

(No Model.)

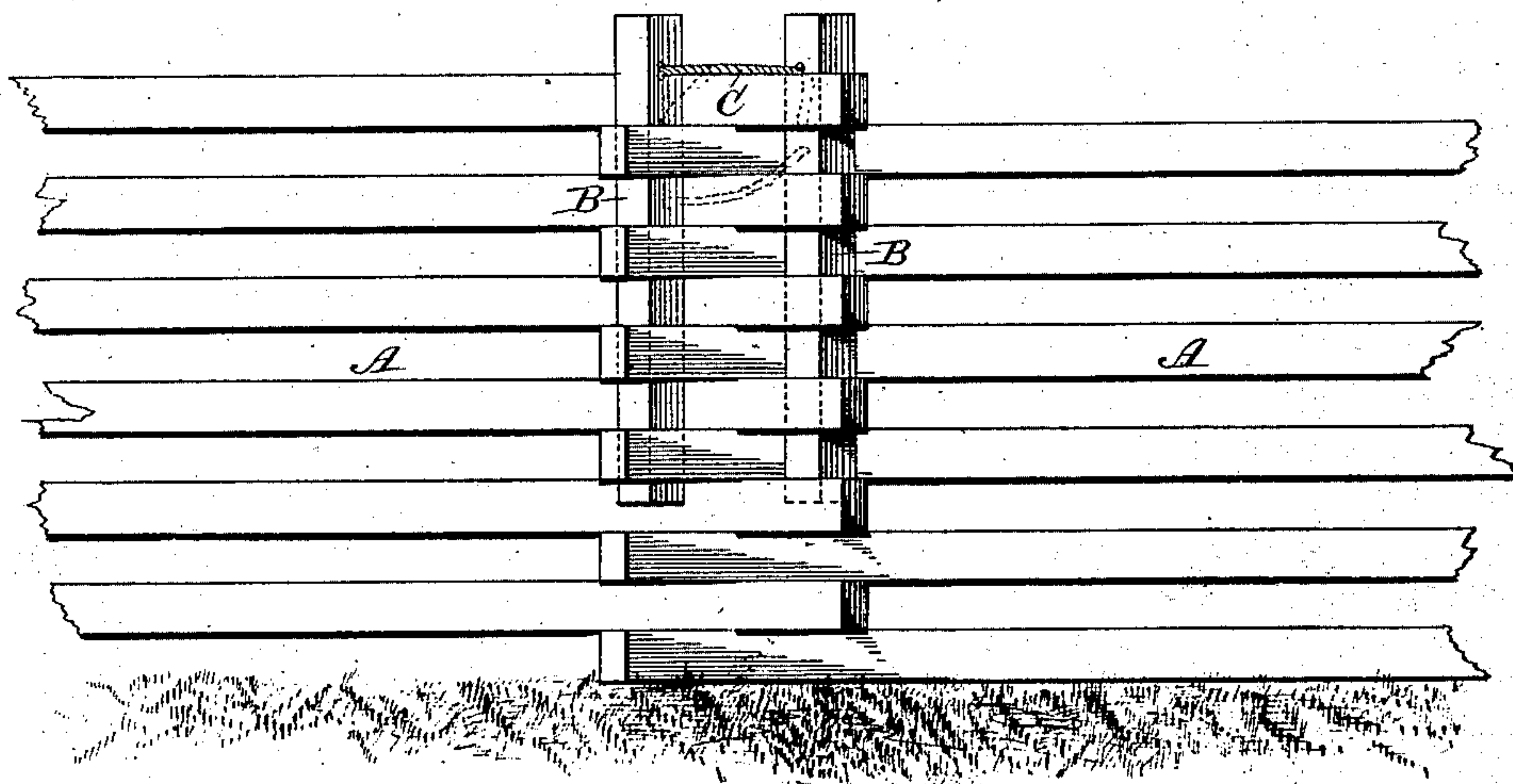
J. McLAIN COFFMAN

FENCE.

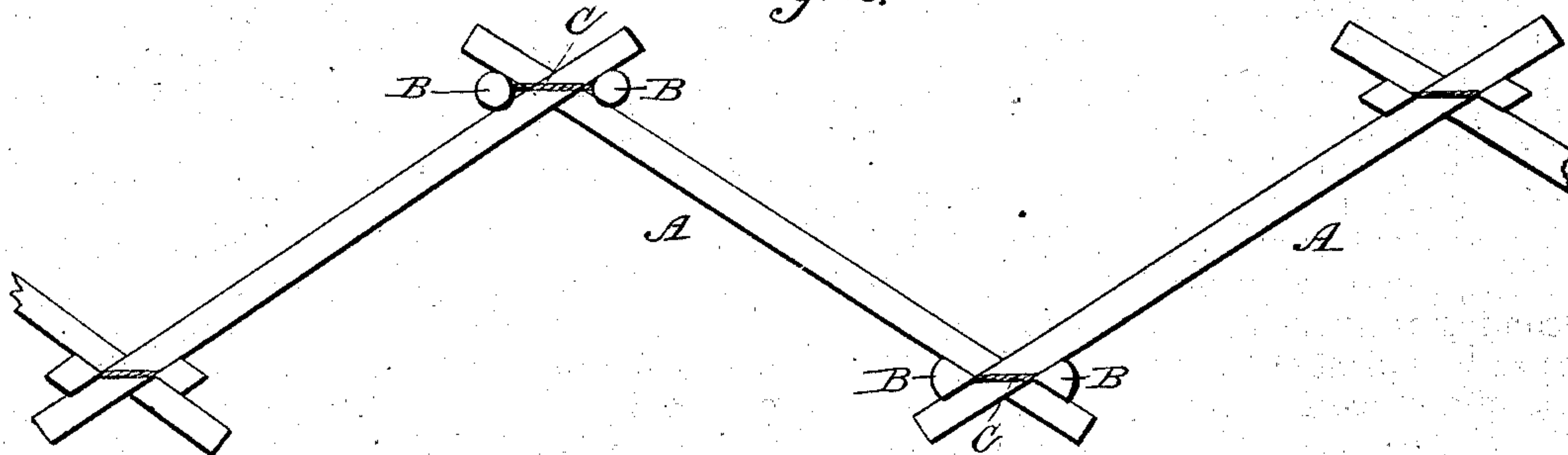
No. 315,248.

Patented Apr. 7, 1885.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



Witnesses:

*J. W. Garner*  
*E. M. Kroger*

Inventor:

*J. McL. Coffman,*  
*per J. A. Lehmann, atty.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN McLAIN COFFMAN, OF WASHINGTON, OHIO.

## FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 315,248, dated April 7, 1885.

Application filed September 22, 1884. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN McLAIN COFFMAN, of Washington, in the county of Fayette and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fence-Locks; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in fence-locks; and it consists in the combination, with a fence, of two pieces of timber of suitable form, which are connected together at any suitable point, and then dropped down over the top of the fence into the angles formed by crossing the ends of the rails, as will be more fully described hereinafter.

The object of my invention is to provide a lock for rail fences, which will serve to prevent the upper rails from being thrown off or becoming accidentally displaced.

Figure 1 represents a side elevation of a portion of a fence embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same, showing different forms of pieces of wood which are used to form the lock.

A represents an ordinary rail fence to which my lock is applied. This lock consists of two pieces of timber, B, of suitable length and shape, and which are connected loosely together at their upper ends by means of a wire or other suitable material, C, and which lock is then dropped down over the top of the ends

of the rails, as shown. The wire catches across the lap of the top rails, and the pieces of timber catch in the angles formed by crossing the rail ends, as shown, and prevent the ends of the rails from being pushed off or pulled out for the purpose of tearing down or destroying the fence. It is not necessary that these two pieces of timber should be connected at their upper ends, for they may be connected at a suitable point below the upper ends, and the connecting-wire then passed between the ends of the rails, if so desired, as shown in dotted lines. The pieces of timber used to form this lock will be of any shape, and of a length proportioned to the height of the fence. The locks being detachable, they can be removed at any time, and then as readily replaced.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

The combination of a rail fence with the lock, consisting of two pieces of timber and a wire for connecting them together, the two pieces of the lock being dropped down over the overlapping ends of the rails, so as to catch in the angles formed thereby, and supported in position by means of the wire, substantially as specified.

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

JOHN McLAIN COFFMAN.

Witnesses:

ALLEN HEGLER,  
M. WILLARD.