

A. Clark,
Coffin Handle.
N^o 51,693. Patented Dec. 26, 1865.

Fig. 2.

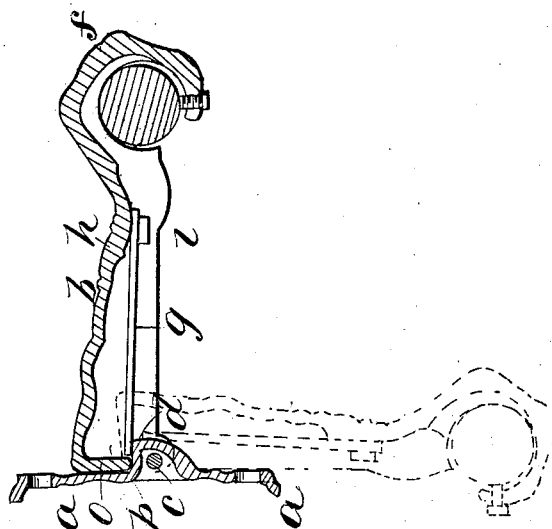
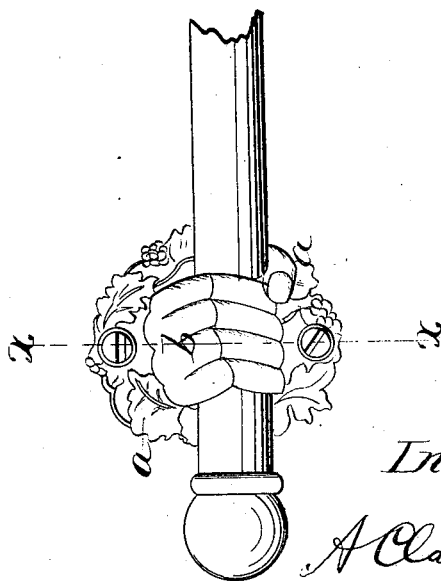


Fig. 1.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AUGUSTUS CLARK, OF AMSTERDAM, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN COFFIN-HANDLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **51,693**, dated December 26, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AUGUSTUS CLARK, of Amsterdam, in the county of Montgomery and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Handles for Coffins, &c.; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

The present invention consists in a novel connection or jointing of the ends of a handle for coffins, burial-caskets, cases, &c., to the fixed or staple plates of the same, whereby, when the handle is swung or turned up into a horizontal position, or nearly so, it will be held or fixed there, as it were, until relieved by bringing sufficient downward pressure to bear upon the same, with the hand or hands, therefor.

Handles for burying-cases have been heretofore attached to them in a fixed horizontal position, or sufficiently so to enable them to be grasped with facility when desired to carry the coffin from one place to another; but as they were fixed in such position it necessitated the use of a much larger box for packing the casket, the disadvantages, as well as inconvenience, of which are too self-evident to all conversant with the manufacture and construction of burial-cases and the necessary trimmings to need any particular mention herein.

In accompanying plate of drawings my improvement is illustrated, Figure 1 being a front view of one end of a coffin-handle hinged to the fixed staple or plate of the same according to my invention; Fig. 2, a central longitudinal vertical section, taken in the plane of the line *x x*, Fig. 1, showing the handle in both a horizontal and vertical position.

a a in the drawings represent one fixed staple or plate screwed or otherwise fastened to the coffin, burial-case, or casket at the proper point thereof, either on its sides or ends, and ornamented with any desired and appropriate configurations, made of any suitable kind of metal or other material, to and on which plate

the handle-arm *b* is hinged by a pivot-joint, *c*, of its projecting shoulder-piece *d*. This handle-arm is made of the general shape and style represented in the drawings, and has passed through its outer end, *f*, one end portion of a handle-rod extending along and in the direction of the length of the side or end of the coffin upon which it is placed, which rod, at its other end, is inserted in a similar shaped handle-arm to that above described, and hinged to its fixed staple or plate of the coffin in the same manner as is explained for the arm *b*.

g is a bent metallic spring, secured at one end to and upon the under side of the shank or stock portion *h* of the handle-arm *b* by means of a screw, *l*, the other end resting and bearing against the outer side and upper edge, *n*, of the fixed shoulder *d*, according as it is in a vertical or hanging position, or in a horizontal one, as plainly seen in Fig. 2. By means of this spring *g*, when the handle is turned into a horizontal position, or nearly so, or so that its inner end, *o*, rests upon the shoulder *d*, it is obvious that the handle is there retained by the spring until sufficient pressure is brought to bear upon the handle to overcome the force or strength of the same, when, as the handle is turned down, the inner end of the spring moves around and upon the shoulder-piece, as is evident without further explanation.

The handle may be made of various shapes and sizes other than those herein described, as well, also, as their fixed staples or plates, and of any desired ornamentation or configuration, according to the taste of different persons.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The combination of the hinged handle-arm *b* and sustaining-spring *g*, constructed, arranged, and operating as described.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 20th day of June, A. D. 1865.

A. CLARK.

Witnesses:

ALBERT W. BROWN,
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