April 12, 1927. 1,624,048

J. J. HAGGENJOS

MEMORIAL TABLET

Filed July 6, 1925

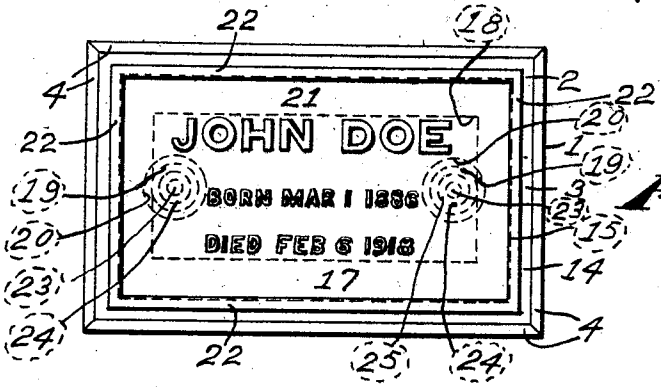


Fig. 1.

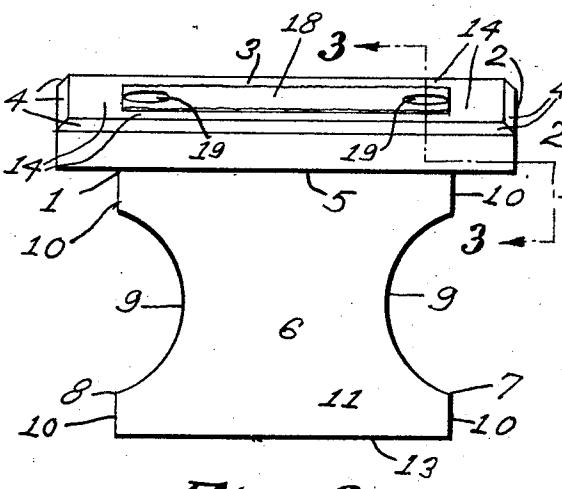


Fig. 2.

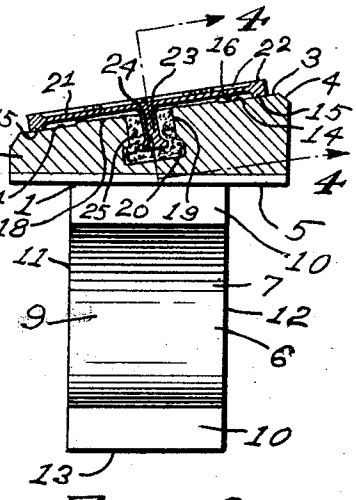


Fig. 3.

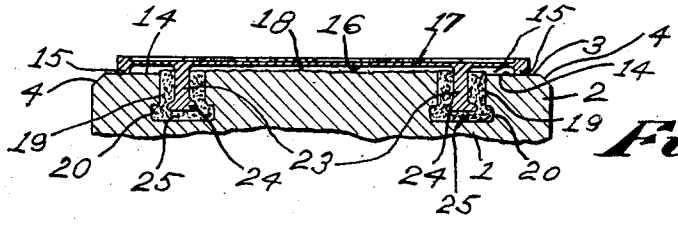


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MEMORIAL TABLET.

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This invention relates to memorial tablets, and more particularly to a tablet adapted to be anchored in the ground, such, for instance, as is used for marking graves, although it may be used as a marker for other purposes. Such tablets usually consist of a block of stone-like material adapted to rest on the ground and having inscriptions on an exposed face, usually the top. The inscriptions may be formed directly on the block itself; but the preferred method is to attach to the block a plate which bears the inscriptions. Such plates are ordinarily wrought of bronze, the costliness of which might incite their removal by unscrupulous persons.

Accordingly, one of the objects of this invention is to provide means for attaching the plate to the base in such a manner that its removal is rendered extremely difficult.

A further object is to provide means for securely anchoring the base in the ground to mitigate or prevent sublevation of the tablet by the frost and to discourage its removal by thieves.

Another object is to provide a tablet having a demarking surface which sharply sets off the portion of the tablet intended to appear above the ground from that portion adapted to be imbedded therein as an anchor.

A further object is to provide means for preventing the accumulation of water on the top surface of the block underneath the plate and prevent disintegration of the block by the freezing of water retained in crevices therein.

Other objects and advantages will appear in the course of the following description of the preferred embodiment of this invention.

In the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification, in which like numbers of reference denotes like parts wherever they occur,

Figure 1 is a view of the top face of the tablet, showing the plate attached to the base;

Figure 2 is a front elevation of the base as it appears without the plate;

Figure 3 is an end elevation partly in section on the line 3—3 in Figure 2, as it appears with the plate attached to the base;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional view taken on the line 4—4 in Figure 3.

The base 1 is preferably molded of concrete, and comprises a block or slab 2, preferably oblong-shaped in plan view, and presenting an inclined top face 3 provided with beveled edges 4, and a horizontal bottom face 5 adapted to rest on the surface of the ground. A projection 6 depends centrally from the bottom face 5, and forms an anchor adapted to be imbedded in the ground. The projection 6 is preferably rectangular in horizontal cross-section to prevent accidental variation of the oriented position of the tablet on the ground, such as might occur if the lateral surface of the projection were cylindrical or conical. The projection 6 is also preferably symmetrically disposed with reference to the slab 2, and therefore also oblong in horizontal section. To prevent sublevation of the tablet by the frost, two of its opposing lateral faces, as 7 and 8, are concave at their intermediate portions 9, the upper and lower portions 10 of the said faces preferably being in vertical planes to conserve the strength of the projection. For the sake of strength, also, the concavities 9 are formed in the narrower lateral faces 7 and 8, and not in the wider lateral faces 11 and 12, which are preferably plane surfaces throughout. The bottom face 13 of the projection 6 is preferably a plane horizontal surface so that it assists the horizontal bottom face 5 in supporting the weight of the tablet in the most effective manner. The bottom face 5 facilitates the setting of the tablet on the ground in that it forms a demarking surface which sharply sets off the portion 2 of the tablet intended to appear above the ground from that portion 6 adapted to be imbedded therein as an anchor. Furthermore, the proportions of the several dimensions of the tablet relatively to one another, as shown in the drawings, which are made to scale, are such that a maximum anchorage is secured with a minimum of material. The inclined top face 3 prevents or mitigates accumulation of water thereon, which, in cold weather, is apt to freeze in any slight crevices therein and promote disintegration of the block.

The marginal portions 14 only of the face 3 may be finished smooth to snugly fit the marginal flange 15 on the underside 16 of a plate 17; and the interior portions 18 of the face 3 may remain rough or unfinished. In the face 3, adjacent each end thereof, is a cavity 19, preferably cylindrical, and enlarging at its lower portion, as at 20. Plate

17 may bear suitable inscriptions or figures on its top face 21, and may have a marginal flange 22 thereon. Plate 17 is preferably cast of bronze, and has formed integral therewith stems 23 projecting from the underside 16 thereof and enlarging at their lower ends into heads 24. Stems 23 and heads 24 are so disposed on plate 17 that, when the plate is in position on the top face 3 of the base, the stems and heads will project concentrically into respective cavities 19. Preparatory to setting the plate 17 on the base 1, the sockets 19 are filled with plastic cement, molten lead, or other suitable binding material 25. The plates are then set on the base, the stems 23 entering the sockets 19, which become firmly imbedded in the binder 25 by reason of the heads 24 when the binder hardens or solidifies, the latter in turn becoming firmly fixed in the sockets 19 by reason of the recesses 20 therein. A sufficient quantity of binder is placed in the cavities 19 to insure their being completely filled when the plate is fixed in place; and, to attain this end, an excess of binder may be used, which excess will be accommodated by the space underneath the plate 17 when the stems 23 of the latter displace a portion of the binder while they are entering the sockets 19. It will thus be observed that the marginal flange 15, in addition to facilitating the fitting of the plate to the base, also raises the underside 16 of the plate somewhat above the face 3, to provide a space which will take care of any overflow of binder 25 from the sockets 19. This provision for overflow facilitates complete filling of the cavities 19, so that, should any water creep under the plate 17, there will be no cavities, by reason of the incomplete filling of the sockets, in which the water may accumulate and produce disintegration when freezing in cold weather. It is worthy of note that this means for securing the plate to the base is inaccessible after setting of the filler 25, so that it is exceedingly difficult to remove the plate from the base, and the base 1 is not readily removed because of its firm anchorage in the ground.

Having thus fully described this invention, I hereby reserve the benefit of all changes in form, arrangement, order, or use of parts, as it is evident that many minor changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of this invention or the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A memorial tablet comprising a base presenting an inclined top face, including a raised central portion defined by a smooth plane marginal portion and having a plurality of cavities disposed at the opposite ends in said central portion and presenting constricted mouths, a plate having a marginal flange on its underside adapted to fit the marginal portion of said inclined top face, a plurality of anchoring stems having enlarged heads projecting into said cavities from the underside of said plate and a filling of binding material in each of said cavities.

2. A memorial tablet comprising a base presenting an inclined top face having a smooth plane marginal portion slightly depressed below the central portion and having a cavity in the central portion; a plate having a marginal flange on its underside whereby it seats on the marginal portions of the inclined top face of the base, and having integral anchoring means projecting from its underside into the said cavity; and a filling of binding material in the said cavity.

3. A memorial tablet comprising a base presenting an inclined top face having a plane marginal portion lower than the central portion and having a pair of cavities disposed at opposite ends in the central portion and presenting constricted mouths; a plate having a marginal flange on its underside adapted to fit the marginal portion of the said inclined top face and having a pair of integral anchoring stems with enlarged heads projecting from its underside into the respective cavities; and a filling of binding material in each of the said cavities.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

JOHN JOSEPH HAGGENJOS.