(No Model.)

P. T. CREGAN.

BURIAL CASE.

No. 322,424. Patented July 21, 1885.

Fig. 1

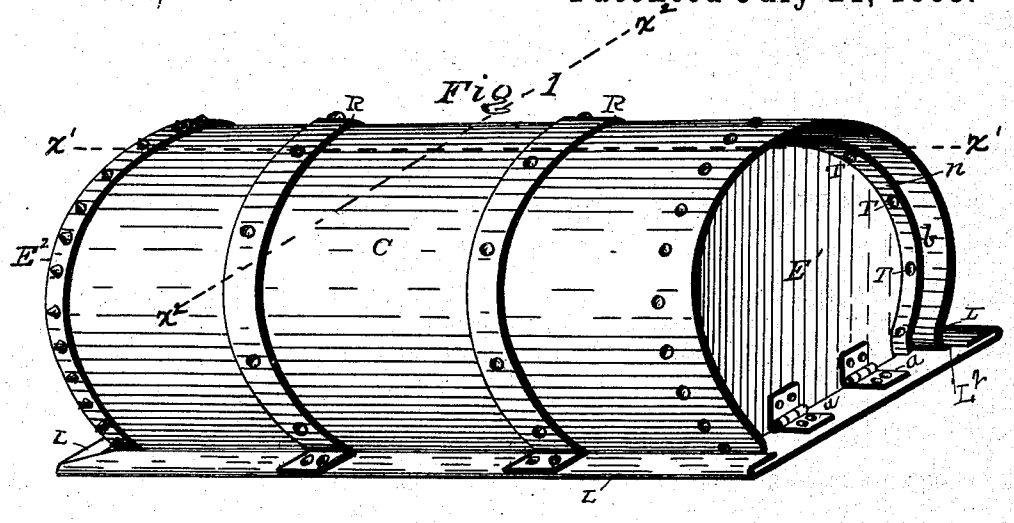


Fig. 2

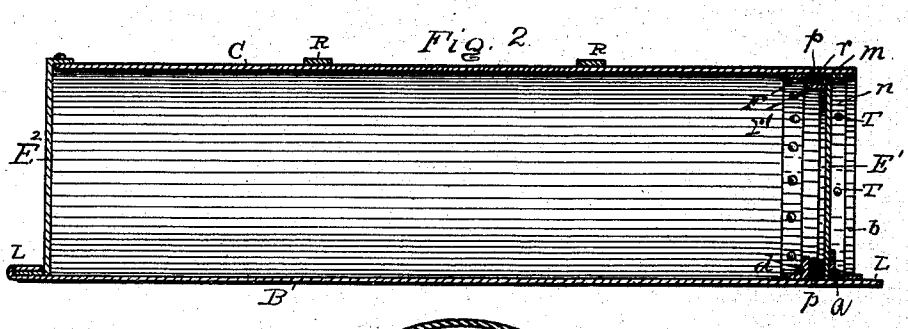
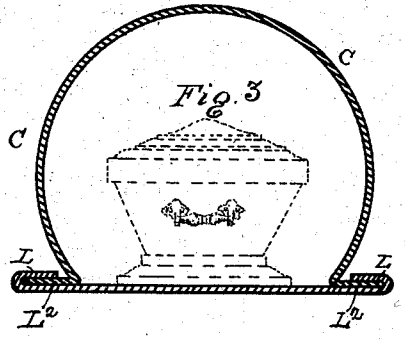


Fig. 3



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PATRICK THOMAS CREGAN, OF TROY, NEW YORK.

BURIAL-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 322,424, dated July 21, 1885.

Application filed February 25, 1885. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PATRICK THOMAS CREGAN, of the city of Troy, county of Rensselaer, State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Coffin Burial-Cases, and of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to certain improvements in the construction of coffin burial-cases, and the object of my invention and improvement is to make such burial-cases more secure as against the operations of grave-robbers. As burial-cases have heretofore been made of metal to render them safe against desecration, they have, to a certain extent, contained the desired protection; but they lacked certain elements that were essential, which it is the purpose of my invention and improvement to supply, as will subsequently be described herein.

Accompanying this specification, to form a part of it, there is a sheet of drawings containing three figures illustrating my invention, with the same designation of its parts by letter-reference used in all of them.

Of these illustrations Figure 1 shows a perspective of my improved coffin-burial-case. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section taken on the line x' x' of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a cross-section taken on the line x^2 x^2 of Fig. 1, and the several parts of the burial-case thus illustrated are designated by letter-reference, and the function of the parts is described as follows:

The letter C designates the body or cover of the case, consisting of a plate of sheet metal, preferably of Bessemer steel curved cylindrically to form the sides and top of the burial-case. The lower edges of the plate are struck outward into horizontal flanges L^2, to fit within the turned-over flanges of the bottom; and the letter B designates the bottom, which consists of a metal plate having its edges turned up and over to form grooves or recesses L, within which the horizontal flanges of the top of the case are fitted and held.

The letters R designate bands or ribs arranged about the body of the case and secured thereto. They are formed with their ends struck outwardly on the plane of the projecting edges of the bottom plate, and secured thereto by any suitable means, substantially as seen in the drawings.

One end, E^2, of the body of the case is closed by a metal plate shaped to the interior of the case, with its bottom edge struck into a horizontal flange, and set within the recess in the end of the bottom plate, and is secured within the end of the case by bolts or rivets passed through the cylinder, and a flange or rim formed about the edges of the end plate. Arranged and secured within the case near the receiving end is the interior flange, F, which is continued across the bottom of the case in the shape of a vertical rib, *d*. That part of the flange F which sets about the interior of the cylindrical part of the body of the case is formed with a flanged rim, r', projecting outward, leaving a recess, *r*, between the rim and the case, and within the recess is fitted a packing-ring, *p*, the lower part of which sets across the bottom with its inner face against the outer face of the rib *d*.

The letter E′ designates the door of the case set within the case a distance from the end of the shell, substantially as shown, and secured at its lower edge to the bottom plate by hinges *a*, and formed with a projecting rib, *m*, on the inner face, which is arranged to set against the packing *p* to form an air-tight connection therewith. The door E′ is also formed or provided with an outwardly-projecting rim-flange, *n*, about its edge, which flange is provided with a series of perforations to receive the rivets T, which secure the door, when closed, in position, as indicated at *b*.

It will be seen that by arranging the interior flange, F, a distance from the open end, and setting the hinges of the door so as to bring the door and its outward projecting flange within the open end of the case with the end of the case projecting beyond, access to the door with a prize cannot be had, and that by securing the door by rivets the integrity of the safe is greatly enhanced.

The function of the ribs R, which may be interiorly arranged, if desired, is to strengthen the case so that a lighter thickness of Bessemer steel plate may be used. The function of the ledge L, which subtends the sides and

ends of the case, is to secure the case within the grave by the pressure of the earth thereon, so as to render it difficult of removal.

The function of the air-tight connection is to prevent odors escaping therefrom, should the transportation of the body be necessary. The function of the better location of the hinging end within the cylindrical parts is the facility it affords for securing the flange *n* of the hinged end to the cylindrical interior. All the joints made by the union of the cylindrical form part C with the bottom part B and closed end E^2, are air-tight joints.

I am well aware that a metallic burial-case for coffins, having a receiving end that is secured exteriorly to the end of the case by means of catches with pivoted latches, is an old device, and I disclaim the same, my improvements thereon consisting in making the connection of the receiving end within the subtending end parts of the case, and where such union of the parts cannot be attacked by means of a wedge or bar inserted from above to pry off the end.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a metallic burial-case, the combination of the cylindrical body C, formed with horizontal flanges L^2, the closed end E^2, consisting of a metal plate bolted within the case, and formed with a horizontal bottom flange, the bottom plate, B, having turned-up edges L to receive the bottom-edge flanges of the body and closed end, the interior flange, F, and the door E′, hinged to the bottom plate and arranged to close with the end of the body and bottom plate projecting beyond its outer face, substantially as described.

2. In combination with the body C, provided with an interior flange, F, set within the open end, and having a closed end, E^2, and the bottom plate, B, secured to the body C, of the door E′, formed with an exterior rim-flange, *n*, and hinged within the end of the case, and secured in vertical position by bolts through the rim-flange of the door, substantially as described.

3. The combination of the body C, having a closed end, and the bottom B, secured to the body, with the interior flange, F, formed with an outward-projecting flange, *r*, and bottom rib, *d*, and provided with a packing, *p*, arranged about the flange and against the rib, and the door E′, hinged to the bottom plate within the body, and formed with an interior rib, *m*, and an outward-projecting rim-flange, *n*, having rivets to seal the door to the case, substantially as described, and for the purpose stated.

Signed at Troy, New York, this 11th day of February, 1885, and in the presence of the two witnesses whose names are hereto by them written.

PATRICK THOMAS CREGAN.

Witnesses:

CHARLES S. BRINTNALL,

THOS. W. LOCKWOOD, Jr.