(12) **United States Patent**
Gray

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(54) **COFFINS, METALLIC**

(76) Inventor: **James A. Gray**

James A. Grant Richmond Virginia

Letters Patent

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same containing a description in the words of the said James A. Grant himself of his improvement in making air tight metallic Coffins

To all to whom these presents shall come Be it known that I James A Grant of Richmond in the County of Henrico and State of Virginia have invented a new and useful improvement in the manner of making Coffins and burying them And that the following is a full and exact description of the manner of constructing and using said improvements as invented by me — My invention in making the case or Coffin of metal and thereby excluding any communication with the interior by means of the application of a cement to be additionally secured by the use of Solder. I render it adapt the shape of the Coffin to the application of the cement. I construct a groove all around the sides and ends in which a flanch and inner edges of the lid are to form a complete sinking into which the lid is to drop upon the cement. which is designed to have been previously applied by spreading. By using the cement I prevent the escape of any disagreeable effluvia from the body contained within as well as the greater strength and security I adapt the use of metal for the construction of my Coffins Any kind will answer best I should prefer Zinc as possessing more strength and firmness than lead and yet being susceptible of being more easily secured by a Solder than either iron or brass &c. They may be formed either of sheet metal or cast in the ordinary manner of hollow ware and will be evidently susceptible of such ornaments as they may be decorated in the process as may be desired. In the case of small sized ones I use a moulding around the outside edges of the lid when it will be necessary that the soldering should be done around the sides of it to prevent disfiguring the pattern and would be sometimes

inconvenient in those used for field Lids. On the latter a will be better that the lid should be countersunk similarly to that on the left. Should it be thought necessary in short and all a few additional rivets may be used in the inside. or amongst the ornaments on the outside. The combination being thus explained it remains to show the nature and application of the cement which I compose of the following ingredients viz. equal parts of Common Resin and fine sharp sand or brick dust. The sand is used it should be first properly divested of its fine or dusty particles. In order to apply the cement Knife or other such instrument is all that is necessary. as it may in that manner be spread all along the countersinking and nothing more is necessary to be done to close the lid into its place & the cement will adhere to both lid and Coffin so securely as to effectually exclude water and air from entering. When fire is used the application of the soldering iron all around the joint will be an additional security. and in this manner is produced a perfectly hermetical Coffin. which may be kept in any situation without occasioning inconvenience to the living from the decomposition of the dead

What I claim as my invention and for which I desire to obtain Letters Patent is. The manner of constructing metallic Coffins. as above described in order that they may be rendered perfectly air tight by means of cementation and soldering.

In testimony that the above is a full description of my invention I have hereunto set my hand this Sixteenth day of April in the year Eighteen Hundred & Thirty Six

Wtness
Henry Stone
W.K. Nicholls

James T. Grant.

Pro Clk