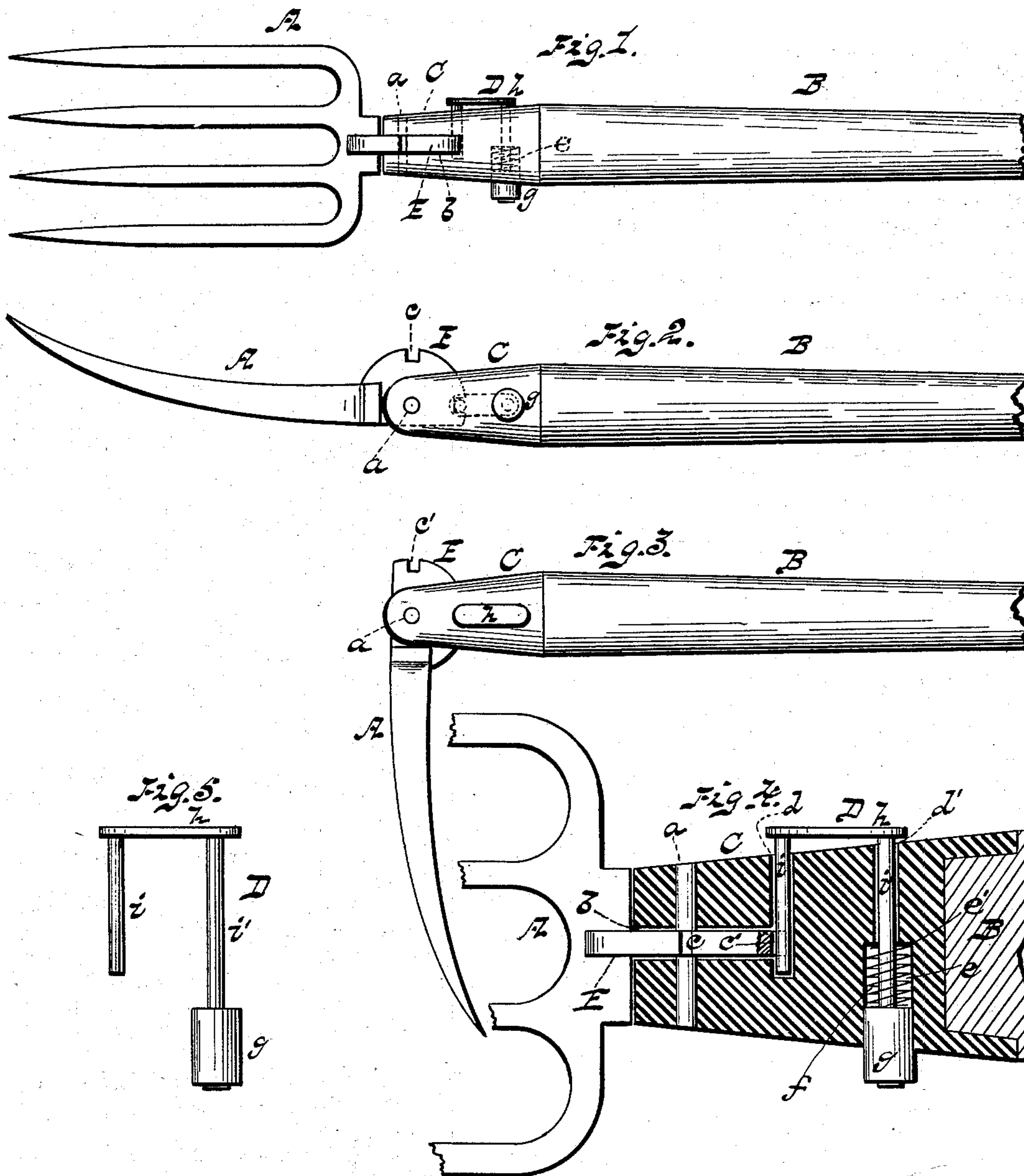


(No Model.)

H. ALBERS.
MANURE FORK.

No. 261,894.

Patented Aug. 1, 1882.



WITNESSES
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY ALBERS, OF NEW BREMEN, OHIO.

MANURE-FORK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 261,894, dated August 1, 1882.

Application filed June 10, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY ALBERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Bremen, in the county of Auglaize and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Manure-Forks, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention has relation to improvements in forks for handling manure, &c.; and it consists in the novel construction and arrangement of the same, whereby a fork may be converted into a rake, all as will be hereinafter more fully explained.

The annexed drawings, to which reference is made, fully illustrate my invention, in which—

Figure 1 represents a plan view of my device, showing the same as a fork. Fig. 2 is a side view of same in a similar position. Fig. 3 is also a side view, representing the invention as a rake. Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view, and Fig. 5 is a side view of the push-pin or locking and unlocking device detached from the fork.

The letter A designates the fork or tines, and B the handle.

C indicates a ferrule attached securely to the handle, and provided on its end with a vertical slot, *b*, in which is pivoted a semicircular plate, E, at *a*. Said plate projects from the rear of the fork, and has notches *c c'* cut in the periphery thereof, for a purpose hereinafter set forth. The ferrule C is also provided with lateral holes *d d'*, the former communicating with the vertical slot *b* and the latter with a recess, *e*, in which is placed a spring, *f*, that operates a push-pin for locking the fork in each position.

D represents the push-pin, which is composed of a short arm, *i*, that plays freely in the hole *d*, and a long arm, *i'*, that plays in a hole, *d'*, on the end of which (the arm *i'*) is a thumb-knob, *g*, that plays in the recess *e*, and a bar, *h*, extends from one arm to the other, which connects the two to one another.

Encircling the arm *i'*, and within the recess *e*, is a spring, *f*, one end of which bears against the shoulder *e'* and the opposite end against the inner end of the thumb-knob *g*.

Having described the different parts of which my device is composed, I will now explain the operation of the parts.

Figs. 1, 2, and 4 represent the device as a

fork for handling manure, hay, &c., with the arm *i* of the push-pin D engaging the notch *c'* on the plate E, thereby securing the fork in a horizontal position. At the same time the spring *f* bears against the shoulder *e'* and the thumb-knob *g*, which keep the push-pin D in engagement therewith.

In changing the position of the fork for raking purposes, as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings, the pressure upon the thumb-knob by the operator causes the arm *i* to disengage with the notch *c'*, after which the fork is turned upon its pivot *a* downwardly until the notch *c* engages the arm *i*, when the latter is sprung therein by the action of the spring *f*, and retained by the pressure of said spring against the thumb-knob *g*.

It will thus be seen by the foregoing description that I construct a fork that can be converted into a rake, which is simple in construction and operation.

I am aware that prior to my invention pivoted forks have been used having a spring locking-pin and notched plate for adjusting and locking the fork in any desired position; but this I do not claim broadly; but

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

1. In combination with a pivoted fork, the ferrule C, having the hole *d*, communicating with the vertical slot *b*, and the hole *d'*, having the recess *e* to receive the push-pin D, as shown and described.

2. The combination, with a pivoted fork having a semicircular plate provided with notches on the periphery, of the push-pin D, constructed as shown, having arms *i i'*, connected by the bar *h* and thumb-knob *g*, and operated by the spring *f*, as described, and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination of the push-pin D, constructed as described, with the ferrule C, having holes *d d'*, recess *e*, slot *b*, spring *f*, semicircular plate E, having notches *c c'*, and pivoted fork A, the whole operating as shown and specified.

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

HENRY ALBERS.

Witnesses:

EDWARD ROEGNER,
FERD. LAUT.