

(No Model.)

E. & B. HOLMES.  
COFFIN.

No. 417,725.

Patented Dec. 24, 1889.

Fig.1.

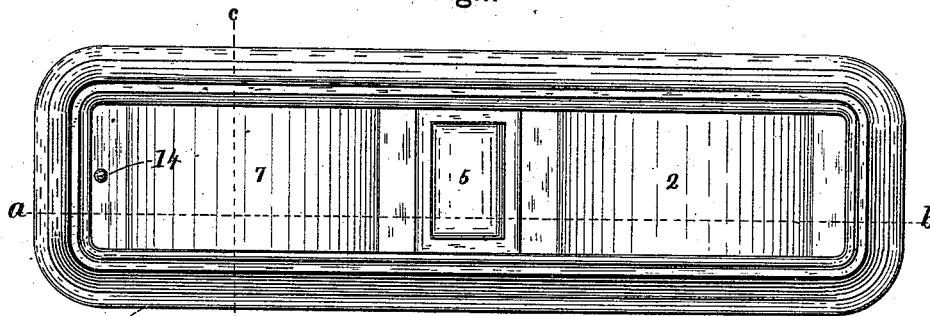


Fig.2.

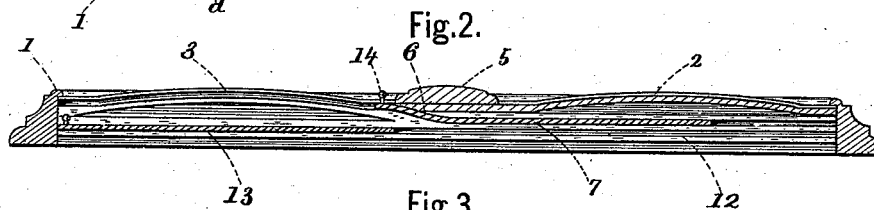


Fig.3.

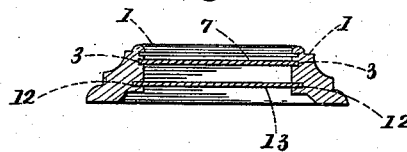
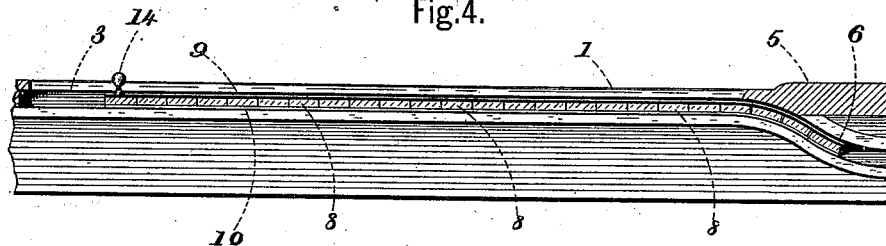


Fig.4.



Witnesses.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD HOLMES AND BRITAIN HOLMES, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

## COFFIN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 417,725, dated December 24, 1889.

Application filed August 2, 1889. Serial No. 319,519. (No model.)

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, EDWARD HOLMES and BRITAIN HOLMES, both citizens of the United States, residing in Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Burial-Caskets, of which the following is a specification.

The object of our invention is to provide a suitable means for easily and quietly opening and closing a burial-casket, when required, and also to preserve a uniform appearance in the top of the casket when closed, all of which will be fully and clearly herein-  
after described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of a casket, showing the upper lid closed. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section through the upper portion of a casket, in or about line *a b*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a cross-section through the upper portion of a casket on line *c d*, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional elevation through a portion of the top of a casket, cutting also longitudinally through the movable lid.

Our invention consists in the combination, with a casket-lid, of a flexible face-lid adapted to be easily drawn through curved or irregular grooves, the object being to allow the cover to be raised up even with the top of the casket by the act of closing it, and to cause it to pass down into the grooves under the rear portion of the top of the casket by the act of opening it.

In said drawings we have shown a suitable means for carrying out our invention.

The cover 1 of a casket may be made of any desired shape or design, and constructed in any well-known way, or made of any suitable material. On each inner side of the casket-top is a longitudinal groove 3, passing in curved lines over the forward portion of the casket, as shown in Fig. 2, so as to correspond with the curved panel or top portion 2 of the rear portion of the casket, or these grooves may pass in straight grooves 3, as shown in Fig. 4. Where the grooves 3 pass down under the central or cross panel 5 of the casket-top, they are made to either incline or curve downward, as at 6, far enough to get

down under the top 5, after which they pass in substantially straight lines under the top of the casket. (See Fig. 2.)

7, in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, represents the flexible face lid or cover. This cover may be constructed of any flexible material that is pliable enough to permit it to be pushed back and forth through the curved lowering portions 6 of the grooves 3.

India-rubber may be made to answer the purpose, or a thin top made of any well-known flexible material may be used; but is preferably made of a series of narrow strips or bars of wood or other well-known material, with a covering of cloth 9 at the top and a covering of any suitable thin sheet material 10 at the bottom. (See Fig. 4.) If the thin material 10 be sheet metal—such as thin copper or zinc—the strips may be riveted or otherwise fastened to it. The cloth 9 is preferably secured to the opposite side of the strips 8 by glue or any suitable adhesive material. This construction produces a lid that is flexible enough to be moved easily back and forth in either a curved, serpentine, or a straight groove, so that the rear top 2 and front portions of the top of the casket may be made alike and of any curved ornamental shape that may be desired.

Below the grooves 3, at each inner side of the cover, is a groove 12, into which a glass or other transparent sliding face-lid 13 is placed, so as to slide easily back and forth. (See Figs. 2 and 3.)

At or near the front end of the flexible face lid or cover 7 is a small knob or other suitable device 14, by which it is moved back and forth.

We claim as our invention—

The combination, with a casket-top, of a flexible face-cover, curved irregular-shaped grooves, in which the cover moves while being opened or closed, and a sliding transparent cover located in grooves below the face-cover, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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