

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES W. BOWER, OF GREENCASTLE, INDIANA.

IMPROVEMENT IN COMPOUNDS FOR COVERING COFFINS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 115,687, dated June 6, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES W. BOWER, of Greencastle, in the county of Putnam and State of Indiana, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Coffins; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention relates to means of making wooden burial-cases, caskets, &c., air-tight; and consists in combining and compounding a mixture of pine tar, asphaltum, rubber, and litharge, intended to serve as an efficient and cheap article, when prepared in the manner hereinafter mentioned.

Take one gallon of pure pine tar and boil to an ordinary temperature; then add one-half pound of pulverized asphaltum and four ounces of rubber dissolved in turpentine; mix and stir the mixture till ingredients are thoroughly incorporated; then, with a brush or paddle, apply the prepared mixture to the seasoned wood and apply a hot iron. Let the mixture cool and harden on the wood, and then give another coat in the manner above described. After the second coat the wood should be corked and brushed till it is smooth; then

sprinkle on pulverized litharge for a drier, and, when dried, it may be painted and grained to any color, and finished with varnish, the same as any other piece of furniture.

The above process composes the outside finish of a casket or burial-case. For the inside of a burial-case apply the first and second coats, as above described; then take good common muslin and cut it so as to fit the inside, and lap all the joints and corners in said case; apply another coat over this material with hot irons; then the case is ready for the regular lining of coffins, &c.

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

The compound for covering coffins, &c., to make them air-tight, formed of the ingredients and applied in the manner specified.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

JAMES W. BOWER.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM D. ALLEN,
OTHO. ALLEN.