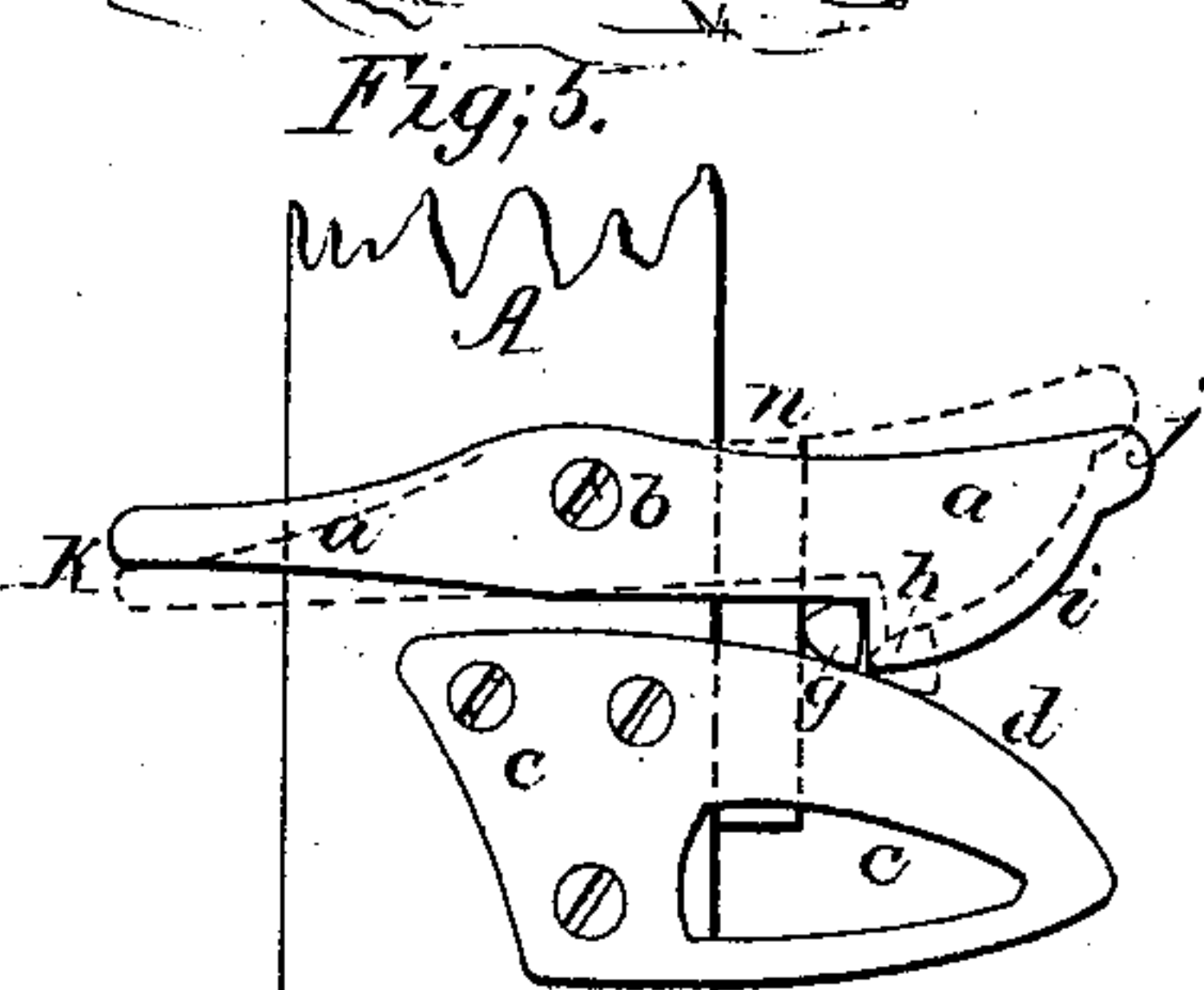
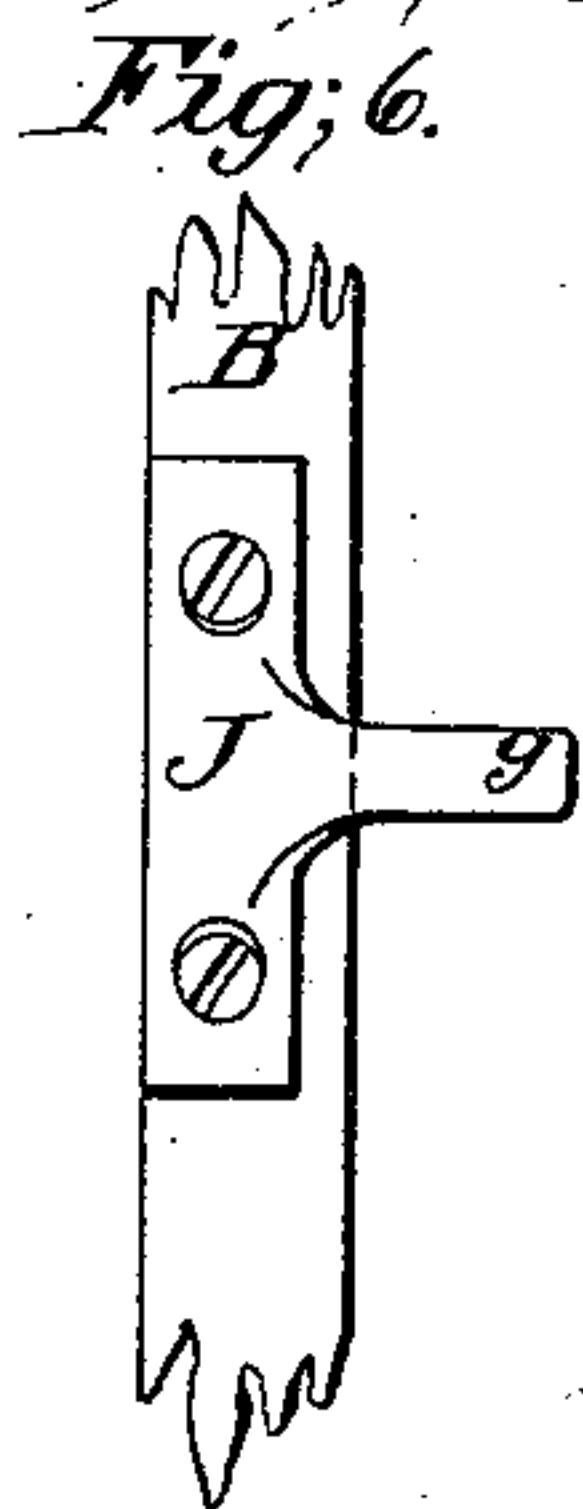
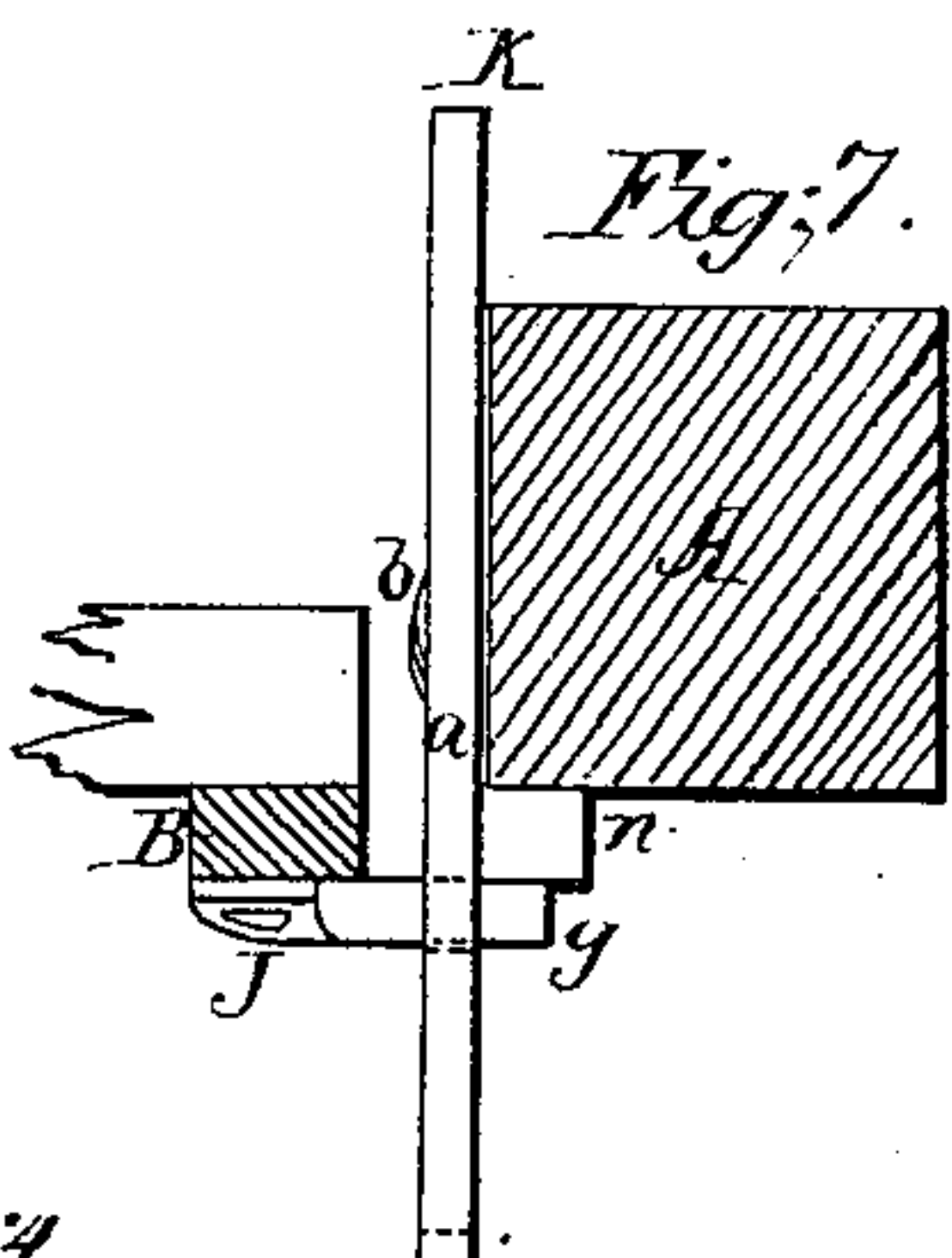
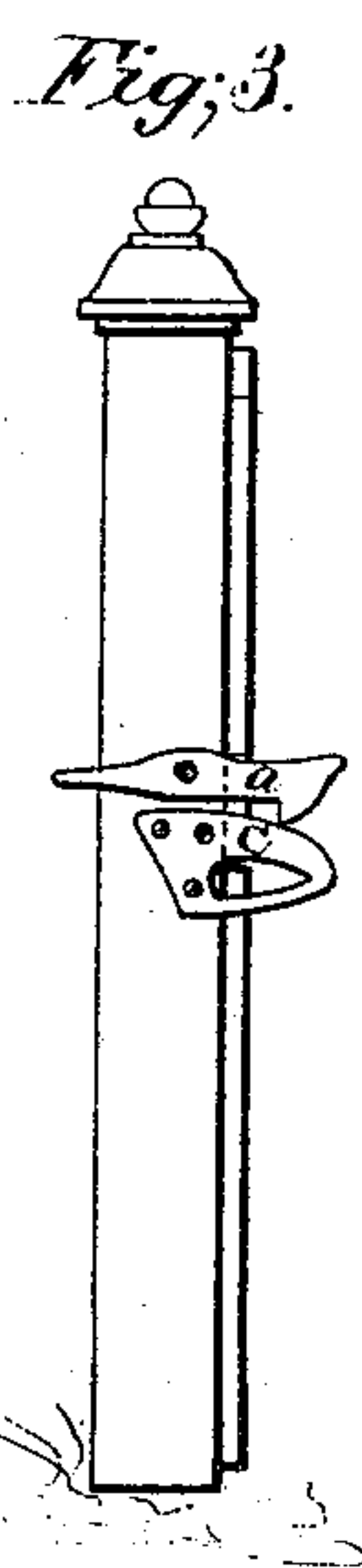
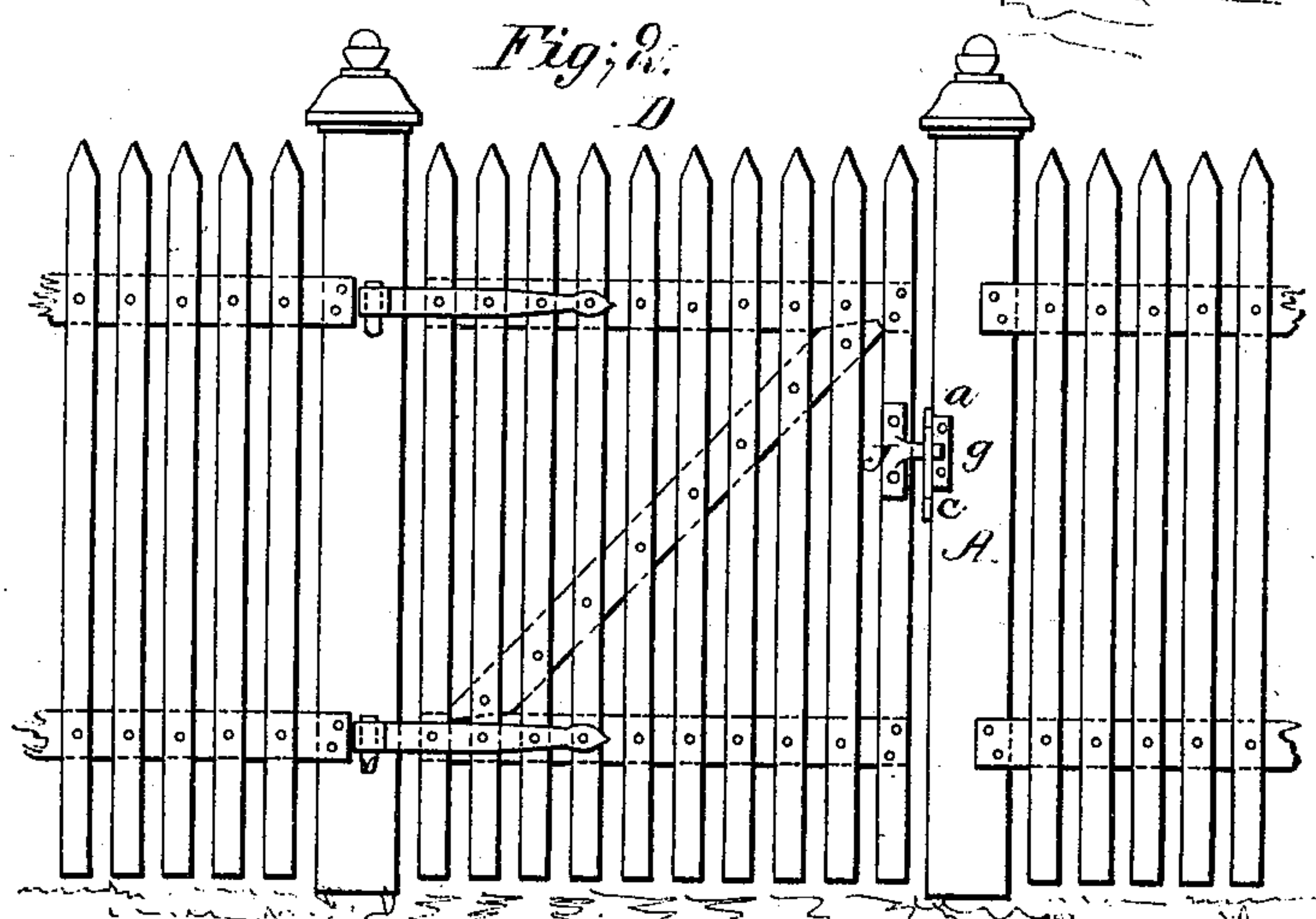
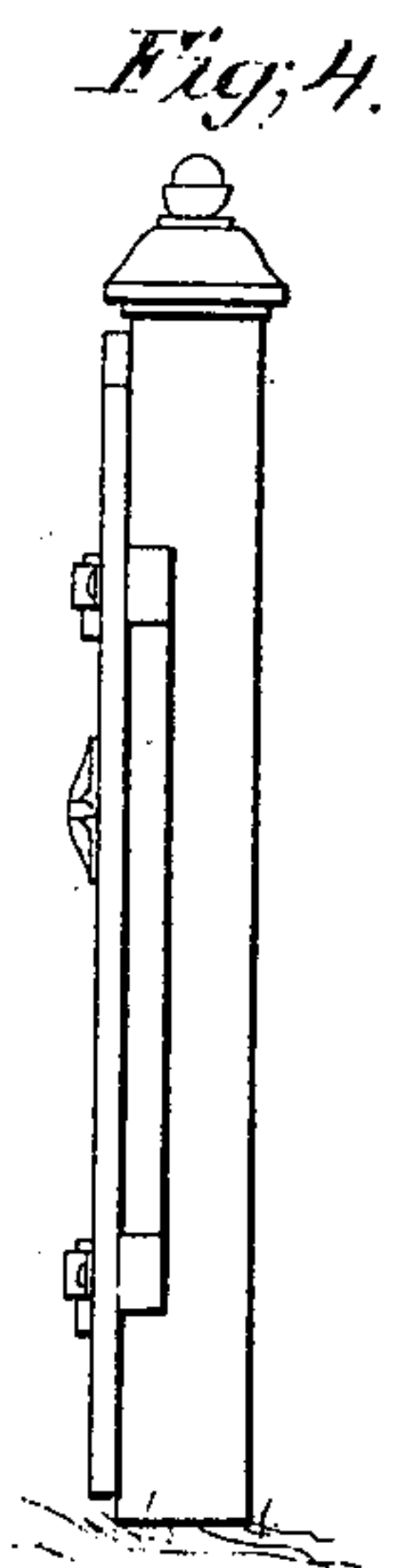
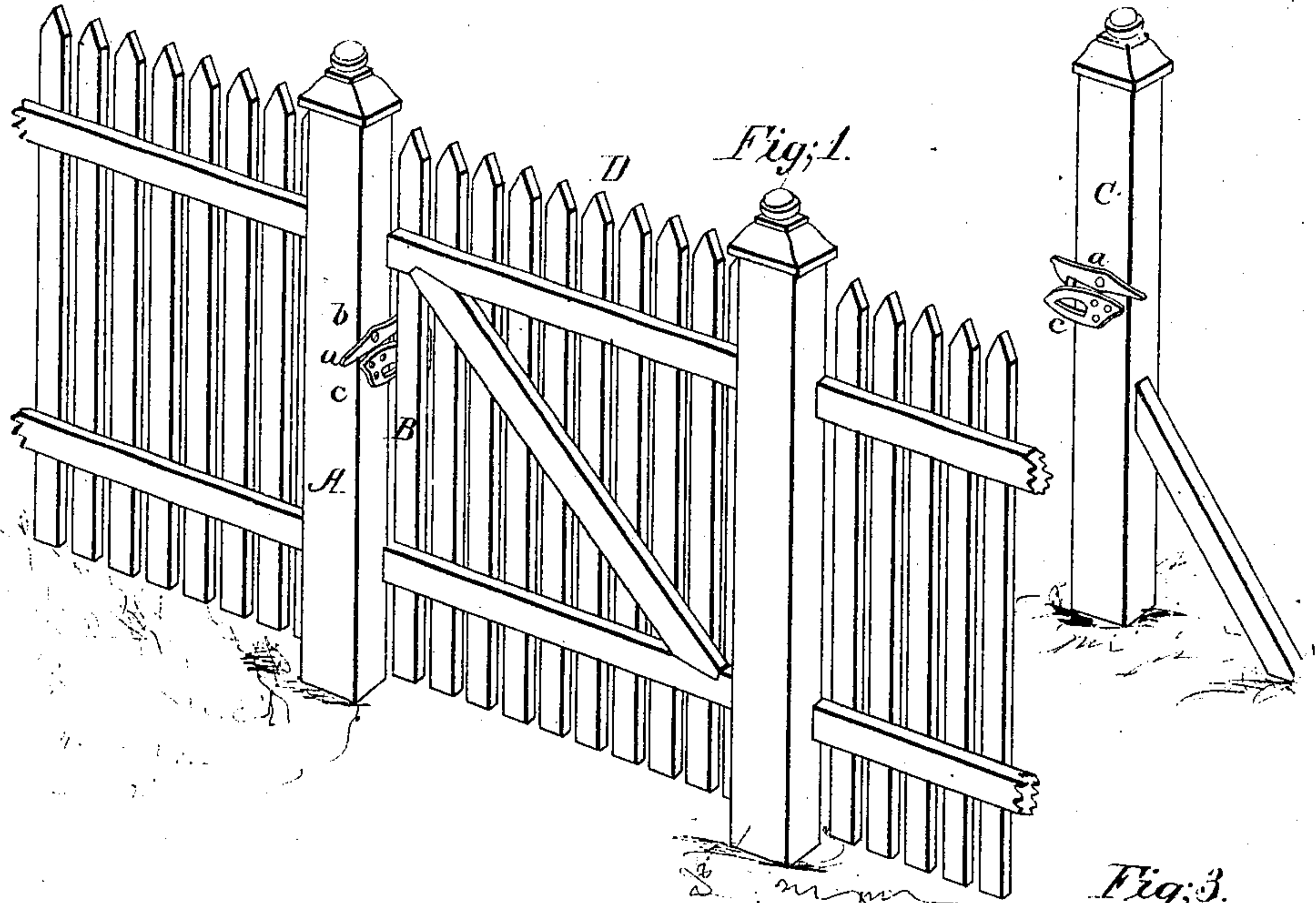


*W. Redhead,
Gate Latch.*

No. 87,065.

Patented Feb. 16. 1869.



*Witnesses, j
R. L. Campbell
J. M. Campbell*

*Inventor;
Wesley Redhead
by his agent
Mason Hewitt*

United States Patent Office.

WESLEY REDHEAD, OF DES MOINES, IOWA.

Letters Patent No. 87,065, dated February 16, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN GATE-LATCHES.

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, WESLEY REDHEAD, of Des Moines, in the county of Polk, and State of Iowa, have invented a new and improved Gate-Fastening; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view, showing the manner of applying the improved fastening to a gate-post and gate, and also to a post for holding a gate open.

Figure 2 is a front view of a gate with the improved fastening applied to it.

Figures 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, show more particularly the construction and operation of the improved fastening.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

The object of this invention is to construct a gate-fastening, for holding a gate either shut or open, which is readily applicable to almost any kind of gate, and which is designed to operate successfully at all times or seasons of the year, without the use of springs or weights.

The invention also has for its object, constructing a gate-fastening, which can be readily operated from either side of a gate, and which will prevent a gate, while shut, from sagging, or should a gate sag, a portion of the fastening will raise it to its proper position.

The nature of my invention consists in applying, to a gate-post, a pivoted reversible gravitating-hook or catch, having lifting-finger extensions upon both ends; also, in securing to said post, beneath the hook or catch, a reversible plate having an inclined supporting and elevating-edge; and in applying to the gate a reversible latching-tongue, which is adapted for being received and held by the hook or catch and inclined plate upon the gate-post, as will be hereinafter explained.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand my invention, I will describe its construction and operation.

In the accompanying drawings, fig. 1, I have represented a portion of a fence, a gate, D, and a holding-back post, C, with my improved reversible fastening applied to them.

Upon the inner side of the gate-post A, or that side opposite the post to which the gate is hinged, I apply a gravitating-hook, *a*, and just beneath this hook, and secured fast to post A, is a supporting-plate, C.

To the gate-picket B, a bracket, J, is secured, having a tongue, *g*, extending out from it, so that in the act of shutting the gate, and when the gate is shut and fastened, this tongue will rest upon the fixed plate *c*, and be caught and held by the gravitating-hook *a*, as shown in fig. 5.

The gravitating-hook *a* consists of a hooked or catching portion, *h*, a bevelled nose, *i*, and finger-extensions *j* *k*.

This device is pivoted, at *b*, to the gate-post, so that its hooked end will greatly preponderate, and so that it can be operated by raising one end, *j*, or depressing the other end, *k*.

The supporting-device consists of a flat plate, *c*, having its upper edge, *d*, inclined.

This device is secured fast to the gate-post, just beneath the catching-device, and in such relation thereto that its hooked nose *h* will rest upon the inclined edge *d* when the gate is open or shut. This device, like the gravitating-hook, is reversible, that is to say, both devices can be applied to the right or left-hand gate-post, or to either side thereof.

The tongue *g* is cast on the bracket J, so that when applied fast to the gate-picket B, as shown in the drawings, this tongue will extend out perpendicular therefrom, and be received upon the inclined edge of the supporting-plate *d* when the gate is shut.

This tongue *g* is bevelled, so that in cross-section it presents three angles, and is thus reversible, or adapted for a right or left-hand gate-post.

In adjusting the tongue upon the gate-picket, it should be so attached thereto, that when the gate is shut, this tongue will rest upon the inclined edge of the plate *c*, and be caught by the hook *h*.

By constant use and wear, and also by the settling of the gate and its posts, the tongue *g* will, after a time, be more or less depressed below the plane in which it moved when first applied to the gate, and will strike the upper edge *d*, of the plate *c*, before the gate is fully shut, as shown by red lines, fig. 5, requiring the gate to be lifted before the tongue can pass under the nose of the hooked catch.

The inclined edge *d*, of the plate *c*, it will be seen, serves as a means for raising the gate to its normal condition while being shut, so that, when shut, it will always be caught and held by the hooked catch.

It will also be seen that in the act of shutting a gate, the tongue *g* will raise the catch and pass in front of the hook, and then allow the latter to drop and hold this tongue.

I am aware that it is not new to employ inclined planes upon gate-posts for raising a gate while shutting it, and supporting a gate from sagging when shut; and I do not lay claim to such a device broadly, and irrespective of the combination of elements herein described; nor do I claim, in itself considered, a gravitating-catch gate-fastening.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The within gate-latching contrivance, consisting of the bevelled reversible gravitating hooked catch-piece *a* and the stationary reversible bevelled or inclined supporting-plate *c*, arranged in the relation to one another, upon a gate-post, substantially as described.

2. The combination of the bevelled device J *g* and the reversible devices *a* *c*, constructed and applied in the manner shown and described, for the purpose set forth.

WESLEY REDHEAD.

Witnesses:

L. P. SHERMAN,
R. T. WELLSLAGER.