

G. W. BOYD.
Burial-Case.

No. 220,119.

Patented Sept. 30, 1879.

Fig. 1.

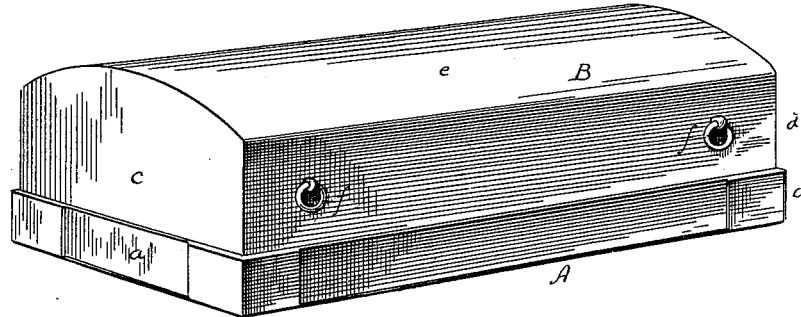


Fig. 2.

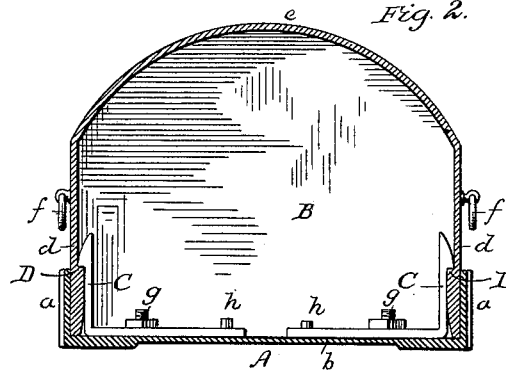
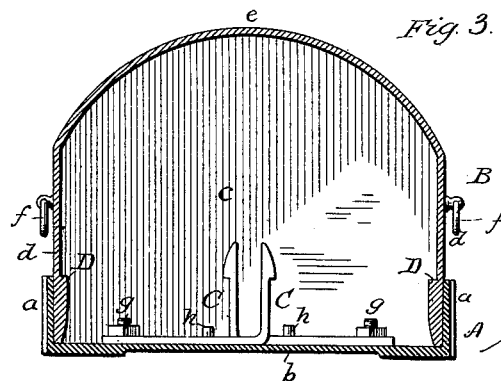


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE W. BOYD, OF SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN BURIAL-CASES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 220,119, dated September 30, 1879; application filed February 5, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. BOYD, of Springfield, in the county of Clarke and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Grave-Vaults for Burial-Caskets; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompany drawings; and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The object I have in view is to prevent the resurrection of human bodies by providing a case or vault for containing the burial-casket, coffin, or other case in which the body may be put, which will be burglar-proof, so that it cannot be opened after being once closed, and will be made of such strong material that it cannot be broken into at any point, and at the same time will be portable and easily conveyed from place to place, and will be cheap to manufacture when compared with other devices for the same purpose.

My invention therein consists in the manner of securing the spring-catches which lock the two parts of the vault together, enabling them to be reversed and the vault to be transported in one piece without locking; and, further, in the construction, arrangement, and combination of the principal parts of my vault, all as fully hereinafter explained.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved vault closed; Fig. 2, a central cross-section, showing the vault locked and Fig. 3 a similar cross-section with the catches reversed for transportation.

My vault is made in two parts—a bottom, A, and a cover, B. The bottom is of flat rectangular form, and has a shallow upturned edge, *a*, running around it, which may be made in one piece with the bottom plate, *b*, of this portion of the vault, or constructed from separate pieces and strengthened by additional plates at the corners, as shown. The cover or top B, which forms the principal part of the body of the vault, has ends *c*, with straight side and bottom edges and curved upper edges, and the top and sides of the cover B are made of a plate (or plates) which is bent to conform to the shape of the ends *c*, and forms the straight vertical sides *d* and curved and arched top *e* of the vault. As shown, the cover is of such size that it will fit upon the bottom in-

side of the edge *a*, and close to such edge. By this shape of the vault it is given great strength, so that it will never collapse upon the casket contained by it, and by having straight side walls, *d*, it will conform more nearly to the casket or coffin than if the sides were curved.

Both the bottom A and cover B, I propose to make of wrought-metal plates, riveted together like boiler-plates, and either having the rivet-heads countersunk or projecting, as may be desired. The vault also can be nickel-plated, bronzed, or otherwise ornamented.

The cover B is provided at the corners with ring-handles *f*, by which the whole vault, locked together, can be lowered into the grave, or the cover lowered over the casket and upon the bottom.

To lock the two parts of the vault together, I provide the bottom A with four or more spring-catches, C, made of pieces of spring-steel bent at right angles. The lower part of each spring which rests upon the plate *b* has two holes bored through it, which set over two studs, *g h*, said studs being passed up through the plate *b* and riveted thereto. The studs *g* are screw-threaded and provided with nuts, which hold the catches near their vertical parts. The vertical or catch portions of the springs project a short distance above the edge *a*, just inside thereof, and have half-spear heads, as shown in Fig. 2.

The cover B is provided at the bottom of each side wall, *d*, with a shoulder, D, which is either rolled on the plate or formed by riveting plates to the inside of the side walls.

When the cover is dropped upon the bottom the spring-catches C engage with these shoulders D and lock the two parts of the vault securely together.

By having the studs *g h* riveted to the bottom plate, *b*, they cannot be reached to loosen them without turning the vault completely over.

The inside of the side walls, *d*, below the shoulders D, may be slightly curved, if desired, to operate more easily upon the beveled heads of the spring-catches.

For transportation, the spring-catches are reversed upon the studs *g h*, only one nut having to be removed to do this, and the catches

assume the position shown in Fig. 3, allowing the parts of the vault to be placed together and shipped in one piece.

My vault, constructed as above described, besides being strong, will be quite light, and can be purchased by persons of limited means.

Having thus fully described my vault, and explained some of its advantages, what I claim as new therein, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a metal vault for containing burial-caskets, the removable and reversible spring-catches C, constructed substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The metal vault for containing burial-caskets described, consisting of the shallow bottom A, having side edges, *a*, and removable and reversible spring-catches C, and the top B, constructed with straight side walls and curved top, and provided with shoulders D, substantially as set forth and shown.

This specification signed and witnessed this 4th day of January, A. D. 1879.

GEORGE W. BOYD.

Witnesses:

E. F. HILL,

J. H. RABBITTS.