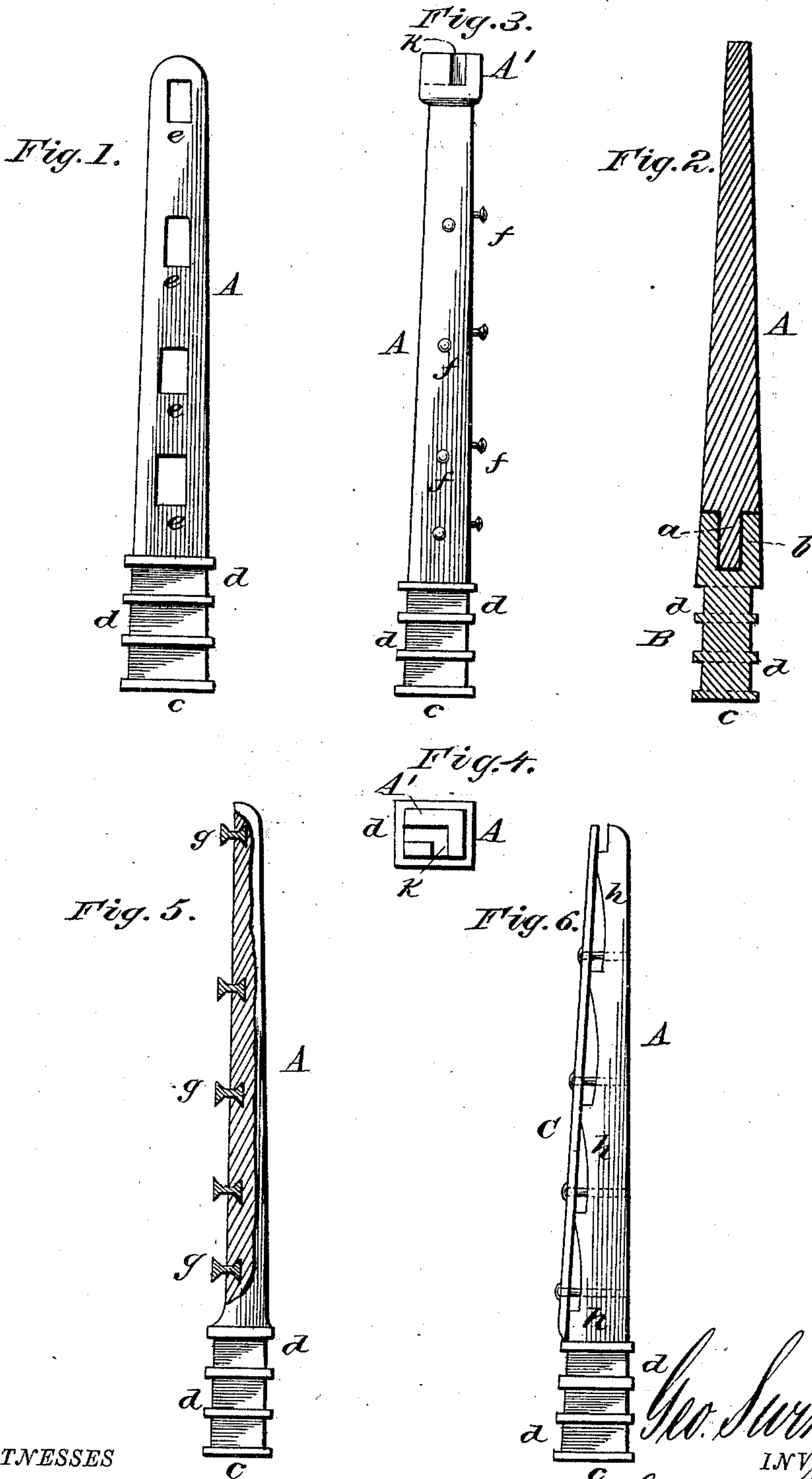


(No Model.)

G. SWINGLE, 4th.
FENCE POST.

No. 275,286.

Patented Apr. 3, 1883.



WITNESSES

Med. G. Dietrich
P. C. Dietrich

Geo. Swingle 4th
INVENTOR,
by Louis Bagger & Co
Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE SWINGLE, 4TH, OF ROSEVILLE, OHIO.

FENCE-POST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 275,286, dated April 3, 1883.

Application filed September 16, 1881. Renewed December 8, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE SWINGLE, 4th, of Roseville, in the county of Muskingum and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fence-Posts; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of my improved vitrified fence-post. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of one of my compound fence-posts. Fig. 3 is a side view of a vitrified post adapted for barb-wire fences. Fig. 4 is a top view of the same. Fig. 5 is a side view representing a modified construction of a post for barb-wire fences, and Fig. 6 is a similar view of a post adapted for lath-fences.

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

My invention contemplates an improved construction of fence-posts, as hereinafter more fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

The chief object of my improvement is to prevent premature decay of the post, notably, that portion which is in the ground and is most liable to decay. To this end I construct my improved posts either wholly or in part of a vitrified substance, which will last for any length of time, and is sufficiently inexpensive to warrant its general use in posts of all descriptions. Where suitable timber is scarce I prefer to make the entire post of this substance, which is a composition of potters' clay, or fire-clay, and crushed rock, mixed with water in suitable proportions and molded into the shape which the post is to have, after which the molded post is dried and burned in a kiln until the material has been thoroughly vitrified. Where fire-clay cannot readily be had ordinary brick-clay may be used, and treated, after molding, as in the manufacture of building-brick.

The post consists essentially of two parts—viz., the top part or post proper (denoted by the letter A in the several figures) and the bottom part or base, B. Where the post is

made partly of wood or iron the base B is, previous to burning, molded with a central socket, *b*, which receives the tenon *a* at the lower end of the wooden or metal part A, as clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings. The post and its base may either be square, rectangular, oval, or round in cross-section, as taste and expediency may suggest. To hold the tenoned top part firmly in its socket, I employ any suitable cement, which, when it has set and hardened, will completely fill up the space around the tenon, so that the two parts A and B are as one solid piece.

To prevent the post from rising out of the ground by frost, I make the base B with a projecting bottom flange, *c*, and a series of two or more flanges, *d d*, above the bottom flange, which operate to hold it firmly in the ground in which it is set and prevent displacement in a vertical direction. The upper part or post proper, A, which projects above the ground, is made tapering from base to top, and constructed according to the class or kind of fence for which the post is to be used. Thus in Fig. 1 I have shown a post provided with slots or mortises *e* for the insertion of rails in the construction of a rail fence. The post shown in Fig. 2 (whether made in one or two parts) is adapted for the construction of a panel or picket fence. In Fig. 3 I have shown a post provided with headed pins *f*, around which the wire is wound in the construction of a wire fence. Fig. 5 shows a post of a similar construction; but, instead of headed pins, the upper part, A, is molded with projecting buttons *g g*, being wider at their outer than at their inner ends, around which the wire is wound or twisted, and in Fig. 6 I have shown a post molded with a series of steps or offsets, *h h*, on one side, which form supports for lengths of laths used in the construction of a lath-fence, the lath being held in place by a wooden strip, C, which is secured longitudinally upon the post, so as to impinge upon the steps or offsets, and is held in place by bolts *i*, inserted through holes in the post A.

In the construction of corner-posts intended to be used for barb-wire fences I mold the head or top part, A', of the post with a right-angled recess, *k*, in which the meeting ends of the top rails forming the corner are placed

edgewise and fixed in place by cement. In Fig. 4 I have shown a top view of a post of this construction.

It is obvious that the shape of the upper part, A A', of the post may be varied in different ways, according to the uses for which the post is intended; but the base B is in all cases molded with the projecting flanges *c d*, irrespective of the detailed shape and construction of the upper part, A.

Having thus described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

A fence-post the lower part or base, B, of which is composed of burned and vitrified clay

molded with a bottom flange, *c*, and series of parallel flanges *d d* above said bottom flange, and provided with a central vertical socket, *b*, and an upper part, A, of wood or metal, having a tenon, *a*, at its lower end, adapted to fit into the socket *b*, substantially as and for the purpose herein shown and set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereunto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE SWINGLE, 4TH.

Witnesses:

W. B. WEAVER,
THEO. BROWN.