

D. P. WIRT.
Fence Post.

No. 238,013.

Patented Feb. 22, 1881.

FIG. I.

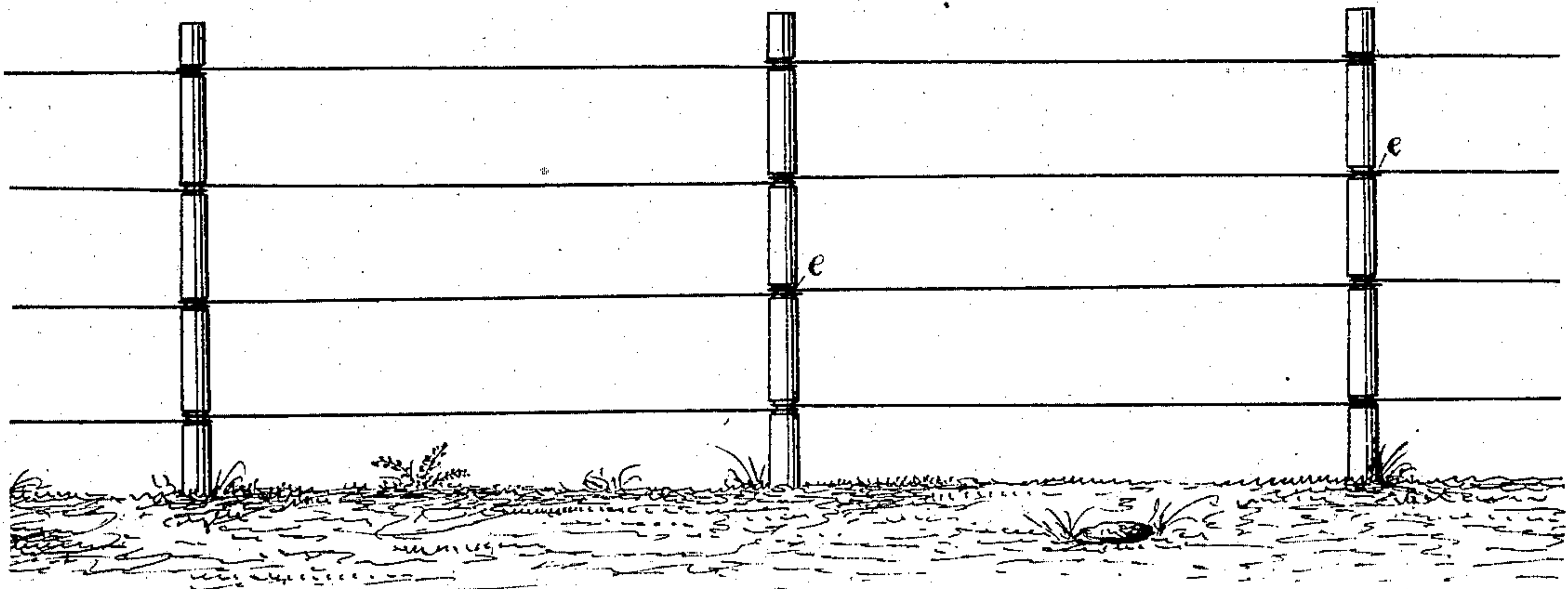
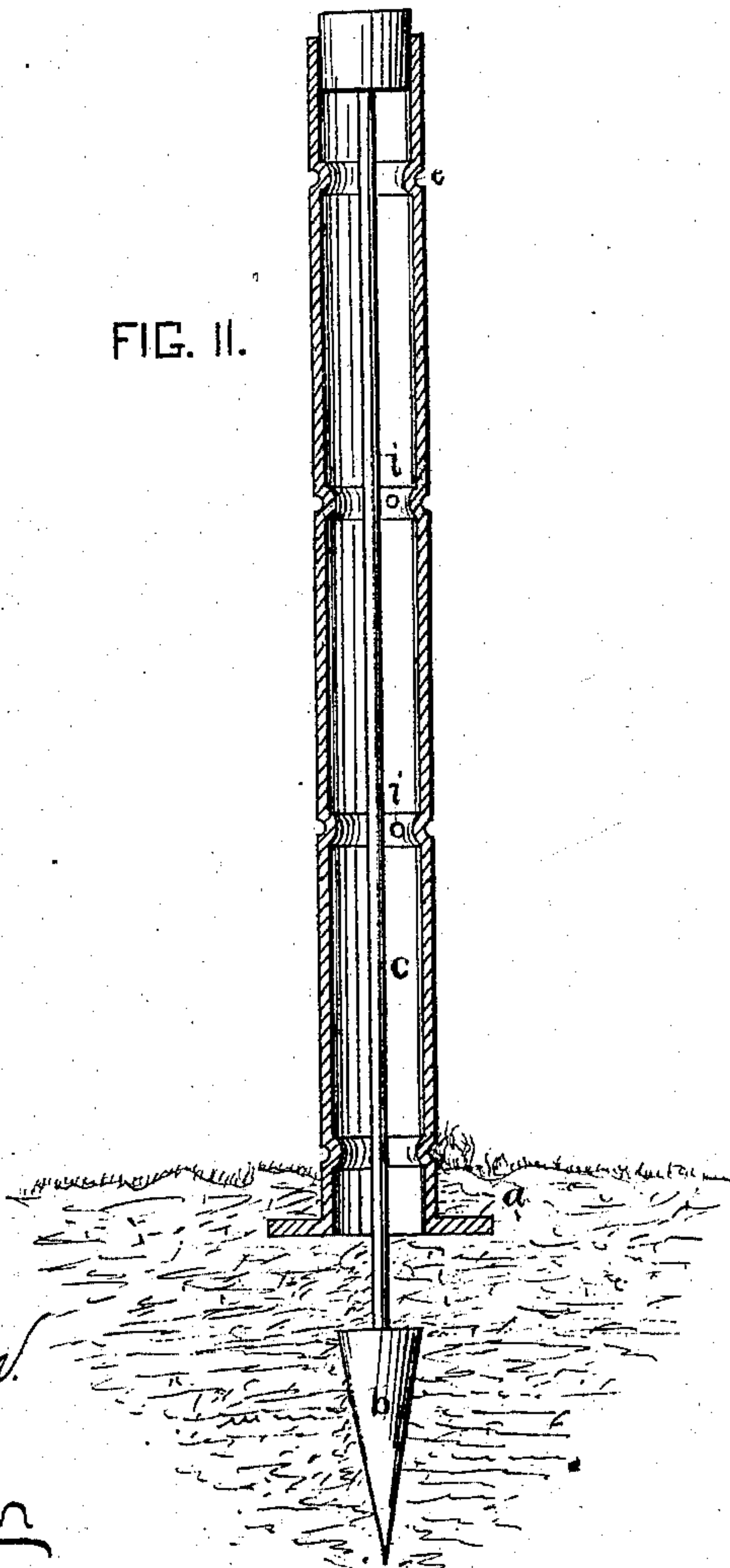


FIG. II.



WITNESSES:
Courtney A. Cooper
William Paxton

INVENTOR:

D. P. Wirt

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANIEL P. WIRT, OF OAK GROVE, VIRGINIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO
RANDALL HAGNER, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

FENCE-POST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 238,013, dated February 22, 1881.

Application filed May 24, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL P. WIRT, of Oak Grove, Westmoreland county, Virginia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fence-Posts, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is a post constructed of terra-cotta or vitreous material, with a hollow body, enlarged base, and anchoring-piece, as fully described hereinafter, so as to be unaffected by frost, preserve its position in the earth, and support the wires constituting therewith the fence.

In the drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure I is an elevation of a fence, showing one form in which my improved fence-post may be made. Fig. II is a longitudinal section of the post.

The post is molded or otherwise formed of terra-cotta, porcelain, clay, or other like material of any suitable form, preferably hollow, with a circumferential flange, *a*, at the lower end. The exterior of the post has grooves *e*, and it may also be perforated at *i*, as shown. The post, after being molded, is hard baked or vitrified in an oven or furnace, and if necessary is then glazed, when it will be complete for use.

Posts have been made of baked clay, as shown in the patent of W. S. Mayo, September 17, 1861; but are defective from the fact that the clay, being porous, absorbs moisture,

which freezes, expands, and cracks the post. A glazed or vitrified post will not absorb moisture, and is more durable than metal, which rusts.

As a glazed surface will not retain the wires lapped around the post properly in position, I form in the face the grooves *e*, in which the wires are wound in passing round the post, being thus retained in place. If necessary, the wire may also be passed through the openings *i*, thus binding the wire firmly to each post.

The flange *a* prevents the post from rising from the effects of frost.

To anchor the post in the ground more firmly, I use a conical anchor, *b*, buried in the ground below the post, and connected by a rod, *c*, to the top of the post, as shown.

I do not claim a post provided with an anchoring-piece connected to the end thereof; but

I claim—

The combination, in a fence-post, of the hollow vitreous body portion, having an extended base, *a*, and an anchoring-piece, *b*, arranged below and connected to the post, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of the two subscribing witnesses.

DANIEL P. WIRT.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM CLOSE,
H. A. HALL.