

Reading free Fencing the great plains the history of barbed wire (PDF)

after its invention barbed wire was widely used during wars to protect people and property from unwanted intrusion military usage of barbed wire formally dates to 1888 when british military manuals first encouraged its use barbed wire production took off in the early 1900s once machines allowed it to be made at scale u s national archives and records administration that answers the questions of who invented barbed wire an innovation that would become a hallmark of rural and battlefield landscapes was invented in the latter half of the 19th century this period was marked by a growing need for new fencing methods that would be practical and affordable for the expansive american west barbed wire is cited by historians as the invention that tamed the west herding large numbers of cattle on open range required significant manpower to catch strays barbed wire provided an inexpensive method to control the movement of cattle by the beginning of the

20th century large numbers of cowboys were unnecessary the lands settlers encountered in the mass western migrations of the mid to late 19th century were unlike any other they had seen before vast treeless expanses of open prairie bereft of any distinguishing features an ocean of grass and wildflowers as far as the eye could see barbed wire was used to create the original mexican california border back in 1909 during world war ii the nazis would use electrified barbed wire surrounding their extermination and concentration camps barbed wire fence wire usually consisting of two longitudinal wires twisted together to form cable and having wire barbs wound around either or both of the cable wires at regular intervals the varieties of barbed wire are numerous with cables being single or double round half round or flat the american invention that is most traditionally placed to deter intruders from trespassing and one which has spread worldwide since its invention in the mid 19th century is barbed wire the devil s rope the barbed wire fencing altered the lifestyle of the native americans they were now not able to roam freely on the lands that were once free for all the cattle herders found less plains for feeding their cattle as the fenced boundaries led to the lesser availability of public land barbed wire s singular purpose to keep in and thibkeeyostudy

was first put to use on the great plains of the american west in the late 19 th century to restrict cattle and implicitly to secure territory by expansionist settlers and demarcate possessions barbed wire has a fascinating history with its roots dating back to the 19th century states and people used these wires back then to strengthen their boundaries even now the quality of the material has changed but the purpose of using bagged wire is still the same the development of barbed wire prior to 1863 several individuals created forms of fencing that could be considered as barbed wire none of these creations ever reached the mass market in 1863 by michael kelly developed a type of fence with points affixed to twisted strands of wire from germany s welcoming of refugees to its outrage at hungary s violent efforts to stop them the country that 75 years ago made barbed wire into the symbol of man s inhumanity to man has in the 1860s joseph glidden invented barbed wire using twists of sharp wire at periodic points along a strand of smooth wire to provide an obstacle to livestock initially barbed wire was called the devil s rope and use of the wire was strongly resisted by the public lucien smith is credited with creating the first true barbed wire prototype which he called thorny wire it caught on quickly but had to be hand made

1874 illinois farmer joseph glidden won a patent battle and began mass producing barbed wire for the first time barbed wire is something we all know and perhaps use on a regular basis the history behind this devil s rope is an interesting one it certainly changed the world consider supporting hoh the history of the town where hannah grew up was bound and twisted by wire about twenty years before hannah s birth three men of the town a lumber merchant a farmer and a colonel simultaneously and independently invented barbed wire history of barbed wire stockman s ribbon wire two strands with a third wire twisted in and sheared began the devil s fence in 1863 when michael kelly first made it to keep his wife s garden from cattle and vermin a couplet of wires then patented by joseph glidden dekalb illinois 1874 the twisted wire began the division there were no land divisions no fences no houses no roads no towns moreover since the land was so inhospitable most people were intent on going further westward even to the coast the first barbed wire was invented in 1867 by lucien b smith of kent ohio which is 32 miles from my home in osnaburg ohio that changed everything the first barbed wire fences at the border were proposed to keep out chinese migrants they ve been debated for more than a century including an ongoing federal court case

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