M. J. GREGORY.

FENCE POST FOUNDATION.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 8, 1910.

994,742.

Patented June 13, 1911.

Fig. 1.

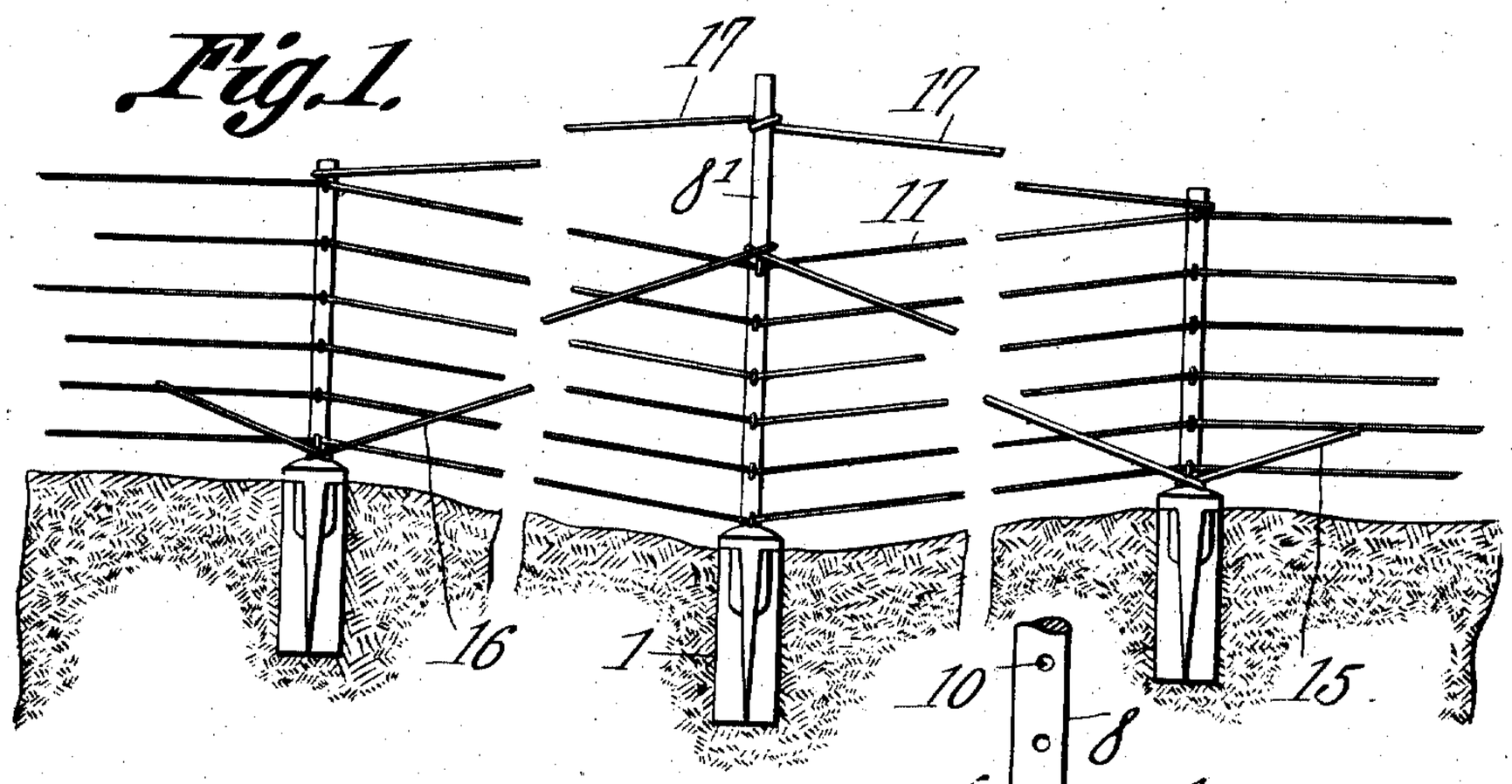


Fig. 3.

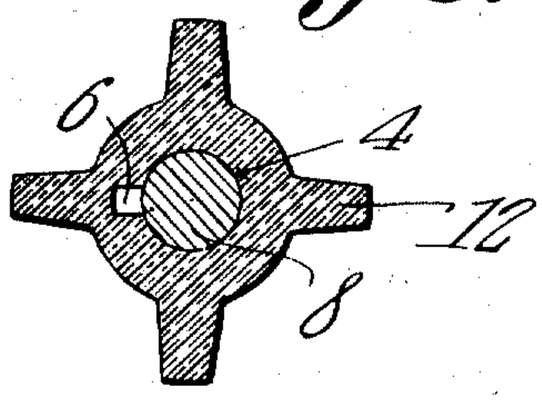


Fig. 2.

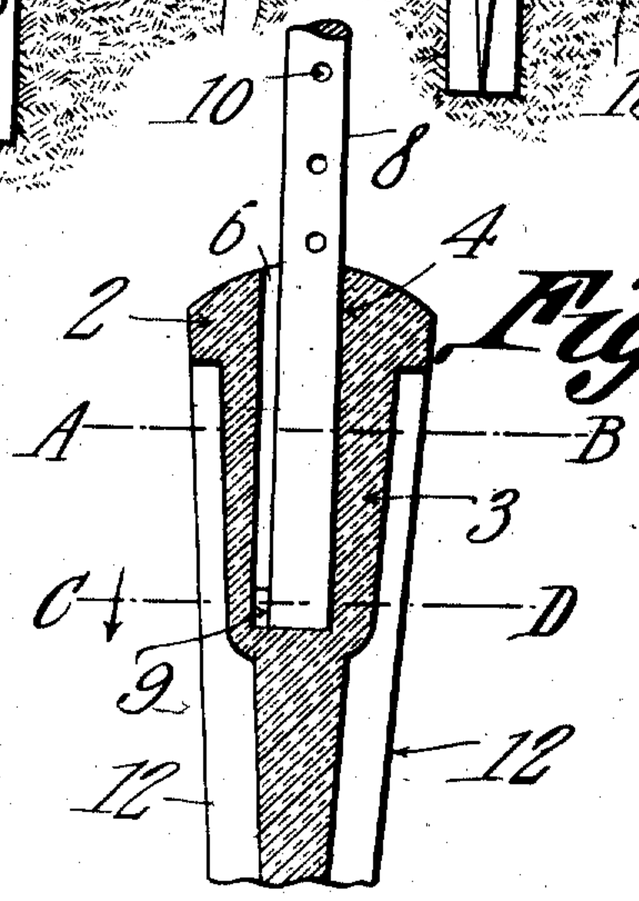


Fig. 4.

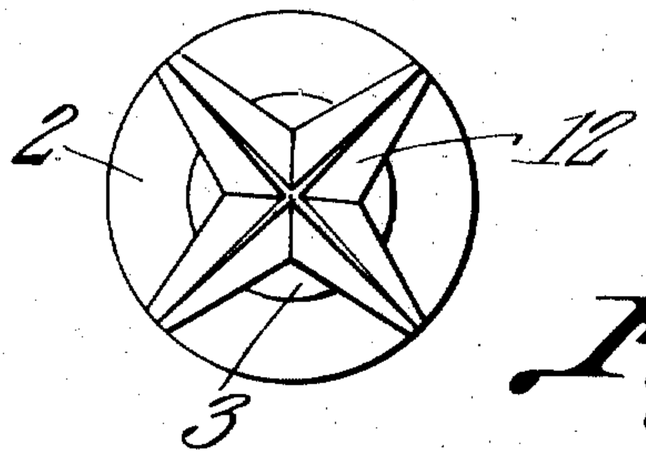


Fig. 5.

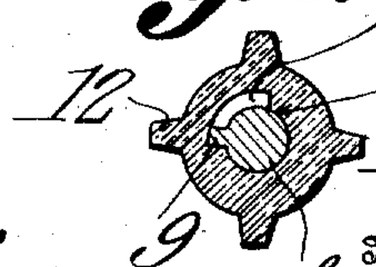
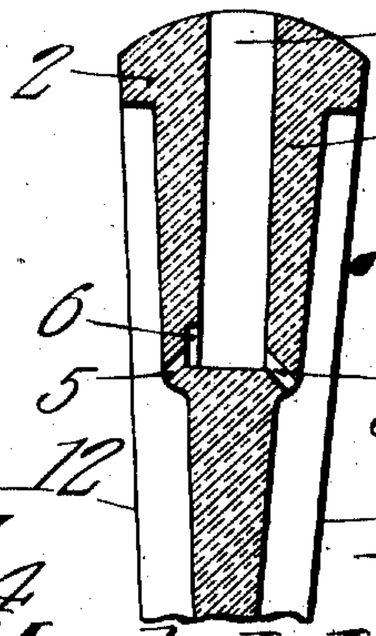


Fig. 6.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARSHAL J. GREGORY, OF SOUR LAKE, TEXAS.

FENCE-POST FOUNDATION.

994,742. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 13, 1911.

Application filed April 8, 1910. Serial No. 554,149.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARSHAL J. GREGORY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sour Lake, in the county of Hardin and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Fence-Post Foundation, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has reference to improvements in fence post foundations though applicable to foundations for other types of supports than fence posts, and its object is to provide a support which may be readily introduced into the ground and is at the same time rigid and indestructible under the action of the elements.

The invention will be best understood from a consideration of the following detail description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which drawings;—

Figure 1 is an elevation of a portion of a fence with the invention incorporated. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal diametric section of a slightly modified form of the fence post foundation with a post in position. Fig. 3 is a section upon the line A—B of Fig. 2, but on a larger scale. Fig. 4 is an end view of the fence post foundation as viewed from below. Fig. 5 is a section on the line C—D of Fig. 2. Fig. 6 is a view similar to that of Fig. 2 but with the post omitted, the section being at right angles to that of Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawings there is shown a foundation structure 1 which may be made of glass or cement or other like resistant material, or may even be made of metal, but in the latter case it is advisable to protect the foundation structure from oxidizing or other effects. The foundation 1 is provided with an upper or head end 2 preferably though not necessarily circular in outline and preferably, though not necessarily crowned in convex form.

Considering the foundation structure as upright, which is the position it occupies in the ground, the head portion 2 has a downward extension 3 and extending through the head portion and into the extension 3 is a central passage 4 open at the upper end and closed at the lower end, except for drainage passages 5 leading from the interior of the passage 4 to the exterior of the extension 3.

The passage 4 is preferably though not necessarily circular in cross section and on one side has a radial extension or groove 6 co-extensive in length with the passage 4 and opening through the head 2. At the lower end of the passage 4 the extension 3 is formed with a recess 7 concentric with the passage 4 and leading from the passage 6. The passage 4 is designed to receive a post 8 formed at the lower end with a radial tongue 9 adapted to the passage 6 and when the post 8 is seated in the passage or socket 4, a turn of the post 8 on its longitudinal axis will carry the tongue 9 into the concentric or segmental passage 7 thus locking the post against withdrawal from the foundation member 1. The post may be formed with a series of perforations 10 or may carry suitable fastening means for strands 11, see Fig. 1, designed to be used in conjunction with the posts to constitute a fence.

Formed on the extension 3 below the head 2 are radial ribs 12 continued beyond the extension 3 and tapering in the direction of their length until they terminate in comparatively sharp edges at the bottom of the foundation structure 1. These ribs or webs 12 on diametrically opposite sides of the extension 3 may have their edges parallel so that the foundation structure is of substantially the same diameter throughout its length, this being indicated in Fig. 1. Or the ribs or webs 12 may taper both in thickness and in direction of their length as indicated in Figs. 2 and 6. The post foundation may be readily introduced into the ground by the use of a suitable tool. The head 2 has a lateral extent as great as that of the ribs 12 and its lower surface defines a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the post so as to engage the surface of the ground and prevent too great insertion of the foundation into the ground.

The ribs or webs 12 which may either be four in number as shown or three in number in equidistant relation, or of any other suitable number, resist effectively any lateral strains put upon the post 8 no matter in what direction such lateral strain may be applied. The taper form of the ribs or webs 12 whether this taper be considered with relation to the thickness of the web or the length of the web is not sufficient to cause any tendency of the foundation structure to rise out of the ground on the application of lateral pressure to the post 8. The strands 11 may be arranged in any appropriate manner to form a fence in conjunction

with the posts 8, and bracing strands 15 are employed as needed.

Where a post foundation 1 with a post seated therein is located at a lower level than adjacent post foundations there will be a tendency to lift the lowermost post foundation to an approach to the level of the adjacent higher post foundations. To overcome this lifting tendency stay rods or strands 16 may extend from the bases of the posts at the higher level to a higher point of the post located at the lower level, and to further brace the structure the post located at the lower level may be longer, as indicated at 8′ and other stay rods or strands 17 may connect the upper ends of the posts together as illustrated in Fig. 1.

The foundation member 1 for the post may be cast in one piece from suitable material capable of being reduced to a flowable condition, the passage or socket 4 with the keyway 6 and segmental locking portion 7 formed at the same time. Since it is not designed to necessarily lock the post 8 against removal at will, the keyway 6 need not be filled with sealing material and any water which may find its way into the socket 4 through the passage or keyway 6 will have ready escape through the passages or perforations 5 which act as drainage passages for the socket 4.

Noting Fig. 3 it will be seen that the groove 6 is alined radially with one of the webs 12. By reason of this construction one web serves to reinforce the foundation member 1 along the line in which the groove 6 is formed. Noting Figs. 2, 3 and 6, it will be seen that none of the passages 5 which enter the recess 7, is directly alined, vertically, with the groove 6. By reason of this construction, when the tongue 9 moves transversely of the foundation member, in the recess 7, any material which may have accidentally lodged in the recess 7 will be swept along, in front of the tongue 9, to pass into one of the passages 5, thus preventing a clogging of the recess 7.

What is claimed is:—

A foundation for posts, comprising a member provided with upright, outstanding webs, and having a post-receiving passage provided in its side wall with an upright, outstanding groove, alined, radially of said member, with one of the webs; there being a transverse recess in the inner wall of the passage, leading laterally from the groove, the recess communicating with an opening located to one side of the groove, and extended through said member.

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

MARSHAL J. GREGORY.

Witnesses:

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