Nov. 29, 1927. 1,650,606

O. D. CLAY

BURIAL VAULT

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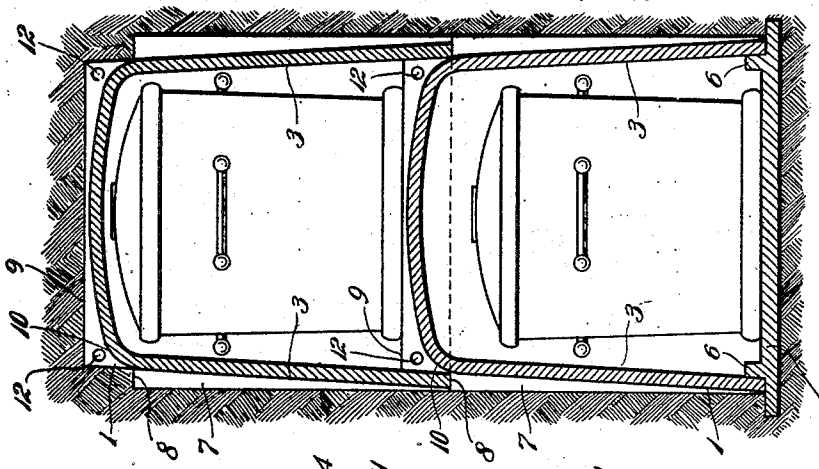


Fig. 2

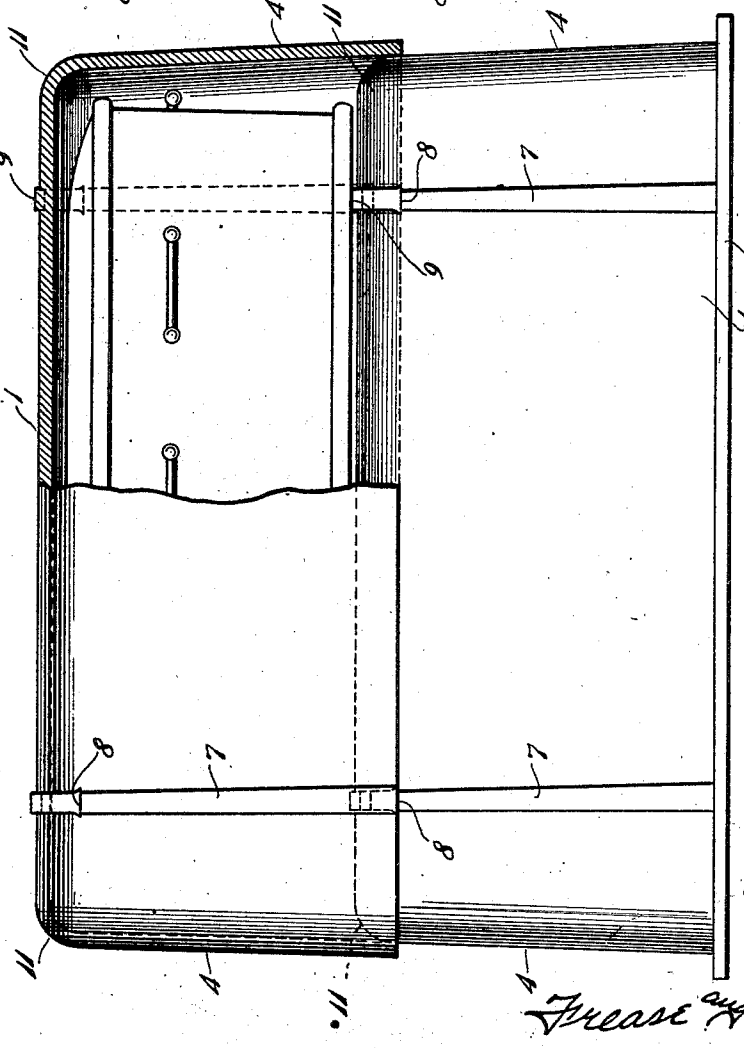


Fig. 1

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BURIAL VAULT.

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This invention relates to vaults for the protection of caskets or coffins in underground graves, and more particularly to a vault of this character especially designed for plural burying.

The objects of the invention are to provide a one piece vault arranged to be inverted over the casket or coffin, the closed top of each vault forming a seat for the next upper casket and for the open lower side of the next upper vault and forming the bottom of the upper vault; means being provided for the connection of a rope or the like for lowering each vault into position or otherwise handling the vault and means being provided upon the upper side of each vault for positioning another similar vault thereon.

An embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation, partly in section, showing two of the improved vaults in superposed position; and

Fig. 2, a transverse section through the same.

Similar numerals refer to similar parts throughout the drawing.

Each vault comprises a hollow, inverted, cast iron cover 1 of sufficient proportions to enclose a casket as shown at 2. The sides and ends of each vault are preferably slightly tapered toward the top, as shown at 3 and 4 respectively.

The lower vault of each tier may rest upon a plate or slab 5 placed in the bottom of the grave and preferably provided with projections 6 to properly position the vault thereon, the lower casket resting upon this plate, as shown in Fig. 2.

In some localities it is customary to place two or more in a single grave, and in order that this may be easily accomplished, the vault to which the present invention pertains is so constructed that another casket may be placed upon the top thereof and a similar vault placed over the upper casket, the open under side thereof resting upon the closed top of the lower vault.

For this purpose, it is desirable to provide means upon the upper closed side of each vault to properly position the next upper vault. As illustrated in the drawing, this means may comprise the vertical ribs 7 upon the sides of the vault, terminating near the top thereof in the square shoulders 8 to receive the lower edge of the upper vault, horizontal transverse ribs 9 being provided across the top of the vault, providing a seat to receive the upper casket and being of a length substantially equal to the bottom width of the upper vault, thereby positioning the same as shown in the drawing.

The side and end corners of each vault are rounded, as shown at 10 and 11 respectively, the open end of the next upper vault fitting over said rounded corners, thus permitting water to drain out of each vault, while at the same time the air trapped in each vault will prevent water from draining into the same.

For the purpose of easily lowering the vault into position apertures 12 may be formed in the corners of the horizontal ribs 9 for the reception of ropes or the like, by means of which the vault may be lowered into the grave.

From the above it will be obvious that a strong and durable one piece vault or cover is provided for covering and protecting each casket and providing a seat for a second casket arranged to be covered and protected by a similar vault or cover resting upon the top of the lower vault.

I claim:—

1. A plural burial vault including a plurality of inverted hollow cover members, the lower open side of each cover fitting the closed top of the next lower cover, each lower cover having ribs upon its top for positioning the next upper cover.

2. A plural burial vault including a plurality of inverted hollow cover members, the lower open side of each cover fitting the closed top of the next lower cover, each lower cover having ribs upon its sides forming seats for the next upper cover.

3. A plural burial vault including a plurality of inverted hollow cover members, the lower open side of each cover fitting the closed top of the next lower cover, each lower cover having transverse ribs upon its top forming a seat for an upper casket and providing means for positioning the next upper cover.

4. A burial vault comprising a one piece, hollow, inverted, cast iron cover for a casket, having perforate projections upon its top for the reception of ropes or the like for handling the same.

5. A plural burial vault including a plurality of inverted hollow cover members, the lower open side of each cover fitting the

closed top of the next lower cover, each lower cover having shoulders for seating the next upper cover.

6. A plural burial vault including a plurality of inverted hollow cover members, the lower open side of each cover fitting the closed top of the next lower cover, each lower cover having ribs upon its top forming a seat for an upper casket.

7. A plural burial vault including a plurality of inverted hollow cover members, the lower open side of each cover fitting the closed top of the next lower cover, each lower cover having a seat for a casket upon its top, said seat being raised above the surface of the top.

In testimony that I claim the above, I have hereunto subscribed my name.

OTIS D. CLAY.