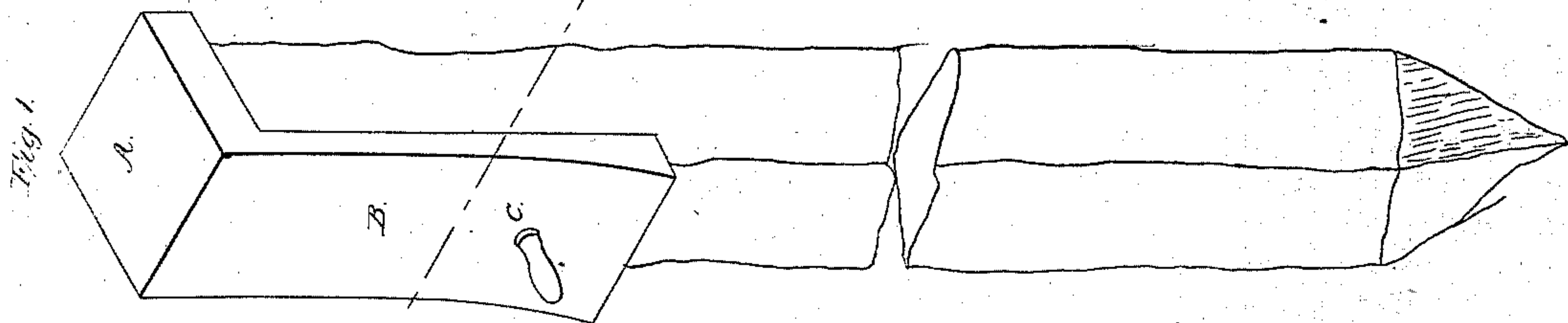
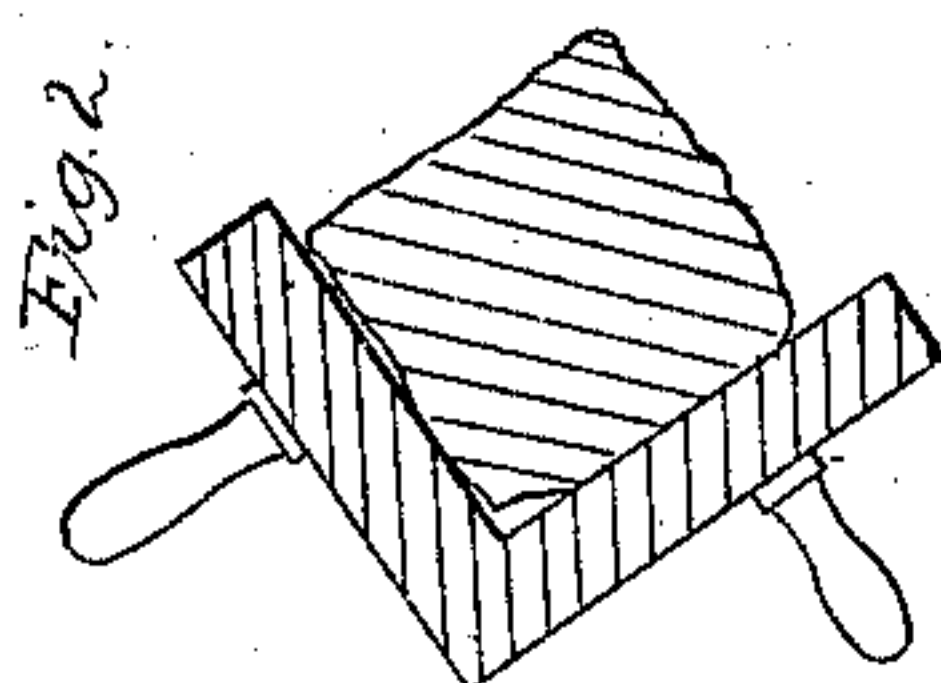
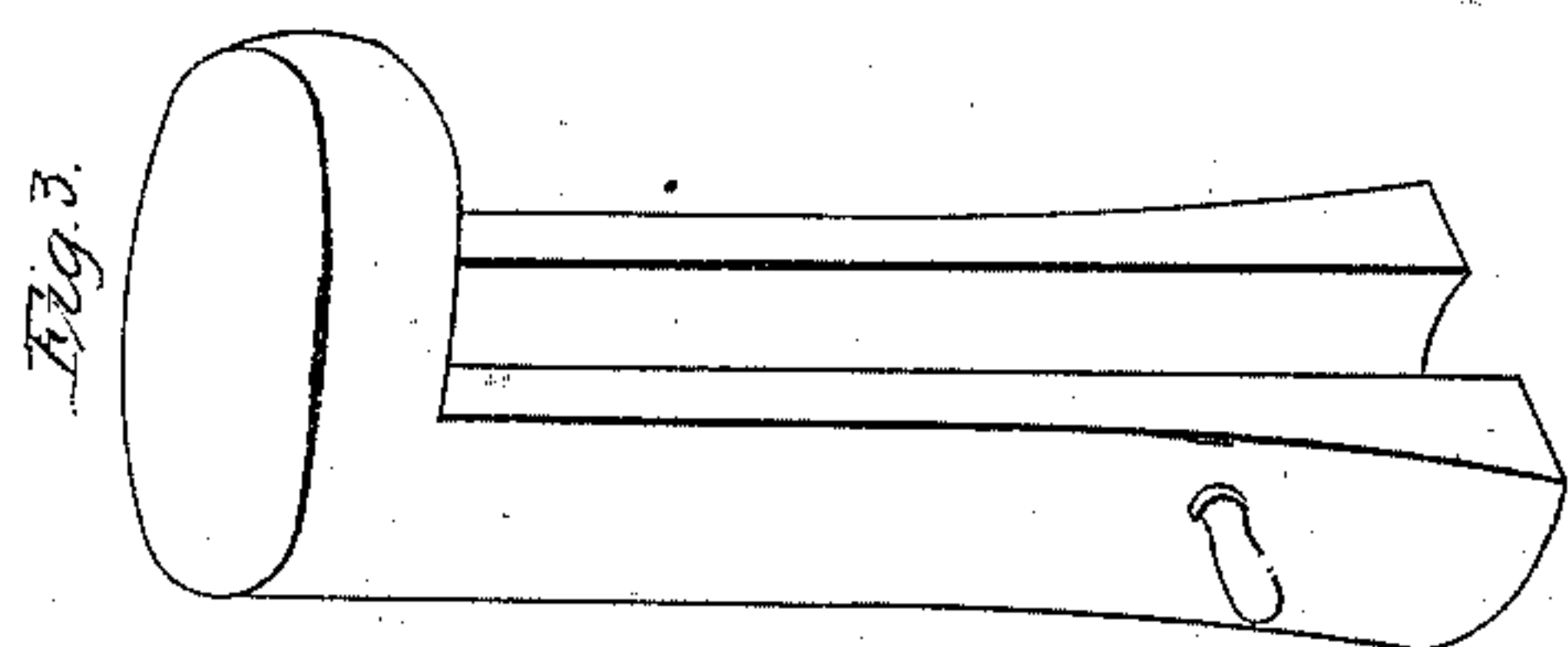


*D. D. Foley,*  
*Pile Driver,*

*No. 59,990,*

*Patented Nov. 27, 1866.*



*Witnesses.*

*R. D. Smith*  
*Edw. P. Brown*

*Inventor.*

*D. D. Foley*

# United States Patent Office.

## IMPROVED POST DRIVER.

D. D. FOLEY, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

*Letters Patent No. 59,990, dated November 27, 1866.*

### SPECIFICATION.

#### TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, D. D. FOLEY, of Washington city, in the county of Washington, and District of Columbia, have invented a new and useful improvement in Rammers for Driving Fence Posts; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my implement in operation.

Figure 2 is a horizontal section of the same upon the line *x x*.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of my implement in a modified form.

The nature of my invention will be understood by the following description.

The common mode of setting fence posts is by digging or boring suitable holes, into which the posts are then inserted, and the earth which was removed is then replaced and rammed down. This is a slow and tedious operation, and may be much more rapidly and satisfactorily performed by driving the posts (previously sharpened) into the ground, without the labor and trouble of boring or digging the post holes. Posts have sometimes been driven into the ground for the purpose of making a fence, but it has generally been where the posts were very slender and designed for a wattle fence. Hitherto no implement has been at hand for this purpose but a heavy sledge or maul, and they could not advantageously be used for this purpose, because, first, they are not heavy enough (and could not be used if made sufficiently heavy) to drive a post of the size commonly used in building post-and-rail or board fences; second, the repeated blows of a heavy sledge or maul, if used to drive a large post, would batter and split the head of the post so as to injure it materially, and it is therefore impracticable to drive a post in this way. But with my implement a post of any ordinary size may be driven with ease, and without the least damage. It consists of a heavy weight in the form represented in figs. 1, 2, and 3.

The cap A strikes fairly upon the flat top of the post at each blow, and therefore will not injure it materially; while, from the great force of the blow, it will require to be struck but a few times to effect the purpose. The cap A is connected with side pieces, B, about three feet in length. These sides may be plain surfaces at right angles to each other, or they may represent a segment of the surface of a hollow cylinder, as in fig. 3. The handles *c c*, near the lower ends of the side pieces, are for the purpose of enabling the workmen to raise the rammer when a blow is to be delivered. It is thought that the weight of this implement should be fifty (50) to seventy-five (75) pounds, though further experiment may show a necessary variation from this standard.

When a post is to be driven by my implement, its lower end is first sharpened with an axe. It is then set up in the proper place and position, and held so either by an individual or by some mechanical means. The rammer is then lifted and placed upon the post, as represented in fig. 1, the cap A resting upon the top, and the sides B resting against the sides of the post. Two men now grasp the handles *c, c*, and raise the rammer upward about two feet, sliding the side pieces along the surface of the post. When the proper height is reached, the workmen release the handles, and the whole implement slides down the side of the post, which then acts as a guide, until the cap A strikes upon the top of the post with a force due weight of the rammer and the distance through which it has fallen.

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

The fence-post driver, composed of a cap A, and sides B, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

D. D. FOLEY.

Witnesses:

EDM. F. BROWN,

R. D. O. SMITH.