

L. K. DUTTON.

Burial-Vaults.

No. 161,673.

Patented April 6, 1875.

Fig. 1.

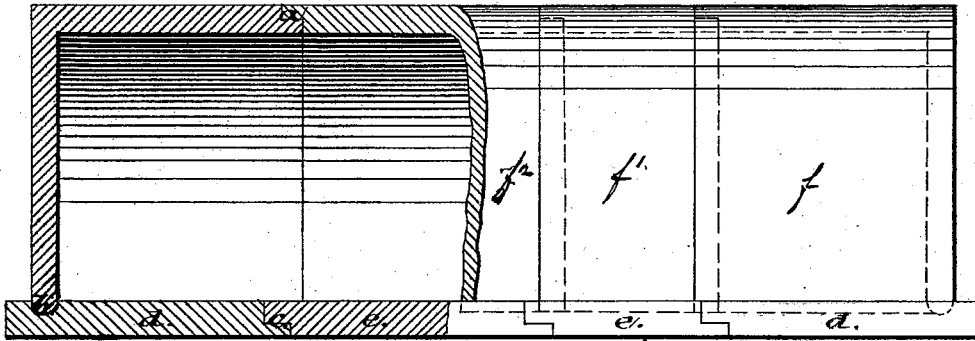


Fig. 2.

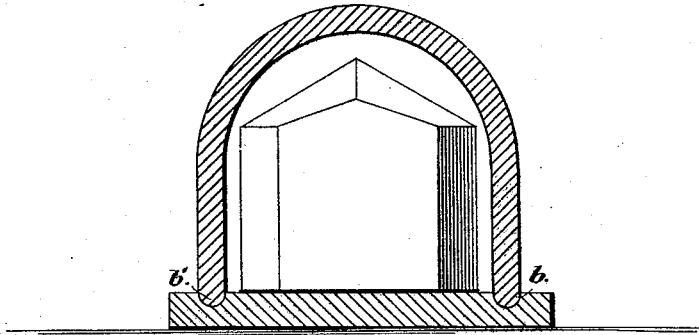
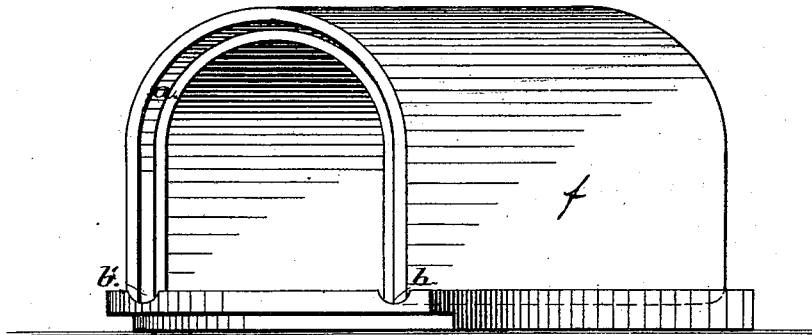


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
G. A. Siddeup
F. Oluppy

Inventor:
Leander K. Dutton,
per E. W. Rice
Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEANDER K. DUTTON, OF OSKALOOSA, IOWA.

IMPROVEMENT IN BURIAL-VAULTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **161,673**, dated April 6, 1875; application filed May 21, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEANDER K. DUTTON, of the city of Oskaloosa, county of Mahaska, State of Iowa, have invented an Improved Burial-Vault for reception and final resting-place of coffins and burial-caskets of every description; the object being to provide a convenient and inexpensive substitute that shall be portable and adjustable, or extensible in place of brick-and-mortar vaults, outside coverings of stone, and the like costly expedients for excluding water and preserving the coffins now commonly in use.

To this end my invention consists in a novel method of forming, and in details of construction of, an exterior vault or covering made of hydraulic cement, terra-cotta, or metal, in four or more sections, the bottom or base-plates having lap-joints on inside ends, and a groove near the edge entirely around the bottom plate, while the upper or covering plate is arch-shaped, made in corresponding sections, lap-jointed and tongued to fit into the groove of the base, the whole being readily adjustable as to length, and easily handled for transportation, as will be hereinafter more fully explained.

Like letters indicate the parts; and I declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of my invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings making part of this specification, viz:

Figure 1 represents a vertical side view of the vault, a portion broken away to show the interior thereof; Fig. 2, a vertical cross-section of the same, showing a coffin in position; and Fig. 3, a perspective view of an end section of the same.

The bottom sections *d e* are of such size and so made that a vault of any desirable dimensions can readily be constructed by multiplying or diminishing the number of these lower sections, and by using the corresponding number of upper sections. The ends of these lower sections *d e* are made with lap-joints *c*, so as to be smoothly joined together, and the edges thereof grooved, as at *b*, to receive the tongue *b'* of the upper section. The sides *f f¹ f²* and entire upper

portion of the vault are constructed in sections corresponding in length with the length of the sections of the base, and of sufficient size and breadth to cover the coffin, and are made in the form of an arch, so as to secure the greatest possible strength to resist pressure from without and completely protect, for all time, the coffin and contents from earth, water, or worms. Each section of the covering and sides is an entire piece from the base on one side to the base on the other. The lower end of each arch or upper section is tongued, as at *b'*, or so made as to rest in the groove in the outer edges and ends of the base. The vertical ends of each arch section are constructed with lap-joints *a*, so as to be firmly fixed and cemented together. The two end sections, Fig. 3, of the upper portion of the vault are entire solid pieces, covering the top, side, and ends of these portions of the vault, and, like the arches and other upper sections, rest firmly and securely in the grooves of the base.

Among the special advantages of my improved burial-vault is the readiness with which it may be transported from one place to another, the four or more sections of which it is composed being much more easily handled than when made in two parts only, while at the same time it is not weakened by subdivision into a dozen parts, as had likewise heretofore been done. My continuous arch gives the maximum of strength or power of resistance in the heaping of earth upon it. My construction of it is adjustable as to length (the only important element) with the greatest ease by merely adding or leaving out an interchangeable section.

The use of my vault properly cemented together obviates any necessity of a heavy or expensive coffin, and it is so cheaply constructed and furnished at so low a price as to be within the reach of all. In wet, clayey soil, or wherever the protection and preservation of the coffin is a desideratum, my invention is of great and much needed public advantage.

I am aware that outside coverings or vaults have heretofore been made in sections, and of

the like materials, and these I do not, broadly, claim, irrespective of my own peculiar methods of construction; but

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

An improved portable and adjustable burial-vault, consisting of the two arched end sections *f*, having their sides, top, and end made in one solid piece, lap-jointed, and tongued, the bot-

tom or base plate sections *d d e e*, lap-jointed and grooved, and the interchangeable arched sections *f¹ f²* of corresponding lengths, and lap-jointed and tongued, all substantially as described and shown, for the purpose set forth.

LEANDER K. DUTTON.

Witnesses:

E. M. RICE,

G. H. GIDDINGS.