

1,041,921.

L. G. WARD.
GRAVE FILLER.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 19, 1911.

Patented Oct. 22, 1912.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

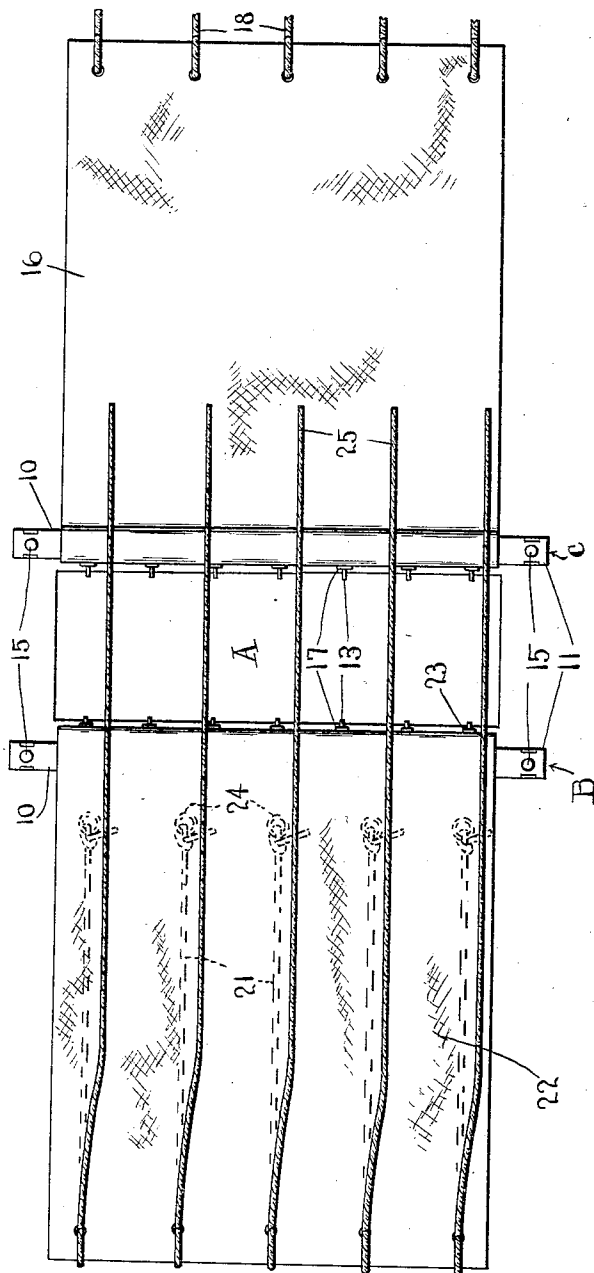
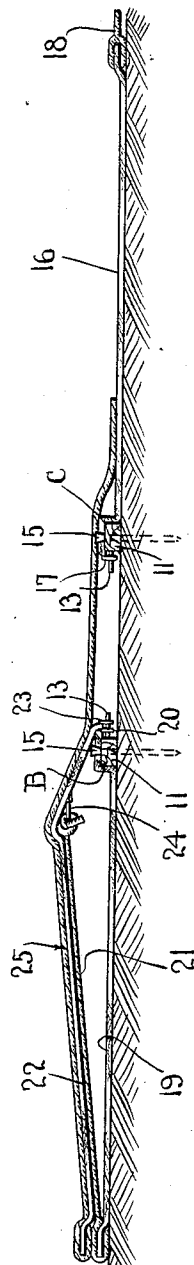


FIG. 1



Inventor

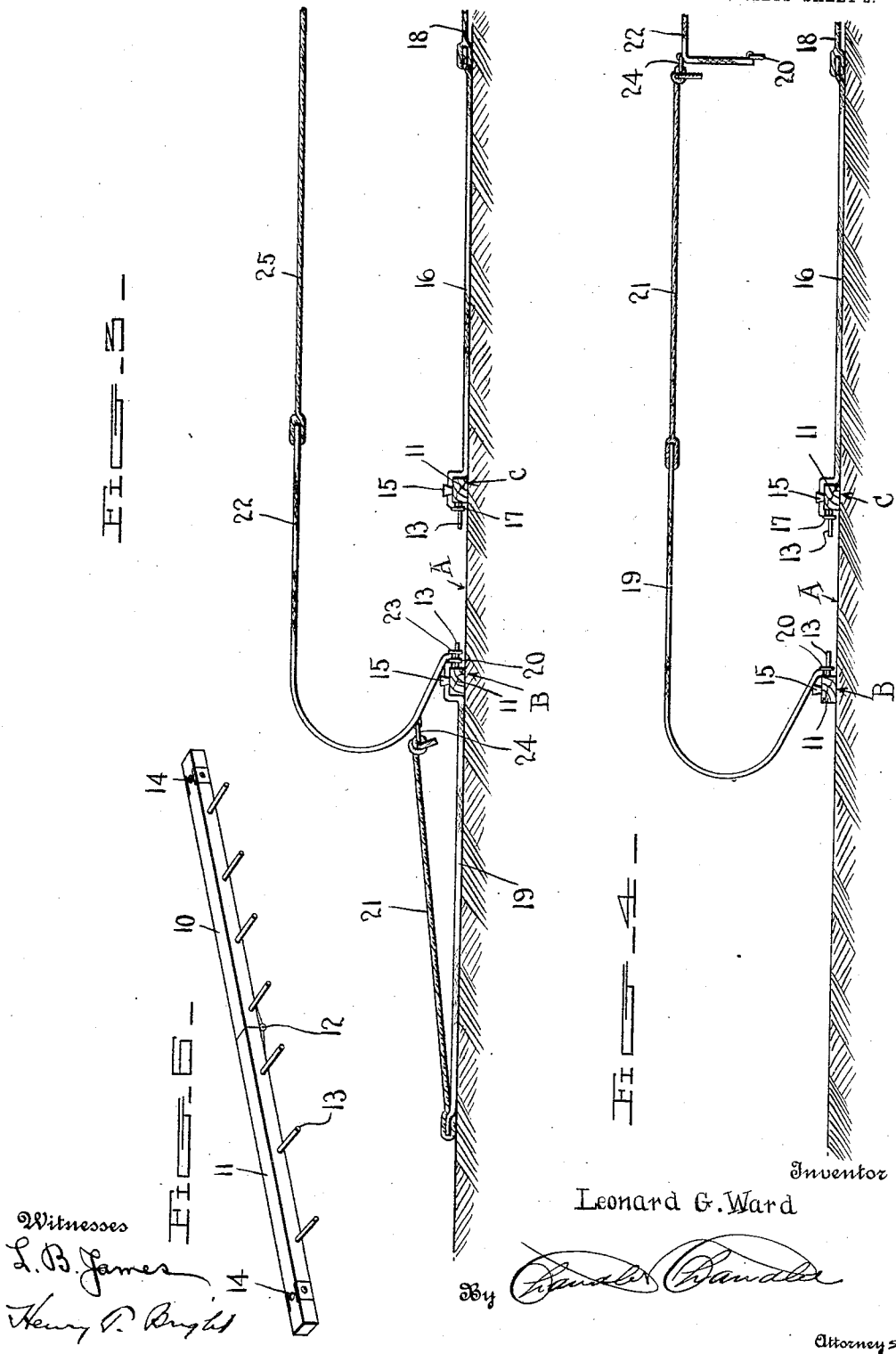
Leonard G. Ward

Witnesses
L. B. James
Henry O. Wright

By

Handwritten signatures of attorneys

Attorneys

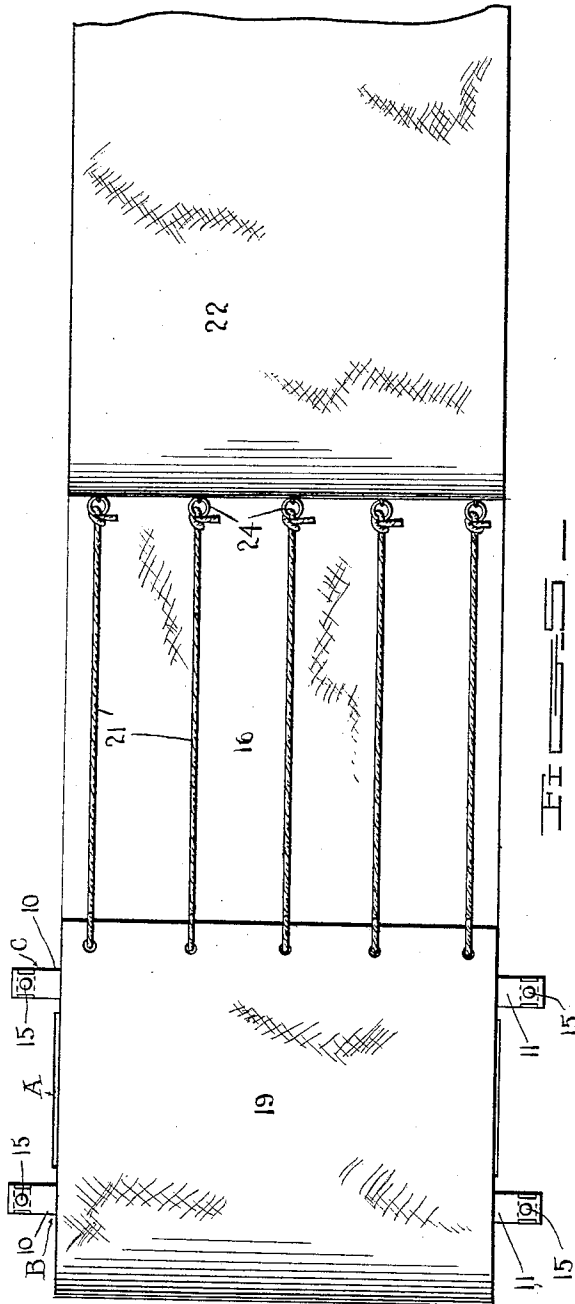


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Witnesses

L. B. James
Henry D. Bright

Inventor

Leonard G. Ward

By *[Signature]* *[Signature]*

Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEONARD G. WARD, OF DEMOPOLIS, ALABAMA.

GRAVE-FILLER.

1,041,921.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 22, 1912.

Application filed January 19, 1911. Serial No. 603,550.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEONARD G. WARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Demopolis, in the county of Marengo, State of Alabama, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Grave-Fillers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to grave filling devices.

The object of the invention resides in the provision of a device of the character named through the instrumentality of which the excavated earth may be quickly and easily replaced into the grave with a minimum amount of labor.

A still further object of the invention resides in the provision of a device of this character which will be efficient in use, easy of operation, and which may be manufactured at a comparatively small cost.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention consists in the details of construction and in the arrangement and combination of parts to be hereinafter more fully described and particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

In describing the invention in detail, reference will be had to the accompanying drawings, wherein like characters of reference denote corresponding parts in the several views; and in which,

Figure 1 is a plan view of the device associated with an excavated grave; Fig. 2, a side elevation of what is shown in Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a side elevation showing the device in the position it would occupy during its initial operation; Fig. 4, a side elevation showing the position of the parts of the device at a subsequent stage in its operation; Fig. 5, a plan view of what is shown in Fig. 4; Fig. 6, a detail view of one of the anchor bars.

Referring to the drawings, A indicates an excavated grave. Disposed longitudinally at each side of the grave A are anchor members B and C. Each of these members is formed of a pair of bars 10 and 11 disposed longitudinally of each other and connected together at their adjacent ends by means of a hinge 12, whereby they may be folded into compact form for transportation from one point to another. Secured in the longitudinal

sides of the bars 10 and 11 which are disposed adjacent the grave are laterally projecting pins 13, and formed in the outer ends of each of said bars are openings 14 which receive pins 15 for the purpose of securing the members B and C against movement when disposed in operative position. A fabric sheet 16, preferably of canvas, is disposed across the upper face of the anchor member C with one edge thereof located substantially in registration with the inner side of said anchor member. This edge of the fabric sheet 16 has secured thereto a plurality of spaced rings 17 which pass over the pins 13 secured to the side of the anchor member adjacent the grave. By this construction, it will be apparent that a movement of the sheet 16 away from the grave will be prevented by the engagement of the rings 17 with the pins 13, while a movement thereof in the opposite direction will cause said rings to become disengaged from said pins. Secured to the outer edge of the sheet 16 is a plurality of pull cables 18 for a purpose that will presently appear.

Another fabric sheet 19, preferably of canvas, is disposed across the anchor member B with its inner edge substantially in registration with the inner longitudinal edge of said anchor member. This edge of the sheet 19 is also provided with a plurality of spaced rings 20 which pass over the pins 13 carried by the anchor member. By this construction it will also be apparent that a movement of the sheet 19 toward the grave A will eventually cause the rings 20 to become disengaged from the pins 13, while movement of said sheet in the opposite direction will be prevented by the engagement of the rings and pins. The outer edge of the sheet 19 is likewise provided with a plurality of pull cables 21. After a given amount of earth has been deposited upon the sheet 19 during the excavation of the grave, another sheet 22 is disposed across the sheet 19 and the earth deposited thereon so that its inner edge will lie substantially in registration with the inner side of the anchor member B. This inner edge of the sheet 22 is likewise provided with a plurality of spaced rings 23 which also pass over the pins 13 on the anchor member B, so that movement of the sheet 22 away from the grave will be prevented by the engagement of said rings and pins, while a movement thereof in the opposite direction will cause the rings to become dis-

engaged from the pins. Mounted on the sheet 22 a short distance from its inner edge and on its under side and disposed longitudinally of the grave is a plurality of rings 24. The rings 24 correspond in number to the pull cables 21 carried by the sheet 19 and these pull cables are extended under the sheet 22 and connected to the rings 24 respectively.

In use, the anchor members are fixed upon the ground with their adjacent edges spaced a desired distance apart. The sheets 16 and 19 are then laid in place and the excavation of the grave instituted. During the initial excavation, it is desirable that the same amount of earth be deposited on each of the sheets 16 and 19. Only enough earth is placed upon the sheets 16 and 19 as will not render the manual movement of their outer ends toward the grave impossible. After this is done, the sheet 22 is fixed in place and the remainder of the earth of excavation deposited upon said sheet; the pull cables 21 having been previously attached to the rings 24 respectively.

In order to fill the grave thus excavated, pull cords 25 on the outer edge of the sheet 22 are grasped and the outer edge of the said sheet 22 drawn toward the grave. During this movement of said sheet, the earth therein will be caused to roll into the grave. Without changing position the operator or operators can then grasp the pull cables 21 and deposit the earth carried by the sheet 19 in a similar manner into the grave. When all of the earth has been removed from the sheets 19 and 22, they will become detached from the pins 13. The pull cables 18 of the sheet 16 are then grasped by the

operator or operators and said sheet manipulated in a manner similar to the sheets 19 and 22 and the filling of the grave thus completed.

It will thus be seen that there has been produced an exceedingly simple device which will not only facilitate the filling of the grave after the lowering of the coffin, but will materially aid in the transportation of the coffin to a suitable position to effect such lowering.

What is claimed is:—

A device such as described comprising a pair of fixed members arranged one upon each side of an excavation, attaching pins projecting inwardly from said fixed members, a sheet removably engaging one set of pins and extending laterally from the excavation to receive the excavated earth, a second sheet removably engaging the pins which engage the first sheet and disposed upon said first sheet for also receiving the excavated earth, connections between the intermediate portion of the second sheet and the free end of the first sheet, flexible members attached to the free edges of the second sheet for manually moving the sheets in the direction of the excavation to disengage the same from the pins, a third sheet removably engaging the pins provided upon the other fixed member, and operating members connected to the free edges of the third sheet.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

LEONARD G. WARD.

Witnesses:

J. D. RUFFER,

J. P. CUMPTON.