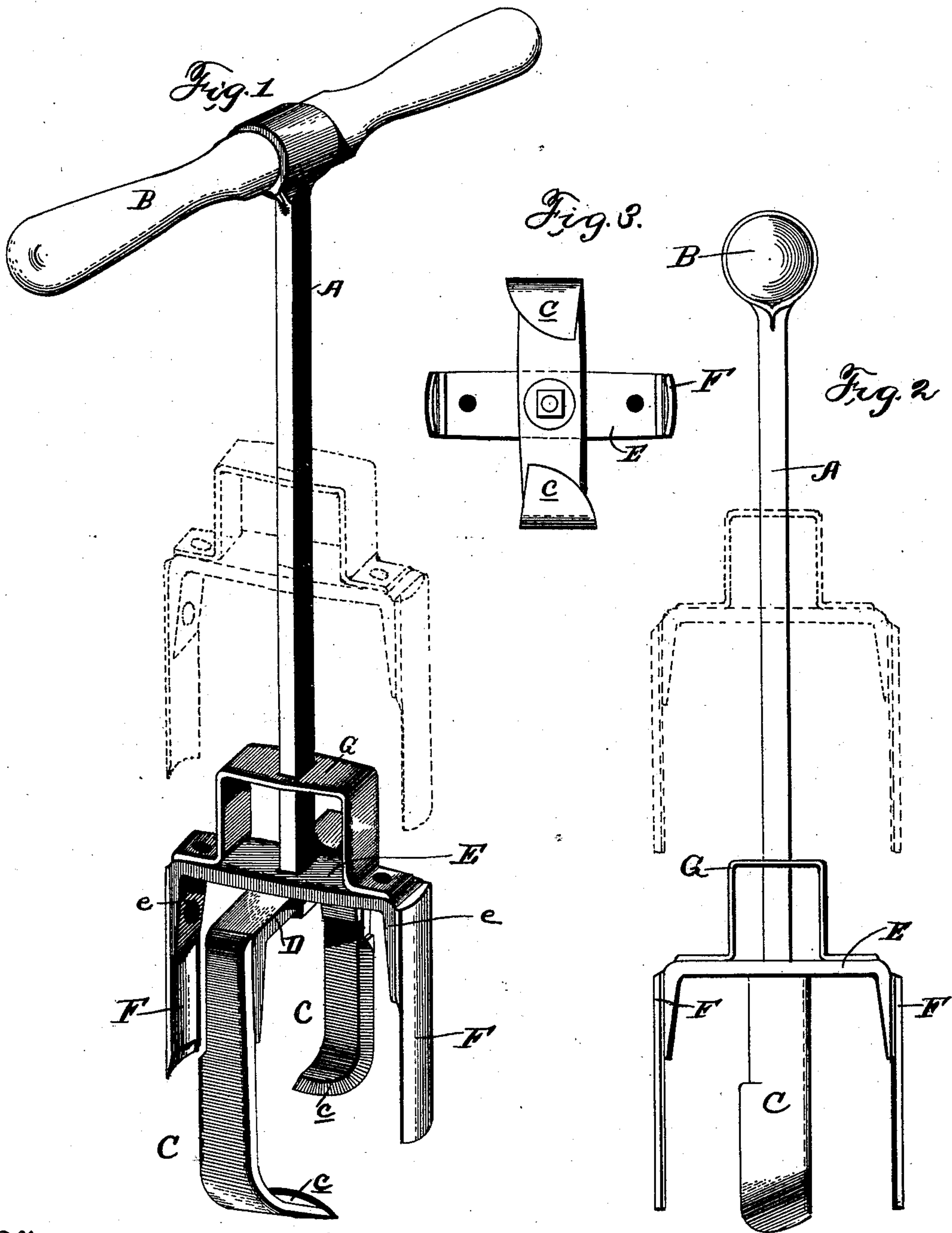


(No Model.)

J. W. CLARK.
POST HOLE DIGGER.

No. 358,335.

Patented Feb. 22, 1887.



Witnesses

R. L. Lacey

Mortimer Redman

By his Attorney

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES W. CLARK, OF ETNA, OHIO.

POST-HOLE DIGGER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 358,335, dated February 22, 1887.

Application filed October 20, 1886. Serial No. 216,757. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES W. CLARK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Etna, in the county of Licking and State of Ohio, have
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Post-Hole Diggers; and I do 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 appertains to
10 make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to an improved post-hole digger; and it consists in the novel features hereinafter more fully described, claimed,
15 and pointed out in the annexed drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved post-hole digger. Fig. 2 is a side elevation showing the guard adjusted upon the rod by dotted lines, and Fig. 3 is a bottom
20 plan.

The vital point of this invention is having
25 combined with a post-hole digger, provided with parallel blades arranged upon diametrically-opposite sides of the vertical axis or rod thereof, a guard mounted upon said rod to turn therewith in the operation of digging,
30 and having a portion located on each side opposite the space between the blades and acting in connection therewith to hold the removed earth, said guard at the same time being free to have a longitudinal movement on the rod
35 to release the earth when the digger is withdrawn from the hole.

The digger shown in the drawings comprises the rod A, the handle B, and the blades C, which are fastened to opposite ends of the
40 plate D, secured to the lower end of the rod A. The blades C are sharpened on their forward edges, and have their lower ends, *c*, bent inward to remove the earth and retain it in place when the digger is withdrawn from the
45 hole.

The guard comprises the head E and the arms F, which are secured to the opposite ends of the head E, and are arranged at such distance apart that they will track in the path of
50 the blades and act in connection therewith to retain the removed earth between them and

said blades, in a manner well understood. The ends of the head are bent substantially at right angles, forming projections *e*, to which the upper ends of the arms F are secured. The
55 arms F are made of thin metal, and are curved in cross-section to conform with the circle of the hole being dug. They may be sharpened on their forward edges or not, as preferred.

The head E is centrally apertured to permit
60 the passage of the rod A, which is of such shape in cross-section that the head will turn therewith, but will permit it (the head) to have a longitudinal movement thereon for releasing the earth when the digger is withdrawn.
65 The brace G, attached at each end to the opposite ends of the head and having its middle portion located at a distance from said head, is centrally apertured to permit the passage of
70 said rod A. The aperture in said brace corresponds with the aperture in the head and assists in effecting a turning of said head with the rod. It at the same time serves as a handle to be grasped by the hand when moving
75 the guard along the rod A.

In practice the weight of the head, the arms, and brace is sufficient to hold the guard at its lowest point upon the rod when removing the earth, as will be readily understood.

Having thus described my invention, what
80 I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a post-hole digger, the combination, with the rod and the blades secured to the lower end thereof, and having the main portion thereof parallel with the rod or its
85 prolongation, of the guard adapted to slide longitudinally upon the rod, and having a portion located on each side opposite the space between the blades, and acting in connection
90 therewith to hold the removed earth, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. The combination, with the rod and blades having their ends curved inward secured upon its lower end and diametrically arranged, of
95 the guard having arms arranged to track in the path of the cutters, and mounted upon said rod to turn therewith and free to have a longitudinal movement thereon, substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. The combination, with the post-hole digger, of the guard having arms curved on the
100

arc of a circle in cross-section, mounted on the rod of said digger to turn therewith, and free to have a longitudinal adjustment thereon, substantially as and for the purpose described.

5 4. The combination, with the rod and the blades secured thereto, of the guard mounted upon the rod to turn therewith and having a longitudinal movement thereon, and the reinforcing brace and handle secured to said
10 guard, substantially as and for the purpose described.

5. The combination, with the rod and the

blades secured thereto, of the guard composed of the head having its ends bent substantially at right angles, and the arms secured to said bent ends, substantially as and for the purpose described. 15

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

JAMES W. CLARK.

Witnesses:

MAUD AULT,
OSKER VANDORN.