(No Model.)

B. VAN HORN & J. E. LATHE.

COFFIN FASTENER.

No. 409,436. Patented Aug. 20, 1889.

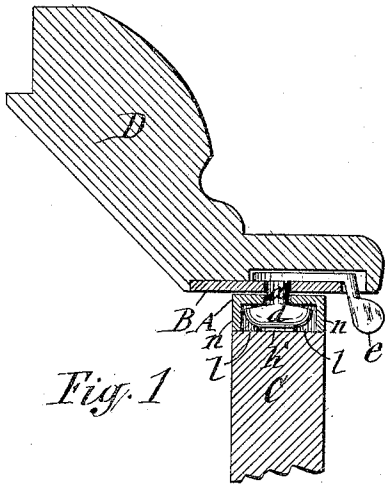

Fig. 1

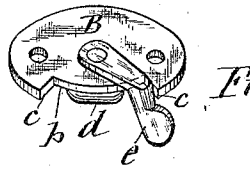

Fig. 6

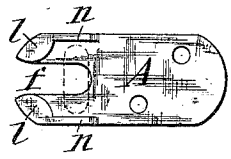

Fig. 5



Fig. 2

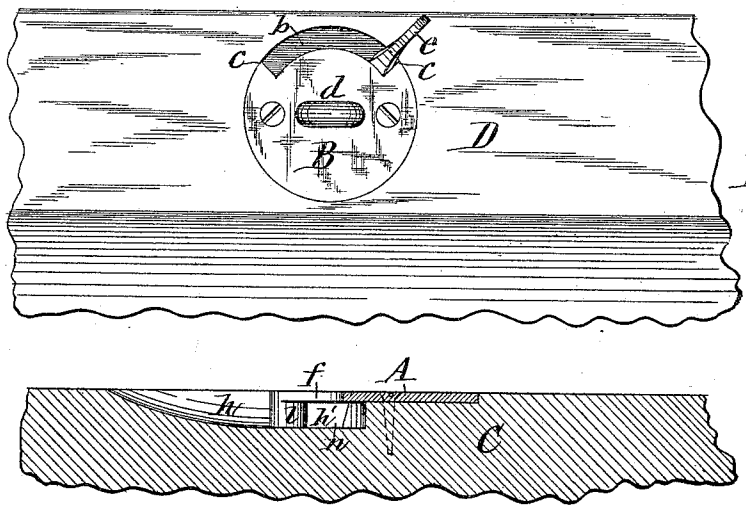

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BERT VAN HORN, OF ONEIDA, AND JAMES E. LATHE, OF VERNON, NEW YORK.

COFFIN-FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 409,436, dated August 20, 1889.

Application filed April 15, 1889. Serial No. 307,217. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, BERT VAN HORN, of Oneida, in the county of Madison, and JAMES E. LATHE, of Vernon, in the county of Oneida, in the State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Casket-Lid Fasteners, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to the class of casket-lid fasteners in which a key or catch-pin pivoted to the lid enters a slotted plate secured to the top of the casket-body, and by turning said key it is caused to interlock with the under side of said slotted plate; and the invention consists in an improved construction and combination of the components of the lid-fastener, as hereinafter fully described, and specifically set forth in the claims.

In the annexed drawings, Figure 1 is a vertical transverse section of a portion of a burial-casket and its lid provided with our improved fastener. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the aforesaid portion of the casket-body. Fig. 3 is an inverted plan view of the aforesaid portion of the lid. Fig. 4 is a vertical longitudinal section on line x x, Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a detached inverted plan view of the slotted catch-plate, and Fig. 6 is a detached perspective view of the plate to which the T-headed catch is pivoted.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

C represents the casket-body, and D the lid thereof. In the top of the side walls of said body, and at two or more places of said top, are countersunk metallic plates A, which are elongated lengthwise of the casket and are fastened by screws passing vertically through the plates and into the walls of the casket. These plates are each formed with a longitudinal slot f extending through one end thereof, and all of said plates are disposed with the open ends of the slots toward one and the same end of the casket. The back or under side of the slotted end of each plate A is formed with lugs l l, for the purpose hereinafter explained, and the outer edges of the plate are formed with pendent lips n n extending from the lugs l l toward the opposite end of the plate. In front of the open end of the slot f is a groove h, formed in the top of the casket-wall, which groove is inclined toward the aforesaid slot and is extended under the plate A a short distance beyond the closed end of the slot, and is widened immediately back of the lugs l l, as shown at h'.

In the under side of the lid D is countersunk and fastened by screws the metal plate B, to which is pivoted a key a. The lower end of this key is formed with a T-shaped head or catch d, and to the upper end of the said key is rigidly attached a handle e.

The plate B is formed with a segmental notch b in the edge adjacent to the outer edge of the lid, said notch being concentric with the pivot a and terminating with shoulders c c, which serve as stops for limiting the movement of the handle or lever a, which is extended downward through the notch b and beneath the plate B, so as to be convenient of access for manipulation.

The operation of our improved lid-fastener is as follows: To apply the lid to the casket-body, the handles or levers e are to be turned to set the T-heads d of the pivoted keys parallel with the walls of the aforesaid body. Then by placing the lid upon the body C so as to set the T-heads d in the grooves h and sliding the lid endwise to carry the said heads toward the adjacent plates A the heads enter the slots f and pass under the plates. The closed ends of said slots arrest the aforesaid sliding movement of the lid, and then by turning the handle e e the T-heads d are caused to stand transversely of the slots f and thus engage the under sides of the plates A. The enlargement h' of the slot h allows the said turning of the T-heads, and when so turned the lugs l l prevent said heads from being drawn out from under the plate A through the open end of the slot thereof. For removing the lid from the casket the aforesaid operation is reversed.

Having described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In combination with the body C, lid D, and T-headed key d, pivoted to the lid, the plate A, having the longitudinal slot f extending through one end thereof and formed with the lugs l l on the back of said end and respectively at opposite sides of the slot, substantially as described and shown.

2. In combination with the body C, lid D, and T-headed key *d*, pivoted to said lid, the plate A, attached to the body, and having the slot *f* extending through one end of the plate and formed at the under side of said end with the lugs *l l* and pendent lips *n n*, and the groove *h*, formed in the top of the casket-wall in front of the open end of the slot *f*, and extending part way under the plate and terminating with the widened portion *h'* back of the aforesaid lugs, substantially as described and shown.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto signed our names this 9th day of April, 1889.

BERT VAN HORN. [L. S.]
JAMES E. LATHE. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
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B. B. MERENESS.