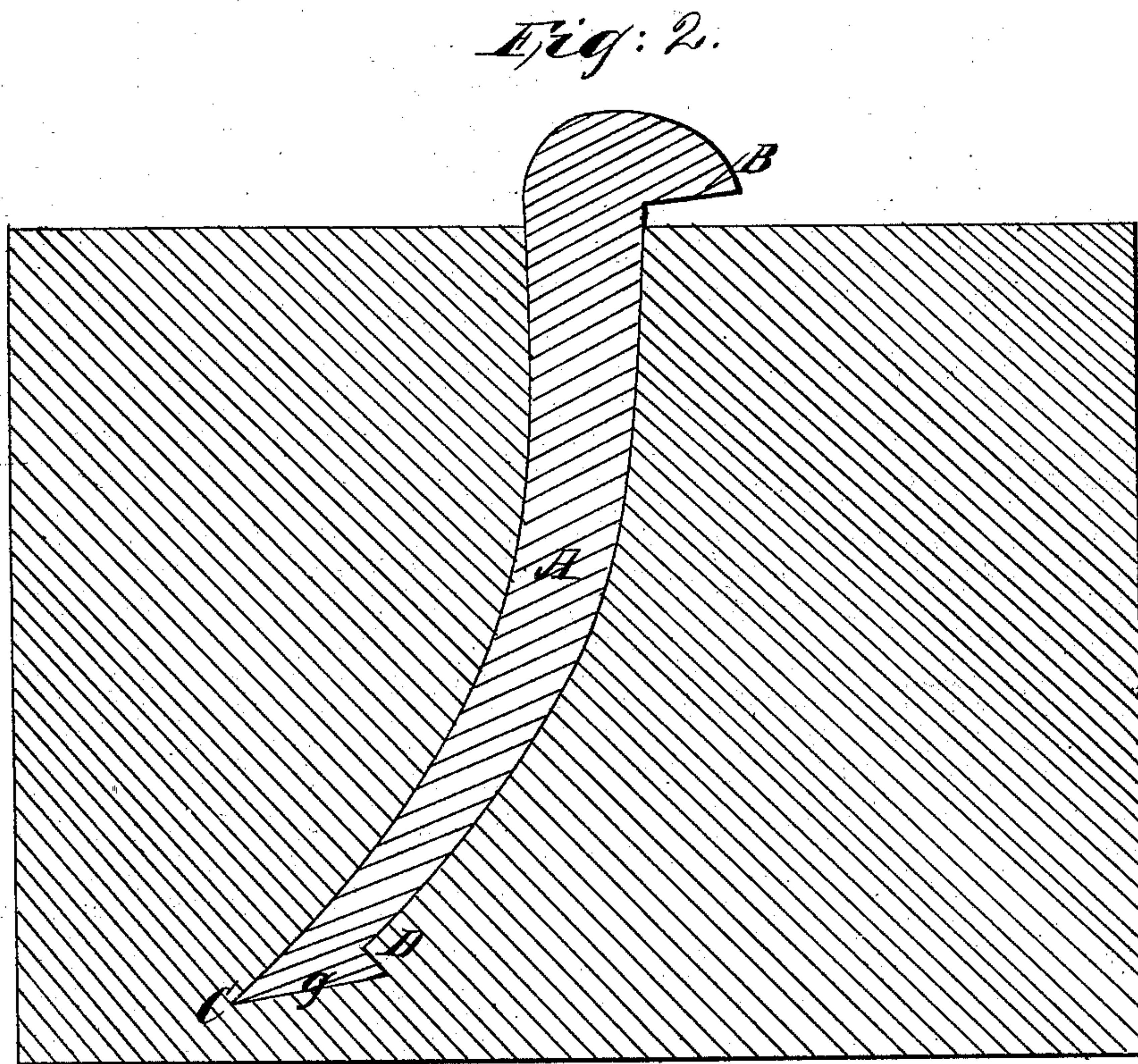
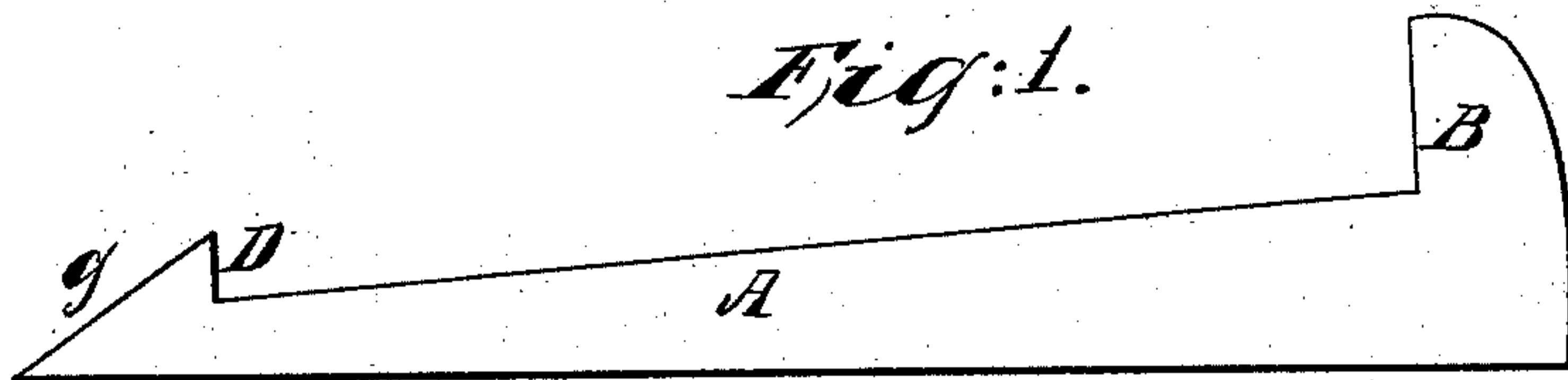


*J. McMurtry,
Spike.*

N^o 66,100.

Patented June 25, 1867.



Witnesses:

F. Lehmann

Robt Green

Inventor:

Jno. McMurtry

Per

*J. H. Alexander & Co.
attys*

United States Patent Office.

JOHN McMURTRY, OF LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY.

Letters Patent No. 66,100, dated June 25, 1867.

IMPROVED SPIKE.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JOHN McMURTRY, of Lexington, Kentucky, have made certain new and useful improvements in Spikes for Railroads; and I hereby declare that the following is a true, full, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1, in the annexed drawings, which are made a part of this specification, represents the spike before it is driven into the wood.

Figure 2 is a plan view of my improved spike when in place.

The letter A represents the body of my spike, in the wood, which is gradually curved from the head B to the point C after it is driven into the wood. Near the point of the spike a shoulder, D, is made. When the spike A is driven home it will describe the segment of a circle, and the shoulder D, being at a right angle with the spike, will cut away the wood in a corresponding direction, thereby forming a barrier sufficient to resist any attempt to withdraw the spike A from its place.

The advantage of my spike over the one in common use will be easily seen. The straight spike, as seen in fig. 1, will have the disturbing force from the pressure of the car-wheels acting in a line with the spike, which, by constant agitation, will soon become loose and consequently worthless. With a curved spike the case is otherwise, for the pressure, in place of being in a vertical line, acts on it at an angle, which angle is constantly increasing from the head to the point of the spike. This pressure will be so slight at the shoulder D that no abrasion of the wood can take place, and the spike A will remain for any length of time as firmly embedded in the wood as when first inserted. It will be remarked that my spike is straight when manufactured, and describes the segment of a circle in consequence of the bevelled end *g* and shoulder D when driven into the sill. The head of the spike will be placed on the same side with the shoulder D.

I am aware that the bevelled or sloping end, together with a shoulder, has been used. The shoulder and bevelled end are upon opposite sides, and upon a pronged spike. A spike constructed after this manner has certain disadvantages which I propose to obviate. I do not, therefore, claim either the bevelled or sloping end, or the shoulder in a broad sense; but what I do claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The within-described spike, consisting simply of a single shank, provided with a bevelled or sloping end and shoulder, said shoulder and bevelled end being upon the same side, and for the purpose set forth and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I hereby affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN McMURTRY.

Witnesses:

GEO. C. McMURTRY,
AD. J. KROESING.