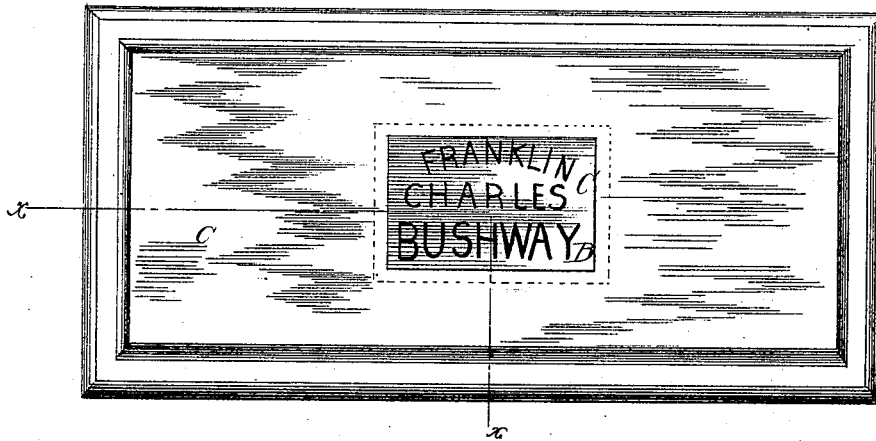


F. C. BUSHWAY.  
Grave Tablet.

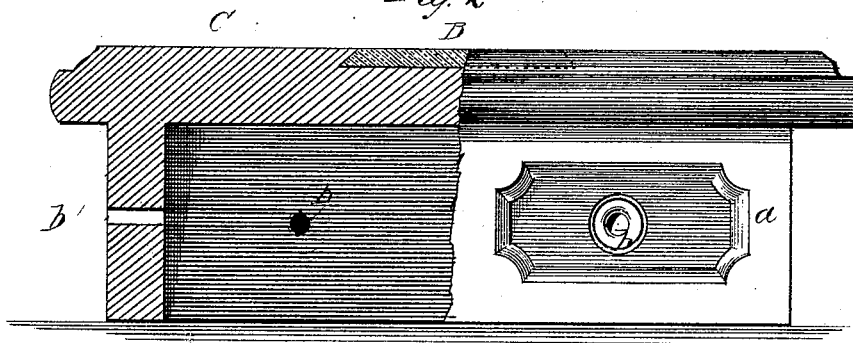
No. 196,740.

Patented Nov. 6, 1877.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



Wobn. 65965.  
Frd. G. Suterach  
W. E. Chaffer

Inventor  
Franklin C. Bushway,  
by DeWitt C. Allen.

att'y

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANKLIN C. BUSHWAY, OF LINCOLN, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS RIGHT  
TO JACKSON HUKILL, OF TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN GRAVE-TABLETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **196,740**, dated November 6, 1877; application filed  
September 4, 1877.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANKLIN C. BUSHWAY, of Lincoln, in the county of Logan, and in the State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Grave-Tablets; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification.

Figure 1 of the drawings represents a plan or top view of my grave-tablet; and Fig. 2, a side view, partly in section.

My invention consists of a rectangular box, open at the bottom, having a heavy tabulated cover on the top, composed of a single piece, (except as to the inserted marble tablet,) manufactured from materials in a soft condition, which set quickly, and, when set, will resist the influences of weather and climate, as hereinafter set forth.

Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings annexed represent my improved grave-tablet, which is a rectangular box with a tabulated cover, C, made entire, the box and the cover forming but one piece.

The perpendicular sides of the box may have two or more panels each, and the ends one each, as matters of ornament, and for the purpose of lessening the weight of the tablet, as seen at letters *a a*.

Each side of the tablet is provided with two holes opposite each other, and one at each end opposite each other, as seen at *b b*, of any requisite size, say from three-eighths to three-fourths of an inch in diameter, which holes serve a double purpose of ventilation, and for thrusting through iron rods, the better to handle the tablet in shipping and in placing it over the grave.

The inserted marble tablet B (seen in Fig. 1) may be of any size or desired shape. Super-scriptions are lettered therein, which may be done before or after the tablet is manufactured. It is beveled, as seen in the drawing, on all sides, so as to be firmly held in the middle of the upper part of the tablet, the upper surface being the smallest.

I construct my tablet of Portland cement,

(or Milwaukee cement, or any other having the same qualities as the Portland,) sand, silicate of soda in solution, and sometimes salt, in the following proportions, viz: Portland cement, thirty per cent.; sand, sixty-five per cent.; silicate of soda in solution, five per cent. When the sand has soil in it I, add eight to ten per cent. of fine salt. When the sand is clean and free from soil, I omit the salt. I sometimes find it necessary to vary a little the proportions of sand and cement, according to circumstances.

The mixing and consistency of the materials are very important. I mix the cement and sand, when dry, very thoroughly. To these I then add my solution of soda, or soda and salt, as the sand may require, and about thirty per cent. of water; then mix thoroughly till it is reduced to a true homogeneous mass. When ready for use it must be only damp enough so that when taken in the hand and pressed it will not show much moisture.

I manufacture my tablet upside down, so as to receive the mixture. I place the molds upside down and fasten securely. In the central part of the bottom of the mold so placed I place the marble tablet C, also upside down, so that the narrower surface—that which is to be the real surface when the article is finished—shall be down. I then adjust a wooden heart or core within the molds, leaving the intended spaces for the reception of the mixture below the core, and at both its sides and ends. The core is firmly secured in its place by clamps or other approved mode.

When the molds are ready for the mixture, I fill the molds gradually, tamping all the time very hard. When filled to the place where the holes should be for ventilation and handling, I thrust plugs through the molds in holes made for that purpose. I then complete the filling of the molds, tamping all the time very hard. I then add water until the whole gets well set.

In about four hours I remove the core, letting the outside molds remain forty-eight hours, which are then removed. In this condition I leave the tablet undisturbed, just as and where it was cast, for six days, when I turn it over and the bottom becomes the top.

The top mold being removed discovers the now inserted marble tablet even with the balance of the surface, as shown in the drawing.

The compound aforesaid, of which I manufacture my grave-tablet, becomes harder the longer it is exposed to the air. It is impervious to water. It resists equally the most intense heat and the severest cold.

My tablet may be manufactured in a shop, where sand may be stored and kept dry, or out-of-doors, if necessary, in good weather. It is readily shipped and easily handled, with little danger of breaking.

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

1. The herein-described rectangular hollow grave-tablet, composed of artificial stone, molded or formed in one piece, and having the parallel sides and ends and the top C, substantially as specified.

2. The herein-described hollow grave-tablet, provided with the holes *b*, for handling and ventilation, substantially as specified.

3. The combination of a grave-tablet composed of artificial stone of materials as above set forth, having paneled sides, ends, and top, with holes through the sides and ends for purposes of ventilation and handling, and having an intermolded marble tablet in the middle of the top thereof, substantially as and for the purposes above set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 29th day of August, 1877.

FRANKLIN C. BUSHWAY.

Witnesses:

STEPHEN A. FOLEY,  
LELAND HEAD.