

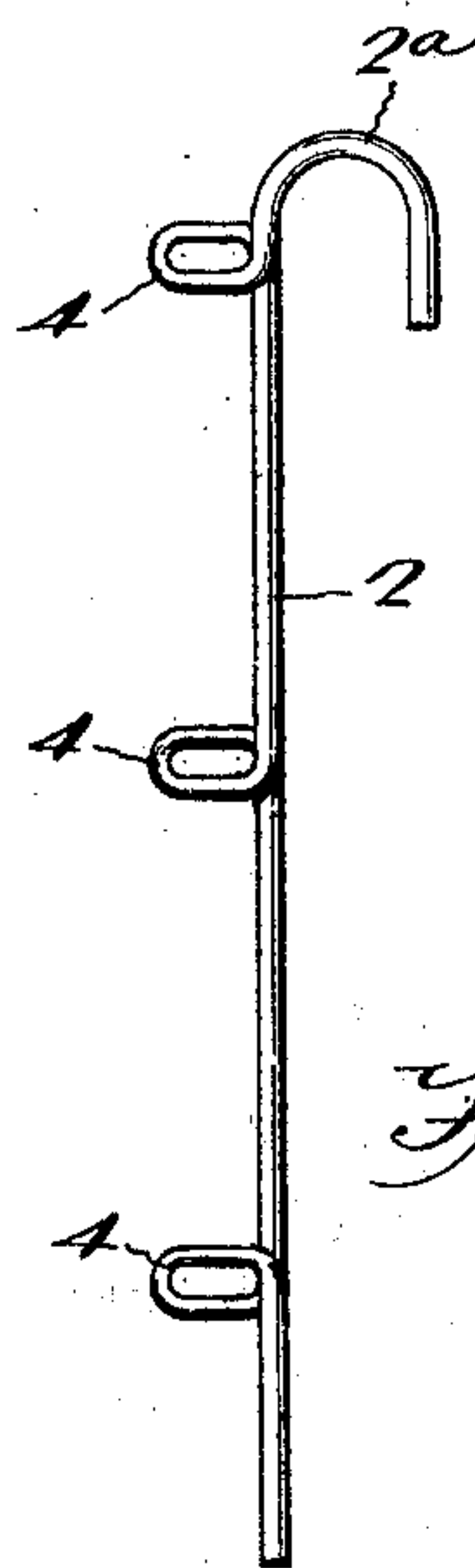
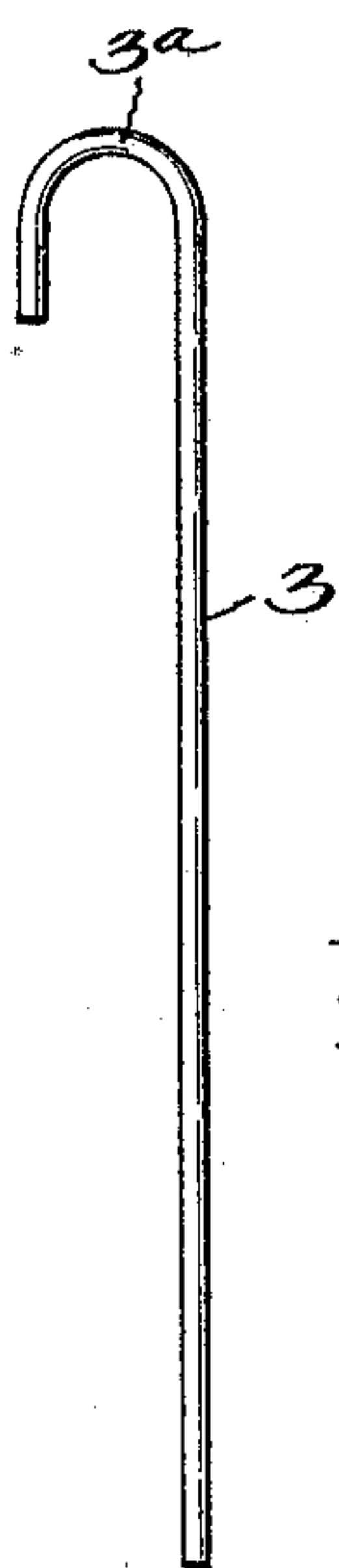
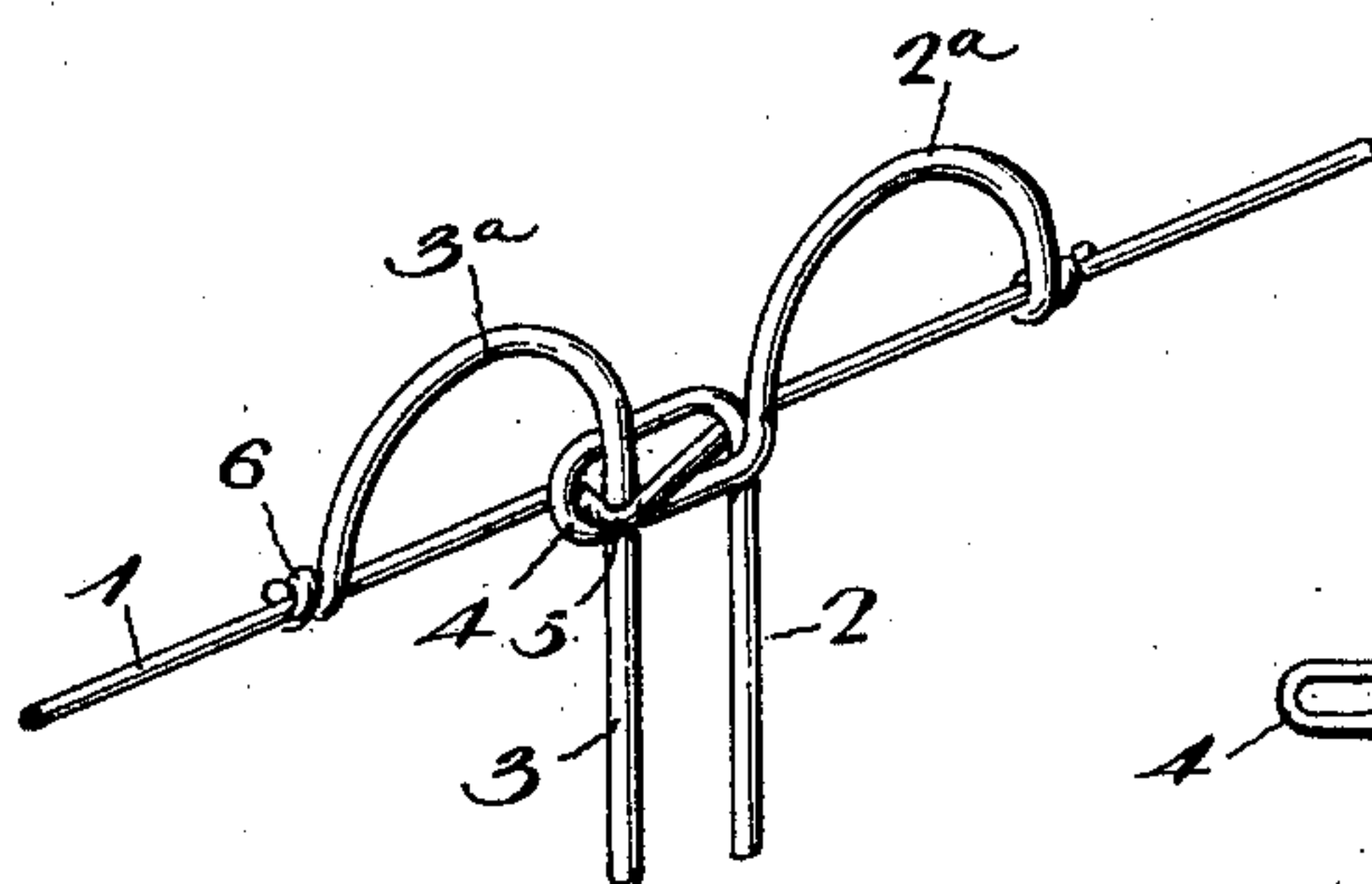
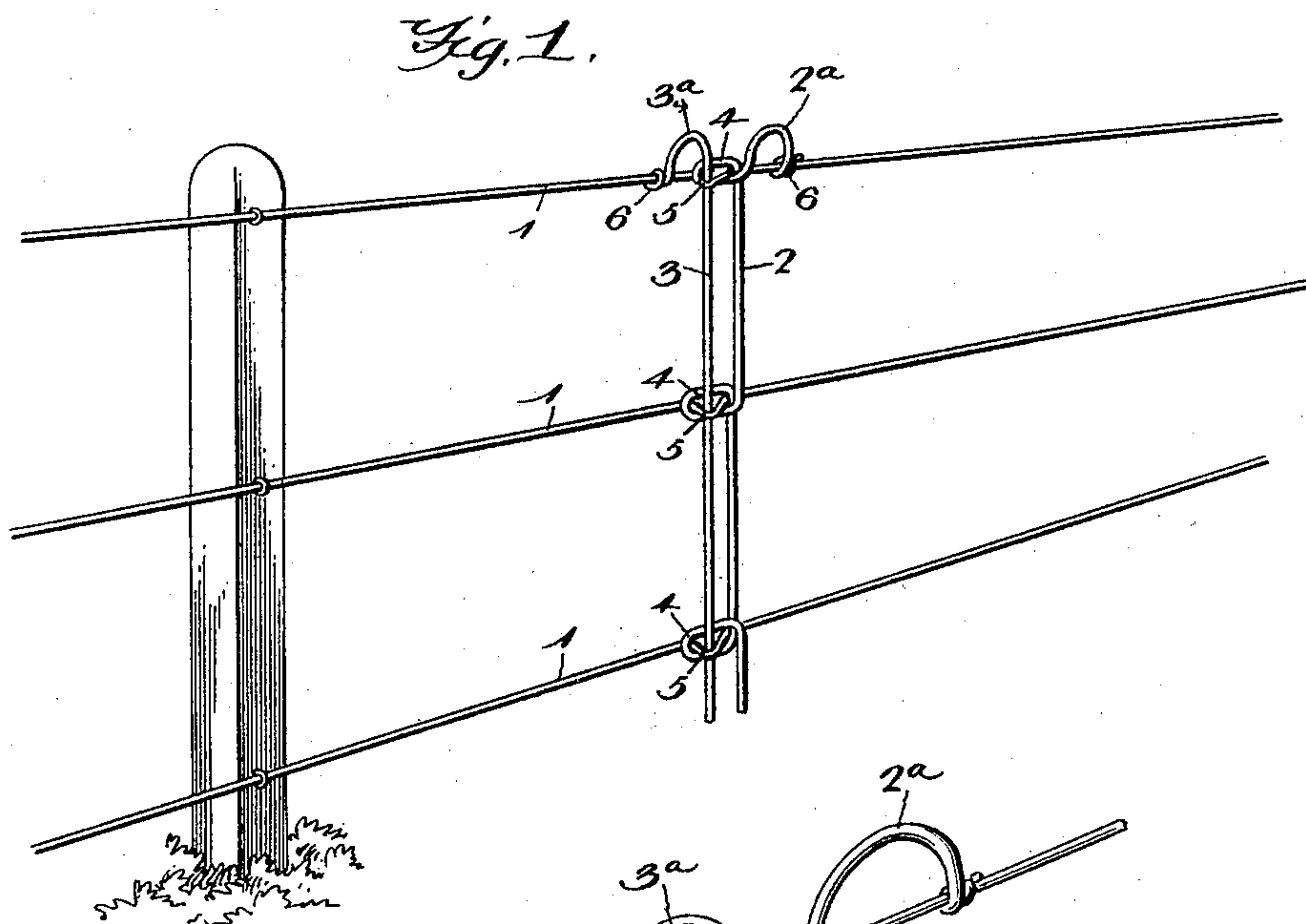
No. 610,896.

Patented Sept. 20, 1898.

T. B. & C. T. CUSTER.  
WIRE FENCE.

(Application filed Feb. 28, 1898.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

*J. Graubulwerwell,*  
*[Signature]*

By *Their* Attorneys,

*Chas. Snow & Co.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THEOPHILUS BENARD CUSTER AND CHARLEY THADDEUS CUSTER, OF  
HILLSBOROUGH, OHIO.

## WIRE FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 610,896, dated September 20, 1898.

Application filed February 28, 1898. Serial No. 672,217. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, THEOPHILUS BENARD CUSTER and CHARLEY THADDEUS CUSTER, citizens of the United States, residing at Hillsborough, in the county of Highland and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Wire Fence, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to fences, and particularly to stays for connecting wire runners; and the object in view is to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient stay or picket adapted to be applied with facility to the runners and having terminals adapted for efficient connection with the upper marginal runner and designed to avoid the exposure of extremities liable to be caught by passing objects.

Further objects and advantages of this invention will appear in the following description, and the novel features thereof will be particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a view of a fence constructed in accordance with our invention. Fig. 2 is a detail view in perspective of the upper end of the stay and the contiguous runner. Figs. 3 and 4 are detail views, respectively, of the stay members detached.

1 represents the runners connected by stays embodying our invention, each stay consisting of members 2 and 3, separately constructed and each consisting of a single blank of wire. The member 2 is provided with a plurality of lateral loops 4, corresponding in number with the runners of the fence, and through each of these loops is extended a horizontal offset 5 of the contiguous runner. The stay member 3 is threaded through these offsets of the runners and is thus clamped between the offsets and the loops 4. The runner members are arched at their upper ends, as shown at 2<sup>a</sup> and 3<sup>a</sup>, to form loops extending outwardly or in opposite directions from the stay in the plane of the runners, and these loops are provided with terminal coils 6, engaged with the runners at points upon opposite sides of the body portion of the stay. These terminal loops not only strengthen the upper ends of the stay members and insure the maintenance of the stay in the desired position with rela-

tion to the runners, but present no sharp extremities for engagement with passing objects. The stay member 3 constitutes a key for locking the runners to the stay member 2, and after thus threading the shank or body portion of the member 3 through the offsets of the runners the attachment of the terminal loop or arch 3<sup>a</sup> to the upper runner serves to prevent the accidental displacement of the key, while the only manipulation necessary to release the key is the disengagement of its terminal coil from said uppermost runner. In the same way the terminal loop 2<sup>a</sup> of the stay member 2 serves to maintain the lateral loops 4 in a plane parallel with the fence-runners and prevent the turning or twisting of the member 2 with relation to the runners.

Various changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

Having described our invention, what we claim is—

The combination with fence-runners having alined horizontal offsets, of a sectional stay intersecting the runners, and comprising a member 2 having a plurality of lateral loops, corresponding in number with the runners and through which said runner-offsets project, and also having a terminal arched loop extending parallel with and coiled at its extremity around the uppermost runner at a point remote from the uppermost lateral loop, and a member 3 threaded through said offset portions of the runners in front of the lateral loops of the member 2, and also provided with an arched terminal loop extending parallel with and coiled at its extremity around the uppermost runner, at a point remote from the uppermost lateral loop of the member 2, said arched loops extending in opposite directions from the body portions of the members, substantially as specified.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we have hereto affixed our signatures in the presence of two witnesses.

THEOPHILUS BENARD CUSTER.  
CHARLEY THADDEUS CUSTER.

Witnesses:

J. P. ELTON,  
THOS. G. BOWLES.