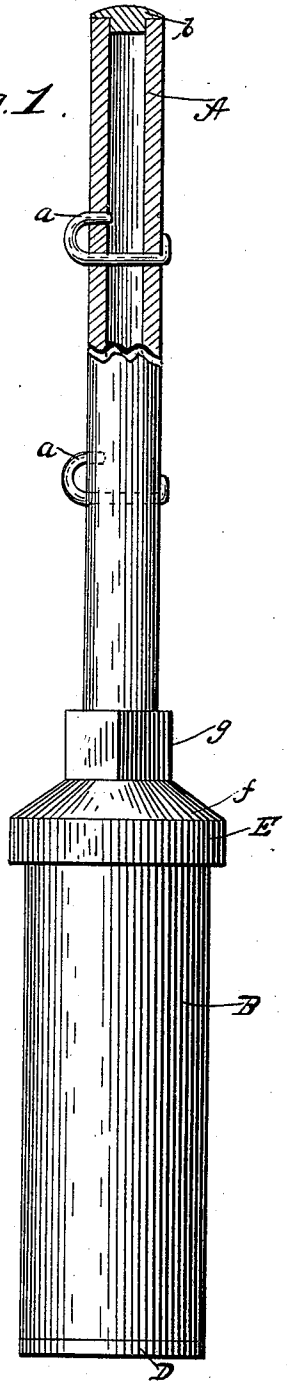


Fig. 1.



WITNESSES,
Chas. L. Post.
C. D. L. Cairns

INVENTOR,
Wm. A. Prater
By C. M. Alexander
Attorney.

N. PETERS. Photo-Lithographer. Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. PRATER, OF PAW PAW, MICHIGAN.

FENCE-POST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 395,995, dated January 8, 1889.

Application filed October 11, 1888. Serial No. 287,815. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. PRATER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Paw Paw, in the county of Van Buren and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fence-Posts, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a side elevation, partly in section, of my improved post; Fig. 2, a vertical sectional view of the base of the post; Fig. 3, a side elevation of the upper cap-plate; Fig. 4, a vertical sectional view of the same.

The object of the invention is to produce a very simple, inexpensive, and durable base for fence-posts, hitching-posts, &c.; and it consists in certain novel features of construction and arrangement of parts, that will be fully hereinafter described, and particularly pointed out in the claims appended.

Referring to the drawings by letter, A designates the post proper, which is preferably constructed of gas-piping or other strong metallic tubular material. The post may be provided with metallic clips or fasteners *a*, for the attachment of the fence-wires, and its upper end may be covered or plugged with a cap or plug, *b*.

The letter B designates a cylindrical burned clay or terra-cotta tile, which has its upper outer edge beveled, as at *c*. A vertical screw-threaded bolt, C, passes up centrally through this tile and through a central aperture in a bottom cap, D, the square head *d* of the bolt being recessed into the under side of the said cap D. The plate D is provided with a circular enlargement, *e*, on its upper side, which fits into the bottom of the tile. The bottom cap may also be provided with an annular lateral extension or flange, D′, as shown in Fig. 2, which will serve to more firmly anchor the post in the ground and keep it in a vertical position. The upper screw-threaded end of the central bolt, C, is passed through a metallic cap-plate, E, and is tapped into the lower end of the tubular post A, by which means the tile, cap-plate, bolt, and post are all firmly and solidly drawn and held together. The cap E is provided with an overhanging annular flange, *f*, the interior of which is beveled, as at *c*′, correspondingly to the bevel upon the upper end of the tile against which it bears. In this way the mere act of drawing the parts together by means of the bolt will serve to "center" the tile and bring it to and keep it in a perfectly vertical position. The central aperture through the cap E may be provided with screw-threads also, and the cap screwed down upon the bolt, as shown in Fig. 2. This will serve to bind the parts still more firmly and closer together. In this case the central enlargement, *g*, formed upon the upper side of the metallic cap E may be made square, as shown in Fig. 1, for the application of a wrench or other tool. The enlargement *g* is recessed for the reception of the lower end of the tubular post A. Thus recessing the lower end of the post into the enlargement *g* on the cap serves to assist the bolt C in holding the post firmly in an upright position. Should this not be sufficient to render the post firm, however, it is evident that the upper end of the bolt may be extended up farther into the post than is shown.

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

1. The combination of a cylindrical tile, a bottom cap-plate therefor, an upper flanged cap-plate for the tile, provided with a central passage and an enlargement, *g*, upon its upper surface, this enlargement being recessed, a central securing-bolt passed up centrally through the cap-plates and tile, and a metallic tubular post screwed upon the upper projecting end of the said bolt, and having its lower end fitted in the recess in the upper end of the said enlargement *g*, substantially as described.

2. The combination of the cylindrical tile B, having its upper outer edge beveled, as at *c*, a centrally-perforated metallic bottom cap, D, fitted over the lower end of the tile and provided with the upper circular enlargement, *e*, and the lateral annular flange D′, the upper centrally-perforated cap, E, fitted over the upper beveled end of the tile and provided with an overhanging beveled flange, *f*,

and an enlargement, *g*, a securing-bolt passed up centrally through the caps and tile, and a hollow metallic post, A, tapped upon the upper projecting end of the said securing-bolt, and fitting in a recess in the upper end of the said enlargement *g*, substantially as and for the purposes herein specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM A. PRATER.

Witnesses:
R. M. BUCK,
JAMES A. CLARK.