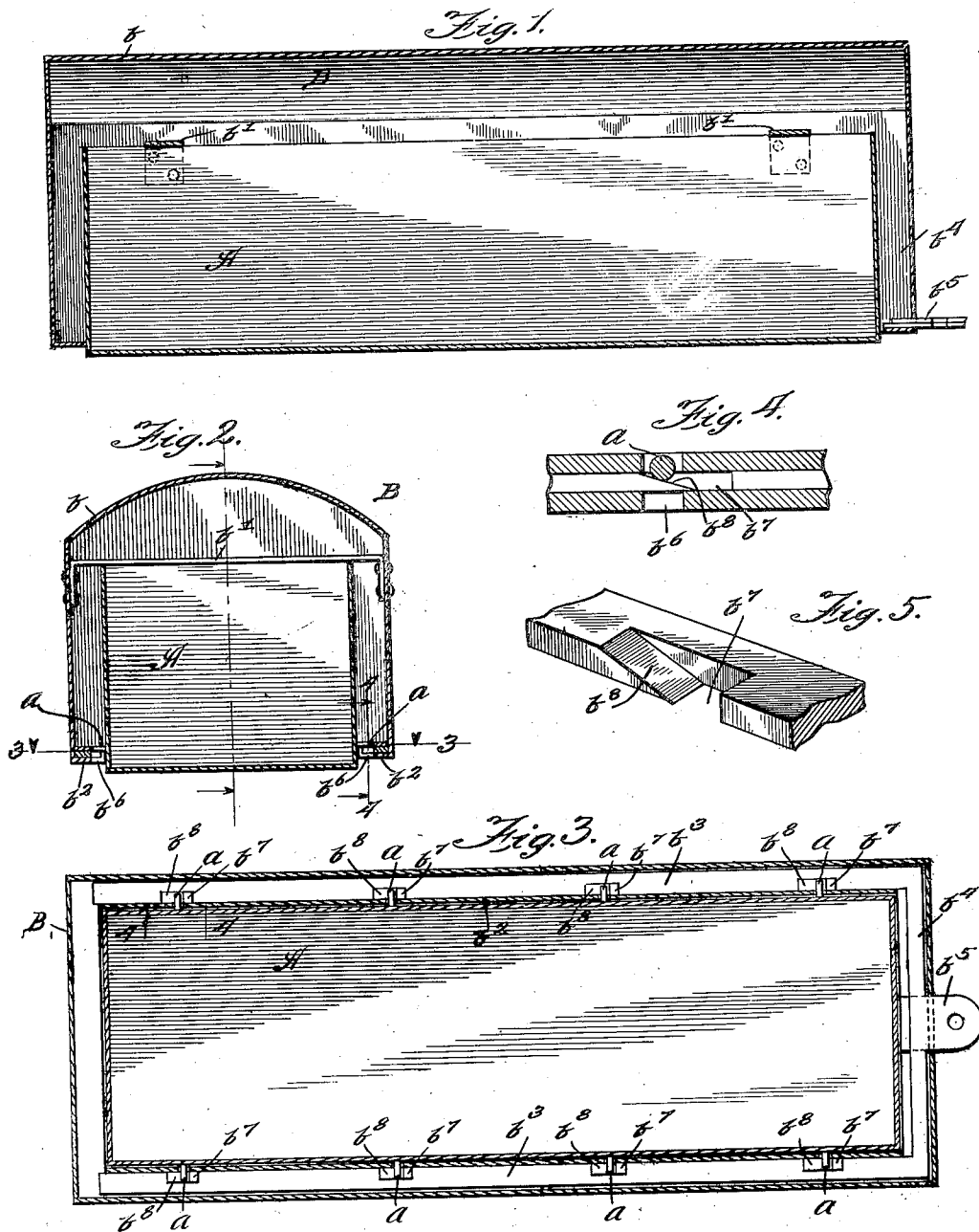


H. A. MYERS.
GRAVE VAULT.
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Patented July 30, 1912.



Witnesses:
Wm. P. Perry
Edw. B. Nelson

Inventor:
Hubert A. Myers
By Bulkeley & Doraud
attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HUBERT A. MYERS, OF GOSHEN, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR TO UNITED STATES CHEMICAL CO., OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS.

GRAVE-VAULT.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HUBERT A. MYERS, a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of Goshen, Elkhart county, Indiana, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Grave-Vaults, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to grave vaults of that kind in which the receptacle for the casket is provided with a downwardly telescoping cover the sides of which are spaced a suitable distance from the sides of the receptacle and extend downwardly to the bottom of the latter.

Objects of my invention are to provide an improved construction and arrangement whereby the top or upper portion of the receptacle supports or sustains the weight of the said cover; to provide an improved construction and arrangement whereby the said receptacle may have integral sides and bottom, and whereby flanges on the sides thereof are unnecessary; to provide an improved construction and arrangement whereby the receptacle and cover may be locked together; and to provide certain details and features of improvement tending to increase the general efficiency of a grave vault of this particular character.

To the foregoing and other useful ends, my invention consists in matters herein-after set forth and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings—Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of a grave vault embodying the principles of my invention. Fig. 2 is a transverse section of the said grave vault. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section on line 3—3 in Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail section on line 4—4 in Fig. 3, or on line 4—4 in Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of one of the sliding locking bars by which the cover is locked in place.

As thus illustrated, my invention comprises a rectangular box or receptacle A which can be made of one integral piece of sheet metal, or in any other suitable manner. The cover B is rectangular in general form, being somewhat longer and wider than the said receptacle, whereby space is provided all around between the receptacle and cover. The said cover comes very nearly to the bottom of the receptacle, and the top *b* of said cover is preferably curved or outwardly convex in shape. Cross pieces *b'* are ar-

ranged within the cover and secured at their ends to the sides thereof. These cross pieces rest upon the top of the receptacle, and in this way the weight of the cover is sustained by the top or upper portion of the receptacle. At its base or lower edge the said cover is provided with an inwardly projecting flange *b²*, the edge of which engages the sides and ends of the receptacle to provide air space between the side walls of the receptacle and the side walls of the cover, and also between the end walls of the receptacle and the cover. This flange is composed of upper and lower walls with space between, the outer edges of said walls being integrally connected. At the sides of the cover B, the said flange *b²*, which is continuous, is thus made hollow to contain the endwise sliding bars *b³* which are connected together at one end by a narrow bar *b⁴*, this narrow or cross bar being provided with an outwardly projecting tongue or handle *b⁵*, whereby the two parallel bars *b³* can be moved endwise. The said flange in which the said parallel bars *b³* are inclosed is provided with transverse slots *b⁶* adapted to receive the laterally projecting pins *a* on the sides of the receptacle. The bars *b³* have transverse slots *b⁷* adapted to register with the slots *b⁶*, and in this way the pins *a* can pass through the slots *b⁶* when the cover is adjusted downward. One side of each slot *b⁷* is so formed that it provides a wedge *b⁸* which is adapted to move under and engage one of the pins *a*, as shown in Fig. 4, and to thereby close the slot *b⁶* in the flange. This is done by pulling on the tongue or handle *b⁵*, which causes the bars *b³* to move endwise in a direction to cause all of the wedges *b⁸* to engage their respective pins. The wedging action serves to pull the cross bars *b⁴* firmly downward on the upper edges of the receptacle, and the adjustment also serves to close all of the slots *b⁶*, whereby the cover cannot then be lifted upward, the receptacle and cover being locked tightly together.

It will be understood that the air contained within the receptacle and cover will tend to prevent water from rising in the vertical spaces between the vertical walls of the receptacle and the vertical walls of the cover. The construction is simple and effective, and with this arrangement no flanges are necessary on the sides of the re-

ceptacle. The cover is not supported by the bottom of the receptacle, but to the contrary is supported by the top or upper portion of the receptacle.

5 What I claim as my invention is:

1. In a grave vault, an open top receptacle, a cover telescoping downwardly over said receptacle, means at the lower edge of said cover projecting inwardly therefrom
10 to impinge on the outside of said receptacle, at the bottom thereof, for spacing apart the vertical walls of said receptacle and cover, and means whereby the entire weight of the cover is supported by the top or upper portion of the receptacle, the said cover being
15 unsupported by said spacing means.

2. In a grave vault, an open top receptacle, a cover telescoping downwardly over said receptacle, means at the lower edge of said cover projecting inwardly therefrom
20 to impinge on the outside of said receptacle, at the bottom thereof, for spacing apart the vertical walls of said receptacle and cover, and means whereby the entire weight of the cover is supported by the upper edges of the receptacle, the said spacing means consisting of a continuous and inwardly projecting flange on the lower edge of the cover, the inner edge of which flange is
25 adapted to engage the vertical walls of the said receptacle, whereby the space between the receptacle and cover is closed at the bottom thereof.

3. In a grave vault, an open top receptacle, a cover telescoping downwardly over said receptacle, means including an inner flange on the lower edge of said cover for spacing apart the vertical walls of said receptacle and cover, and means whereby the entire weight of the cover is supported by the top or upper portion of the receptacle, pins on the said receptacle, said flange having transverse slots formed therein, which slots receive said pins, and the said flange
30 being provided with means for engaging said pins to close the slots and thereby lock the cover in place.

4. In a grave vault, an open top receptacle, a cover telescoping downwardly over said receptacle, means at the lower edge of said cover projecting inwardly therefrom
35 to impinge on the outside of said receptacle, at the bottom thereof, for spacing apart the vertical walls of said receptacle and cover, and means whereby the entire weight of the cover is supported by the top or upper portion of the receptacle, said spacing means being provided with devices for locking the cover in place.

5. In a grave vault, an open top receptacle, a cover telescoping downwardly over said receptacle, means at the lower edge of said cover for spacing apart the vertical walls of said receptacle and cover, means
40 whereby the entire weight of the cover is

supported by the top or upper portion of the receptacle, and mechanism on said spacing means for drawing the cover downward.

6. In a grave vault, an open top receptacle, a cover telescoping downwardly over said receptacle, means at the lower edge of said cover for spacing apart the vertical walls of said receptacle and cover, and means whereby the entire weight of the cover is supported at the top or upper portion of the receptacle, the said receptacle being provided with laterally projecting pins, and the said spacing means being provided with wedge shaped movable portions
70 for engaging said pins to pull the cover downward and lock it in place.

7. A grave vault comprising an open top receptacle, a cover telescoping downwardly over said receptacle, means at the lower edge of said cover projecting inwardly therefrom to impinge on the outside of said receptacle, at the bottom thereof, for spacing apart the vertical walls of said receptacle and cover, and means for supporting the cover.

8. A grave vault comprising an open top receptacle, a cover telescoping downwardly over said receptacle, means at the lower edge of said cover projecting inwardly therefrom to impinge on the outside of said receptacle, at the bottom thereof, for spacing apart the vertical walls of said receptacle and cover, and means for supporting the cover, the said spacing means consisting of a continuous and inwardly projecting flange on the lower edge of the cover, the inner edge of which flange is adapted to engage the vertical walls of the said receptacle, whereby the space between the receptacle and cover is closed at the bottom thereof.

9. A grave vault comprising an open top receptacle, a cover telescoping downwardly over said receptacle, means including an inner flange on the lower edge of said cover for spacing apart the vertical walls of said receptacle and cover, means for supporting the cover, pins on said receptacle, said flange having transverse slots formed therein, which slots receive said pins, and the said flange being provided with means for engaging said pins to close the slots and thereby lock the cover in place.

10. A grave vault comprising an open top receptacle, a cover telescoping downwardly over said receptacle, means at the lower edge of said cover projecting inwardly therefrom to impinge on the outside of said receptacle, at the bottom thereof, for spacing apart the vertical walls of said receptacle and cover, means for supporting the cover, and devices on said spacing means for locking the cover in place.

11. A grave vault comprising an open top

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receptacle, a cover telescoping downwardly over said receptacle, means at the lower edge of said cover for spacing apart the vertical walls of said receptacle and cover, means for supporting the cover, and mechanism on said spacing means for drawing the cover downward.

12. A grave vault comprising an open top receptacle, a cover telescoping downwardly over said receptacle, means at the lower edge of said cover for spacing apart the vertical walls of said receptacle and cover,

means for supporting the cover, the said receptacle being provided with laterally projecting pins, and the said spacing means being provided with wedge-shaped movable portions for engaging said pins to pull the cover downward and lock it in place.

Signed by me at Bryan, Williams county, Ohio this 6th day of March 1911.

HUBERT A. MYERS.

Witnesses:

WILLIS A. ESTRICH,
EDWARD GAUDEM.