L. H. MONTROSS.

BURIAL CASKET.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 12, 1910.

1,059,747. Patented Apr. 22, 1913.

Fig. 1.

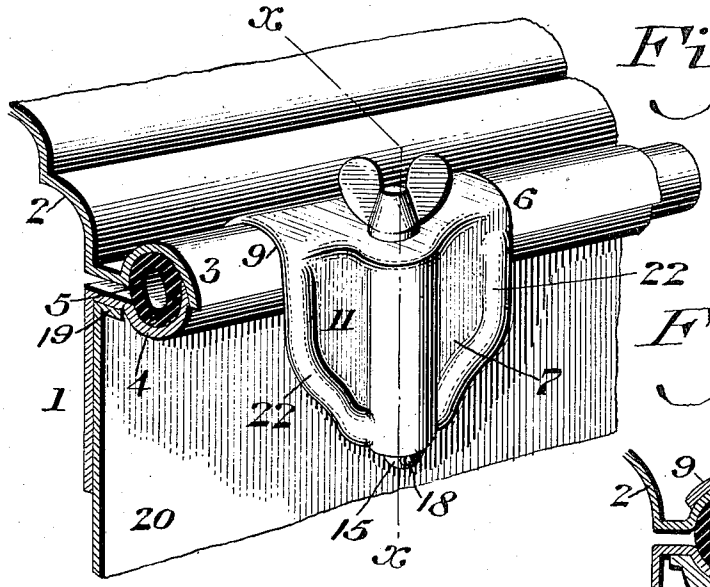


Fig. 4.

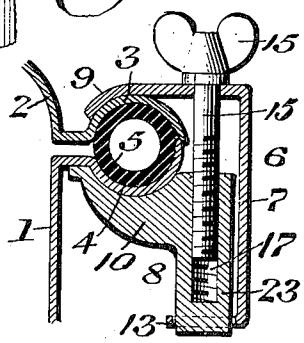


Fig. 2.

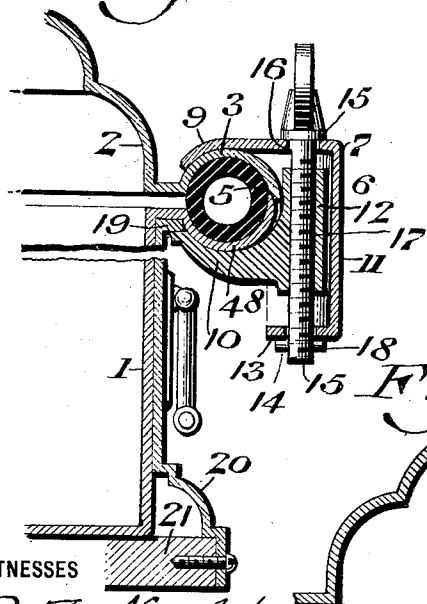


Fig. 3.

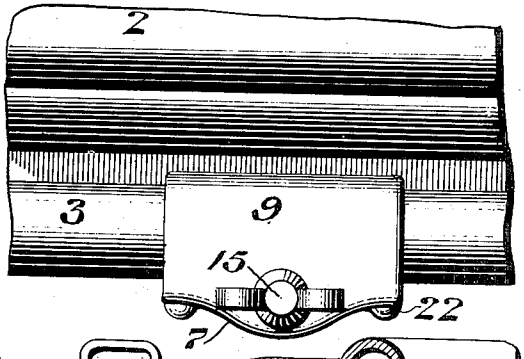
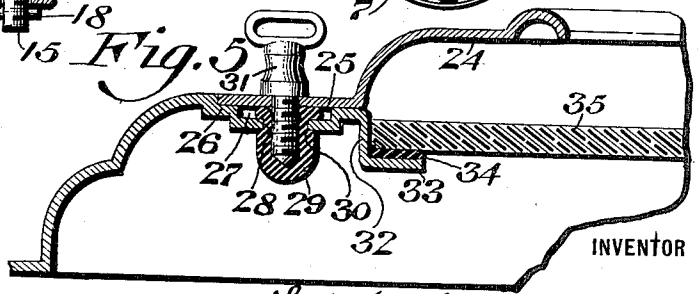


Fig. 5.



WITNESSES

P. F. Nagle.

L. Courville.

INVENTOR

BY Levi H. Montross.

Wiedersheim & Fairbanks.

ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEVI H. MONTROSS, OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY.

BURIAL-CASKET.

1,059,747. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 22, 1913.

Application filed October 12, 1910. Serial No. 586,739.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEVI H. MONTROSS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Camden, county of Camden, State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Burial-Casket, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in burial caskets, more particularly metallic burial caskets, and consists of novel means for effectively closing and sealing the joint of the body and cover or lid of a casket, the same embodying a plurality of clamping members which are adapted to embrace coöperative flanges on the body and cover, and means for tightening said members, said flanges containing between them a gasket or packing which is adapted to be compressed when the flanges are subjected to the action of the clamping members, as will be hereinafter described.

It consists further in providing the lid or cover with a transparent closure through which the body or remains may be viewed, while said lid or cover is in position on the body of the casket.

It further consists of other novel features of construction, all as will be hereinafter fully set forth.

For the purpose of explaining the invention, the accompanying drawing illustrates a satisfactory reduction of the same to practice, but the important instrumentalities thereof may be varied, and so it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the specific arrangement and organization shown and described.

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a portion of a burial casket embodying my invention. Fig. 2 represents a vertical section thereof on line *x*—*x* Fig. 1. Fig. 3 represents a top or plan view thereof. Fig. 4 represents a sectional elevation of another embodiment of my invention. Fig. 5 represents a vertical section of a portion of the lid or cover showing another feature of my invention.

Similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in the figures.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates a portion of the inner casing or body of a burial casket and 2 designates a portion of the cover thereof. On the sides of said body and cover are lateral continuations of the same forming coöperative flanges 3 and 4 respectively within which is seated the gasket or packing 5. 6 designates a clamp for closing said flanges one on the other in order to compress the gasket or packing 5 and form a hermetically sealed joint for the body and cover at the sides and end thereof, said clamp consisting of the members 7 and 8, the member 7 having at the top the laterally extending limb 9, the same being adapted to rest on the flange 3, and the member 8 having at the bottom the laterally extending limb 10, the same being adapted to bear against the flange 4. The member 7 has a depending limb 11 and the member 8 has an upwardly extending limb 12, which is on one side on the limb 11, said limbs being preferably arranged parallel side by side, and movable one on the other.

On the lower portion of the limb 11 is an inturned tongue 13, which is somewhat removed from the lower portion of the member 8 and has an opening 14 to receive freely the lower portion of the screw 15, whose upper portion is passed freely through an opening 16 in the laterally extending limb 9 on the member 7 and enters into and engages a threaded opening 17 in the upwardly extending limb 12 of the member 8, and the screw being free to rotate in its bearings it is evident that when the screw 15 is properly rotated, the members 9 and 10 are drawn toward each other, the effect of which is communicated to the flanges 3 and 4, whereby the latter approach each other and the gasket or packing 5 is compressed by and between the latter, thus closing and hermetically sealing the joint of the body and cover. When the screw 15 is rotated in a reverse direction, the members of the clamp are relieved of the holding action of the same and the flanges 3 and 4 are no longer controlled by said members. This permits said flanges to separate whereupon the clamp may be turned and displaced and the opening of the casket is permitted.

In some cases it is advantageous to pass a pin 18 through the lower end of the screw 15 in order to prevent improper relative movement of the screw 15 and the member 7.

The free end of the laterally extending limb 10 is preferably adapted to engage with the laterally extending flange 19 of a permanent outer casing or carrier 20, which latter has suitably secured thereto a bottom portion 21 constructed of wood or any other

desired material. The sides of the member 7 are preferably deflected to form the ribs 22 thereby reinforcing such member.

In the embodiment seen in Fig. 4, I have shown a construction similar to that seen in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 but in this embodiment the member 7 is provided with a depending limb 23 which is adapted to pass through an aperture in the tongue 13. The screw 15 if desired does not pass completely through the limb 23 and the threaded opening 17 may terminate within the depending limb 23.

Referring now to Fig. 5, I have shown therein a novel manner of providing the cover with a transparent portion through which the body may be viewed without rendering it necessary to remove such cover from the body portion of the casket, suitable means being also provided for preventing any injury to the transparent portion and for covering the same without effecting in any manner the airtight condition of the casket. The cover 2 is provided with a removable section or cap 24 which is deflected near its bottom to form a laterally extending flange 25 which is adapted to be seated on the cover 2, which latter is recessed as indicated at 26, in order to form a shoulder against which the outer edge of the flange 25 will abut, thereby forming a flush joint at this point. The cover 2 is suitably recessed, as indicated at 27, and is provided with a desired number of openings 28.

29 designates a bonnet nut which is bored and threaded in such a manner as to leave one end solid and the other end is turned down to a shoulder providing a neck 30 slightly longer than the thickness of the casket shell, which is provided with openings 28 adapted to admit the neck of the bonnet nut 29, so that the latter when placed in the opening may be expanded to form a firm and air tight joint at such point.

31 designates a thumb screw which passes through the top panel or cap 24 covering the transparent portion and by rotary movement engaging with the bonnet nut 29 and holding the top panel 24 firmly in position. It is apparent that this same construction can be used on any part of the casket shell where it becomes necessary to attach bracket handles or lifts or any other purpose required without disturbing the effective sealed conditions of the casket.

The inner edge of the cover 2 surrounding the transparent portion is bent downwardly as indicated at 32, and then laterally deflected, as indicated at 33, thereby adapting the same to receive the cement 34 which retains the glass or other transparent plate 35 in position, whereby a hermetically sealed joint is formed between the cover 2 and the transparent plate 35 so that when the section 24 of the cover is removed, the body contained within the casket will be visible.

It will be evident that the transparent plate 35 may be of any desired contour and of any desired dimensions so that a portion of or the whole of the body may be rendered visible, as is desired. The bonnet nut 29 will form an air tight and hermetically sealed joint at all times.

Any desired number of clamps 6 may be employed and it will also be apparent that a suitable number of screws 31 may be employed to maintain the section 24 of the cover 2 in assembled position.

The laterally extending limbs 9 of the member 7 and 10 of the member 8 are preferably of a contour corresponding to the contour of the flanges 3 and 4 respectively. The member 8, in the present instance, is seated within the member 7 in order that the ornamental appearance of the outside of the casket will not be affected. Although in the present instance I have shown the pin 18 as serving to maintain the members 7 and 8 in their assembled position, it will be apparent that any other type of stop may be employed and still be within the scope of the invention.

It will now be apparent from the foregoing that I have devised novel means for maintaining a hermetically sealed joint between the cover and the body portion and also a novel manner of providing the cover with a transparent portion which does not in any manner affect the air tight condition of the casket.

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

1. The combination with a casket body and cover having laterally extending flanges and sealing means therebetween, of a clamp comprising a plurality of members having laterally extending flanges co-acting with the flanges of the body and cover, and means for adjusting the relative position of the clamping members.

2. The combination with an inner casket casing or body and cover having laterally extending flanges, and a gasket therebetween, of a permanent outer casing or carrier for said body portion, and a clamp engaging said flanges and said outer casing for maintaining the parts in assembled position.

3. The combination with a casket body and cover having coöperating laterally extending flanges, of a clamp consisting of an outer and an inner member provided with laterally extending clamping fingers adapted to engage the flanges of the body and cover, an adjusting screw carried by the outer member and in engagement with the inner member, and means for preventing longitudinal movement of the adjusting screw.

4. The combination in a clamp, of an

outer member having at one end a laterally extending apertured limb forming a clamping jaw and at its other end a laterally extending apertured tongue, an inner member having an extending portion forming a clamping jaw and movable within said outer member, and a screw loosely mounted in the apertures of the outer member and having threaded engagement with the inner member.

5. The combination with a casket body and cover provided with laterally extending coöperating flanges, of a gasket between said flanges and a clamp consisting of a sheet of metal of uniform thickness and having its upper end laterally deflected to form a clamping jaw and adapted to engage the cover flange and its lower end laterally deflected to form an apertured tongue, of an inner member provided with a laterally extending portion forming a clamping jaw adapted to engage the body flange, and adjusting means including a screw carried by said outer member and having threaded engagement with the inner member to move the latter.

6. A casket covering having a transparent portion and provided with apertures in proximity to such portion, bonnet nuts sealed in said apertures, a panel covering said transparent portion and contacting with the bonnet nuts, and fastening devices engaging said panel and said bonnet nuts.

7. A casket cover having a transparent portion and provided with apertures in proximity thereto, bonnet nuts having a neck adapted to pass through the apertures and having their upper ends deflected to form a fluid tight seal, a top panel, and screws engaging the top panel and the bonnet nuts.

LEVI H. MONTROSS.

Witnesses:
L. M. ALLISON,
C. C. EASTON.