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Improvement in Coffins PATENTED JAN 24 1871

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Fig. 1.

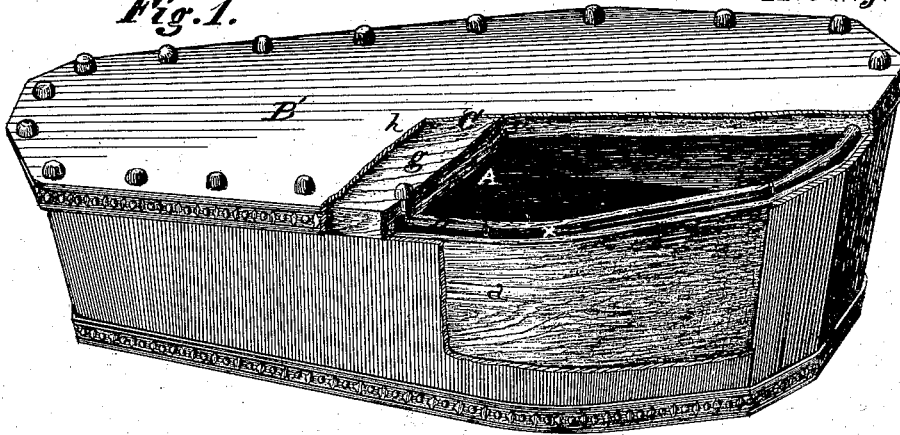


Fig. 2.

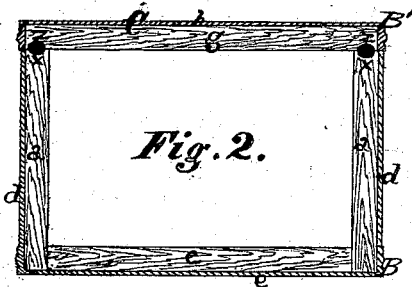


Fig. 3.

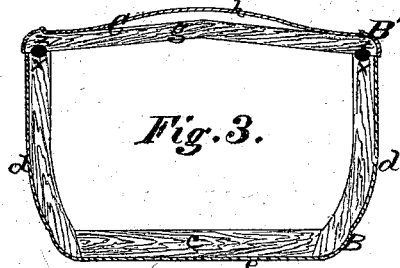


Fig. 3.

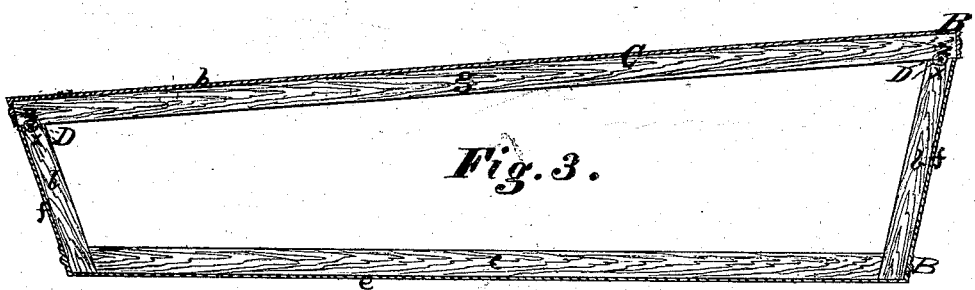
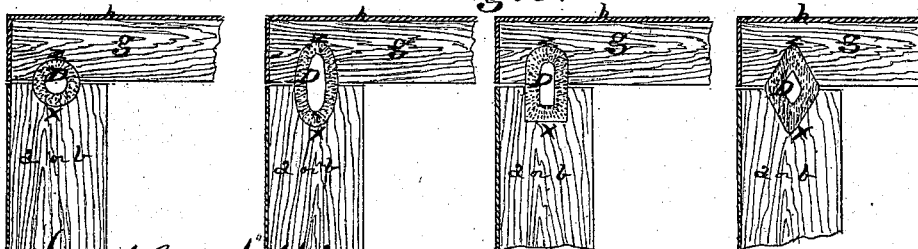


Fig. 5.



Witnesses

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PATRICK H. GRIFFIN, OF ALBANY, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 111,117, dated January 24, 1871; antedated January 7, 1871.

IMPROVEMENT IN BURIAL-CASES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PATRICK H. GRIFFIN, of the city of Albany, State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Coffins or Burial-Cases; and I do hereby declare that the following is a description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a coffin in perspective with parts broken away, illustrating the improvements in this invention.

Figure 2 is a cross-section of a coffin embodying the improvements.

Figure 3 is a side elevation of the same.

Figure 4 is a cross-section of a coffin of modified form, illustrating the improvements in this invention adapted to the same.

Figure 5 are modified forms of the elastic tube (in cross-section) used to seal the coffin.

My invention consists in constructing a coffin with a wooden body inclosed in a thin metal struck-up case, the edges of which may be solidly united by brazing or soldering after being applied to the wooden body.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it in reference to the drawing and to the letters of reference marked thereon, the same letters indicating like or similar parts.

In the drawing—

A represents the body of a coffin, which is constructed of any suitable wood, such as pine, with sides *a a*, ends *b b*, and bottom *c*, all of which are properly joined together in a workmanlike manner.

The said body A thus formed is then encased within a thin sheet malleable metal case, B, constructed of sheet copper, brass, or other similar metal, worked, pressed, or struck in form to adapt the said thin metal case to the form desired to be given to the body A when it is finished.

The jointures of the sides *d*, ends *f*, and bottom *e* of the said malleable metal case B, I make water and air-tight by brazing, soldering, or otherwise permanently joining the same to one another, as may be required by the size and form of the coffin or burial-case to be constructed.

The cover or lid C I form principally of wood, *g*, and incase its top and edges with a case, B', like malleable sheet metal *h*, as that incasing the body A, as shown in the several figures; and in most cases the case B' of the said cover can be best formed by striking up under a drop-press, and by so forming the said case B' a great variety of conformation of upper surface can be given, as also a great variety of appropriate figures, emblems, and the like, which would not only

enhance the beauty and appearance of the same, but also strengthen the cover or lid to resist the pressure of soil that may be cast on the same when finally deposited.

In most cases I would make the case B of the body A and case B' of the cover C of sheet-copper, and to give them an appearance to suit (as custom has established) the several ages of the deceased to be confined, I would have the said copper silvered or tinned when used for the burial of children, and when used for the burial of adults, I would stain the surface by any of the now-known processes to produce a dark or black appearance on the same.

To seal and make tight the jointure of the cover C with the body A, I cut in the wood of the sides *a* and ends *b* a groove, *x*, in such a form to correspond with and receive a half of the elastic tube D, figs. 1, 3, and 5.

I also cut in the under side of the cover C a corresponding groove, *z*, to receive or nearly receive the other half of the said tube D.

The said elastic tube D may be either round, oblong, angular, or other form, as shown in the several cross-sections of modified forms of tubes in fig. 5, which would be capable of being compressed or upset when pressed upon, and would effectually close and make air-tight the said jointure.

By this device the said jointure of the cover C with the body A will be rendered tight, and will prevent water from entering the body A, and will prevent the escape of any offensive smell therefrom.

Coffins or burial-cases constructed with my improvements would not only be strong and durable, but economical in cost, and susceptible of a great variety of appropriate forms and emblems, which could be effected by dies at but little expense, and would be less weighty and more durable than coffins constructed of cast-iron.

I am aware that thin malleable metal cases have been and are used to contain an interior wooden coffin, and also for containing ordinary wooden boxes for costly merchandise, but such metal casings were and are not constructed in the manner described above, nor are their parts soldered or brazed tight after the said cases are applied to the wood, as in my invention.

Having described my invention,

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is

The thin metal struck-up case B B', adapted to contain a coffin, and to be secured as set forth.

PATRICK H. GRIFFIN.

Witnesses:

ALEX. SELKIRK,
CHAS. SELKIRK.