Jan. 1, 1935. R. H. MORRIS 1,985,903

BURIAL VAULT

Filed April 22, 1933 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

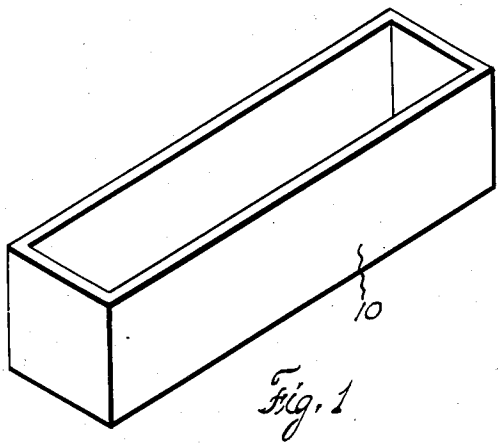


Fig. 1

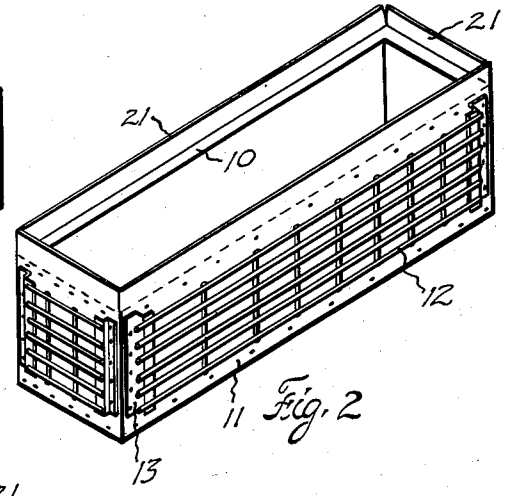


Fig. 2

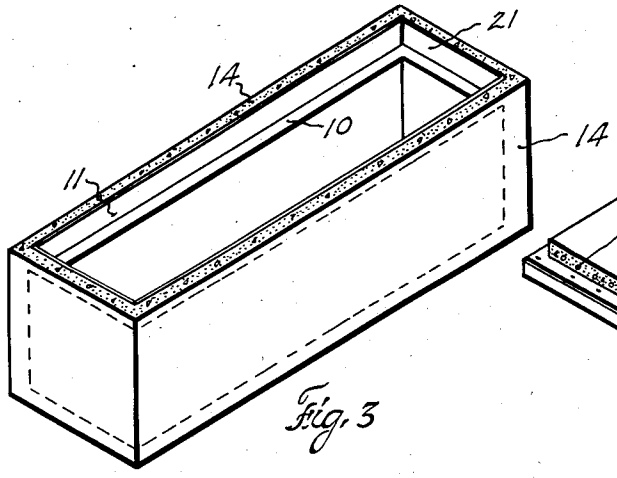


Fig. 3

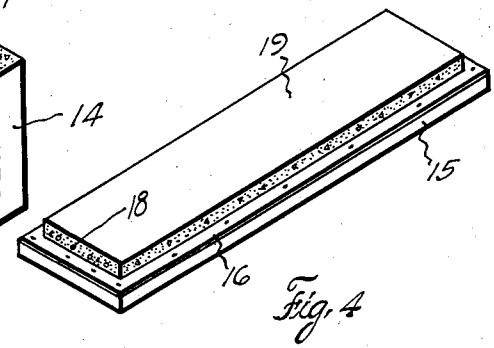


Fig. 4

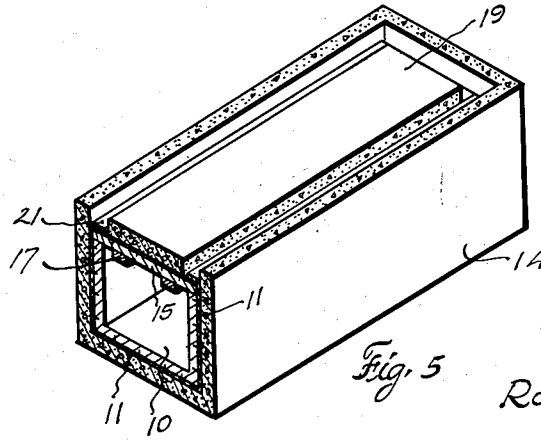


Fig. 5

Inventor
Roy H. Morris

By Jack A. Ashley
Attorney

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BURIAL VAULT

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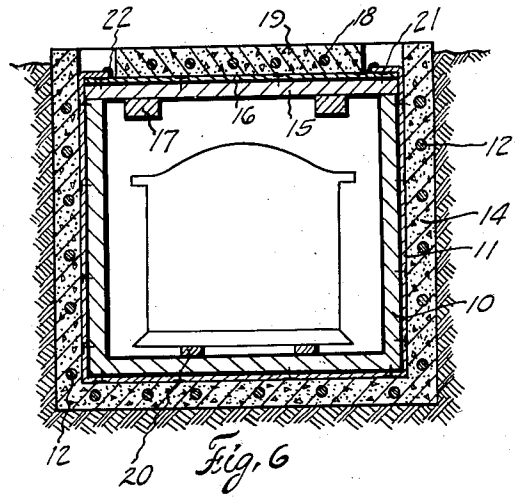


Fig. 6

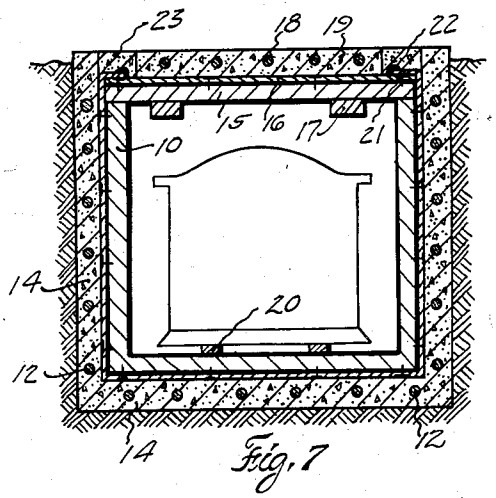


Fig. 7

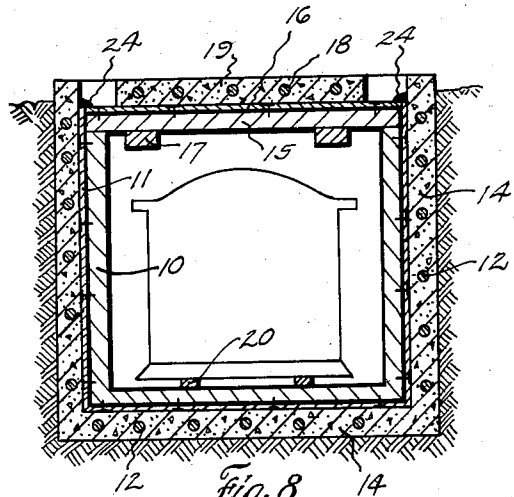


Fig. 8

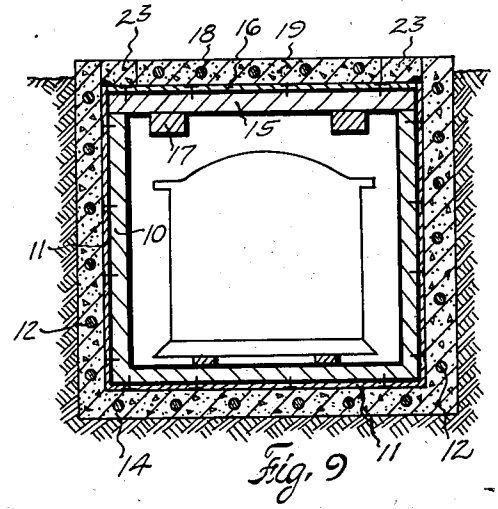


Fig. 9

Inventor
Roy H. Morris

By Jack A. Ackley
Attorney

Patented Jan. 1, 1935 1,985,903

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,985,903

BURIAL VAULT

Roy H. Morris, near Brownwood, Tex.

Application April 22, 1933, Serial No. 667,334

1 Claim. (Cl. 72—7)

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in burial vaults.

One object of the invention is to provide an improved burial vault, which will be both air-tight and water-proof, whereby a casket placed therein will be given the utmost protection and indefinitely preserved from destruction by decay and distintegration resulting from water seepage and earth elements.

A particular object of the invention is to provide a vault comprising a water-proofed inner wooden box or receptacle for receiving the casket provided with a metal cover or jacket so secured therearound as to exclude the entrance of water and air into said box, whereby the latter is substantially hermetically sealed; together with a concrete envelope completely surrounding the box and accentuating the hermetic seal, as well as enhancing the water-proof and air-tight qualities of the vault.

An important object of the invention is to provide a composite vault including a concrete receptacle and a wooden casket receiving box with a metal liner or covering interposed therebetween, and a complementary lid arranged so that its metal covering may be soldered or welded to the metal lining to complete the seal.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a composite vault wherein the metal liner is first sealed and the sealing space is subsequently filled with concrete to complete the concrete envelope.

A construction designed to carry out the invention will be hereinafter described, together with other features of the invention.

The invention will be more readily understood from a reading of the following specification and by reference to the accompanying drawings in which an example of the invention is shown, and wherein:

Figure 1 is an isometrical view of the box or inner receptacle used in carrying out the invention,

Figure 2 is a similar view showing the metal covering or sheathing applied to the outside of the box and the reinforcing members mounted on said covering,

Figure 3 is an isometrical view showing the concrete applied to the box,

Figure 4 is an isometrical view of the cover or lid,

Figure 5 is an isometrical and sectional view showing the lid in place and the flanges of the cover bent over ready for soldering or welding.

Figure 6 is an enlarged transverse sectional view of the same after soldering,

Figure 7 is a transverse sectional view of the complete vault,

Figure 8 is a transverse sectional view of a slightly modified form after the soldering operation has been completed, and

Figure 9 is a transverse sectional view of the vault completed.

In the drawings the numeral 10 designates a wooden box which may be of any suitable construction, however, I have found it economical to use the wooden box in which the casket is shipped from the factory to the undertaker, but the invention is not to be limited to such. This box is coated both inside and outside with a suitable water-proofing material, such as oil, creosote, bituminous material, in proper proportion and mixture. The box is provided with a metal jacket 11 composed of sheets of lead, lead alloy, zinc, copper, galvanized iron, or any other suitable rust-resisting material. The metal sheets are secured to the bottom, end and side walls of the box by means of nails, tacks, or the like, and the joints between the sheets are soldered, welded, or otherwise secured to provide water-tight joints. If desired, a coat of water-proof paint may be applied to this metal jacket.

Metal reinforcing members 12 are secured to cleats 13 mounted on the jacket for reinforcing a concrete covering 14, which extends above the top edge of the box and forms a trough. Any suitable reinforcing or tie may be employed. The vault which is formed has a composite wall composed of wood, metal and concrete in intimate contact.

I provide a composite cover, which includes a wooden lid 15 on which is fastened a metal sheet 16 preferably flush with the lid. This sheet is fastened to the lid in the same manner as the jacket. Brace strips 17 are secured to the underside of the lid to strengthen the same. The lid is provided with reinforcing bars 18 similar to the bars 12 and a slab of concrete 19 is centrally disposed on the metal sheet, as is shown in Figure 4, so as to leave a marginal portion of said sheet exposed.

In using the vault, the latter is taken to the grave and embedded in the ground as is shown in Figures 6 and 7. The cover is removed and the vault is ready to receive the casket. No unsightly pile of dirt remains in sight and it is merely necessary to lower the casket onto a pair of supporting strips 20 in the bottom of the box in carrying out the burial. After the cover is

placed on the vault so that the lid 15 rests upon the box 10, the upper portions or flanges 21 of the jacket 11, which extend above the box 10, are bent down upon the sheet 16, as is shown in Figures 6 and 7. The edges of these flanges are then soldered to the sheet, as shown at 22, whereby the box is completely enclosed and sealed in a metal sheathe. The soldering or welding may be expedited by laying strips of soldering or welding metal along the edges of the flanges and applying a soldering iron or blow torch thereto.

It will be noted that the cover is of such thickness that the top of the concrete slap 19 will lie in substantially the same horizontal plane as the upper edges of the trough 14. After the flanges 21 have been fastened, concrete is poured into the space between the slab and the trough to form a complete seal 23, as is shown in Figure 7. It is obvious that the casket will be completely enveloped by the wood, metal and concrete walls, as well as hermetically sealed in the vault. It is preferable to have the upper edge of the trough 14 project above the ground a short distance so as to shed water from the top of the vault.

It is obvious that numerous modifications may be worked out so long as the composite wall and sealing features are retained. In Figures 8 and 9, I have shown a structure in which the flanges 21 are omitted and the edges of the metal jacket 11 and sheet 16 are soldered at 24 and the concrete seal 23 then applied. If it is desired, the wooden lid 15 may have a coating of water-proofed material. It would also be possible to seal the wooden lid onto the wooden box.

This vault has the advantage that it may be previously constructed and placed in the ground prior to the burial ceremony and the usual construction work at the grave is entirely eliminated. The soldering and sealing may be done after the funeral party has left the grave, or these operations can be quickly carried out immediately after the casket is placed in the vault. The water-proofed box, together with the metal sheath of the concrete envelope assure a water-proof and air-tight vault, thus protecting the casket against decay and other destructive forces, as well as making it difficult for unauthorized persons to break into the vault.

The description which has been given recites more or less detail of a particular embodiment of the invention, which is set forth as new and useful, however, I desire it understood that the invention is not limited to such exact details of construction, because it is manifest that changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the appended claim, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

A burial vault comprising, an open topped wooden box and a wooden cover to cooperate therewith, a metal sheath on the outer wall of the box hermetically sealing the bottom and sides thereof and extending upwardly above the sides of the box, a metal sheath hermetically sealing the upper surface of the cover and arranged to meet the edges of the metal sheathing on the box so as to be sealed therewith, a seal for said edges of the sheathing, a layer of concrete secured to and encasing the outside surface of the box and its sheathing and extending above the sides of the box, a layer of concrete secured to the upper surface of the cover but terminating short of the sides and ends of the cover to provide a channel between the concrete layers of the box and cover for receiving concrete after the edges of the sheathing are sealed, and concrete in said channel.

ROY H. MORRIS.