

M. R. Margerum,
Coffin.

N^o 50,144.

Patented Sep. 26, 1865.

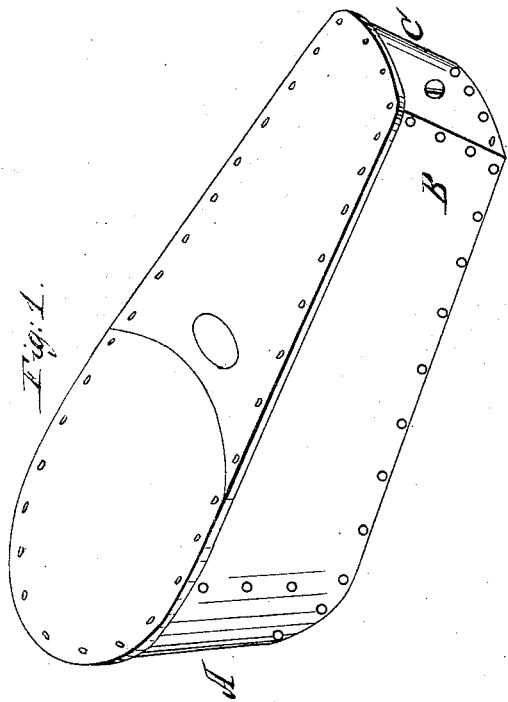
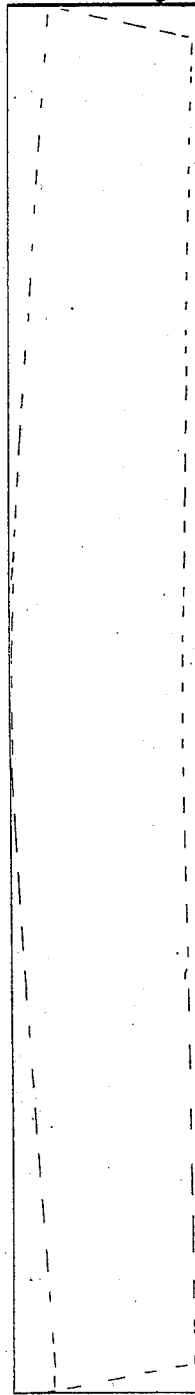


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:
Charles Potts.
John C. Hawley

Inventor:
Mathew R. Margerum

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MAHLON R. MARGERUM, OF TRENTON, NEW JERSEY.

IMPROVEMENT IN WOODEN COFFINS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 50,144, dated September 26, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MAHLON R. MARGERUM, of the city of Trenton, in the county of Mercer and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Construction of Wooden Coffins, whereby it is believed time, labor, and expense in said construction will be saved; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a coffin constructed as herein described, whereof A represents the curved or bent head, and B C the flat and sloping sides; D, the foot or smaller end of the coffin.

The nature of my invention consists, first, in making the sides and rounded head of the coffin of one entire piece of wood, the rounded head being formed by bending it around to the curve and slope desired for the head of the coffin, and then fastening in the usual way said piece of wood to the bottom and foot D of the coffin. Fig. 2 is drawn to illustrate how this one piece to form the sides and head of the coffin may readily be cut out from a suitable board. The dotted lines show the marks or scribing on the board to form the piece therefrom to form the sides and rounded head of the coffin.

In order to make the wood pliant and pliable, I propose to steam it as in the ordinary way of heating wood for similar purposes.

In some cases, as for small coffins, or where the head is required to be turned with a curve of short radius, I propose to kerf around the head part of the board on the inner side thereof, so as to facilitate the bending thereof.

Secondly. I propose to make the tops of the coffin of suitable wood and to steam and press them, so as to give them a swell upward, somewhat similar to the ordinary process of swelling violin tops and bottoms.

I do not claim as new or any part of my invention the steaming of wood or boards so as to make them pliant for the purpose of bending or swelling; nor do I claim making coffins with round heads and ends and swelled tops, as these are common, particularly in the metallic coffins; but

What I do claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The forming and constructing the sides and rounded head of wooden coffins with one single or entire piece of wood and bending the same so as to form the coffin, substantially as above described and herein set forth.

MAHLON R. MARGERUM.

Witnesses:

CHARLES POTTS,
WM. C. HOWELL.