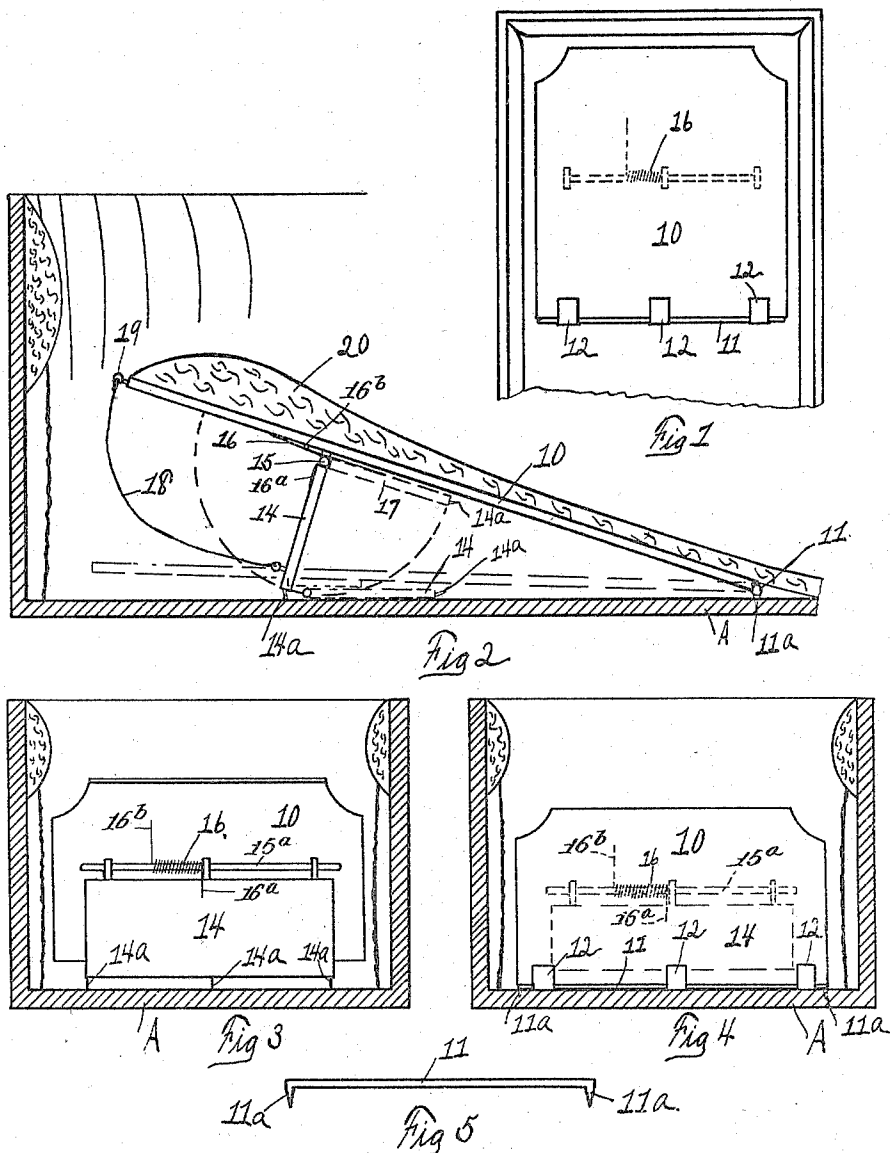


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 HEAD REST FOR BURIAL CASKETS.  
 APPLICATION FILED MAR. 19, 1909.

957,910.

Patented May 17, 1910.



WITNESSES:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BREESE STEVENS, OF NEW HARTFORD, NEW YORK.

## HEAD-REST FOR BURIAL-CASKETS.

957,910.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 17, 1910.

Application filed March 19, 1909. Serial No. 484,350.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BREESE STEVENS, of New Hartford, in the county of Oneida and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Head-Rests for Burial-Caskets; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the characters of reference marked thereon, which form part of this specification.

The object of my invention is to provide an adjustable head rest for burial caskets, which is simple, readily applied, and well adapted to meet the requirements of such a device.

Figure 1 shows a plan view of the head end of a casket with the head rest in position therein. Fig. 2 shows an enlarged scale a longitudinal sectional view of the head end of a casket with the near wall removed and the head rest in elevated position. Fig. 3 shows a cross sectional view of the casket close to the head end, showing the head rest and prop in elevated position. Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view of the casket with the head rest shown in elevated position in perspective looking toward the head end. Fig. 5 is a detailed view showing a hinging bar employed in the construction.

The head rest consists of a thin board 10 having secured along its lower edge a hinge bar 11, so that the board 10 will turn on the hinge bar, and the board is secured to the bar preferably by straps as 12 passed around the edge of the board and the strap glued or cemented to each side. At each end the hinge bar 11 is provided with points or spurs 11<sup>a</sup> adapted to be driven into the bottom A of the casket. A prop 14 is provided hinged at 15 to the underside of the board 10. This prop consists preferably of an elongated piece of board or plate having a set of spurs or points 14<sup>a</sup> along its lower edge adapted to engage in the bottom A of the casket. At the hinge 15, comprising the rod 15<sup>a</sup> on which the prop is pivotally mounted there is provided a spring 16 coiled around the hinge bar 15<sup>a</sup> and having one end 16<sup>a</sup> bearing against the prop 14 and the other end 16<sup>b</sup> bearing against the underside of the board 10 toward its swinging end and

tensioned to throw the prop 14 into the folded position indicated by 17 against the underside of the board 10 toward the hinge bar 11. In order to have control of the prop 14 there is provided a cord 18 secured to the prop adjacent to its swinging edge and attached to the swinging end of the board 10 at 19. A padding as 20 may be carried over the upper face of the head rest.

The head rest is designed and adapted to be used as follows: It is suitably placed on the bottom of a casket and secured by driving the points or spurs 11<sup>a</sup> into the bottom of the casket. The swinging end of the prop 14 will be folded back toward the swinging end of the board 10, in which position the rest will lie parallel with the bottom of the casket or substantially so. The swinging end of the head rest when required to be brought into use may be elevated more or less as required, and as elevated the spring 16 operates to swing the prop 14 into its operative position. The spurs 14<sup>a</sup> will engage in the bottom and secure the head rest at any desired angle within certain limits. When it is desired to lower the head rest, it will first preferably be elevated sufficiently to let the prop 14 swing free, when it will be instantly closed against the board 10 in the position indicated by 17, and the head rest can be lowered into its normal horizontal position. Pads will preferably be provided where the prop strikes the head rest board to deaden any noise that might otherwise be made. In case of any accident or failure to manipulate the device as above pointed out, the operator can again secure control of the prop by raising the swinging end of the head rest and drawing the prop back by means of the cord 18. Ordinarily the cover of a casket can be applied only when the head rest is in its lower position.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a head rest for burial caskets the combination with a head board of means for hinging one edge of the board to the casket bottom, a prop hinged to the underside of the head board, a spring for throwing the prop into folded position, and a cord for operating the prop against the tension of the spring, substantially as set forth.

2. In a head rest for burial caskets the combination with a head board of means including a rod for hinging one edge of the

board to the casket bottom said rod having  
spurs for driving into the bottom of the  
casket, a prop hinged to the underside of  
the head board, a spring for throwing the  
5 prop into folding position and a cord for  
operating the prop against the tension of  
the spring, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof, I have affixed my signature, in presence of two witnesses, this  
17th day of March, 1909.

BREESE STEVENS.

Witnesses:

EMMA S. HESSE,  
SARAH E. CLARK.