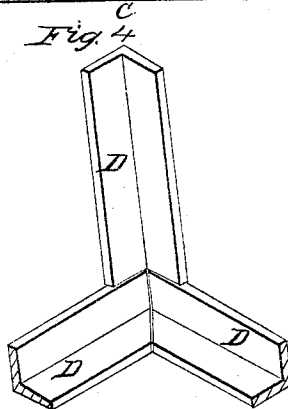
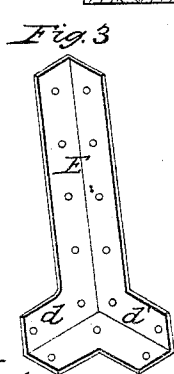
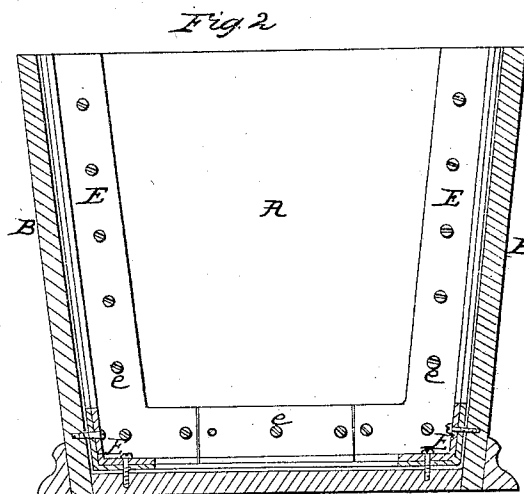
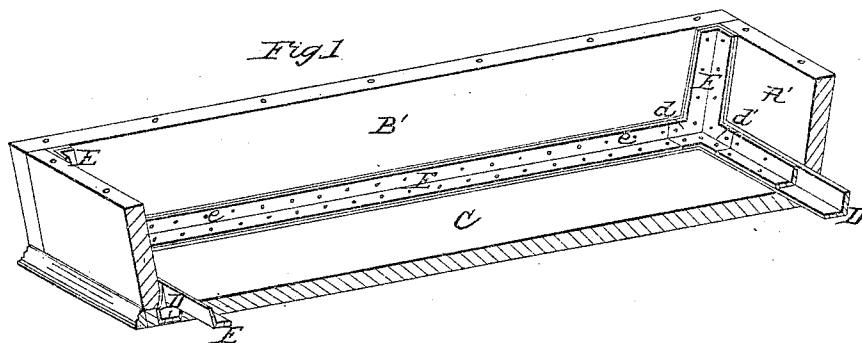


T. B. Estep,
Coffin.

N^o 69,419.

Patented Oct. 1, 1867.



Witnesses:

James H. Layman
Frank Hillward

Inventor:

T. B. Estep
By *[Signature]*
Attorney

United States Patent Office.

THOMAS B. ESTEP, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

Letters Patent No. 69,419, dated October 1, 1867.

IMPROVED COFFIN.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, THOMAS B. ESTEP, of Cincinnati, Hamilton county, Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Coffins; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

My invention relates to a novel and secure method of hermetically closing the joints of wooden coffins, so as to prevent the escape of offensive gases and fluids arising from the decomposition of the corpse, and so as also to prevent the coffin becoming filled with water when the interment takes place in marshy grounds. In the accompanying drawings—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal section in perspective of a coffin embodying my improvements, the lid being removed.

Figure 2 is a transverse section of the same on an enlarged scale.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the "struck-up" sheet-metal plates which are employed at the angles of the coffin for the purpose of securing the India-rubber strips in their proper position.

Figure 4 shows one method of making the joints.

A A', B B', and C, represent respectively the end, side, and bottom boards of an ordinary wooden coffin, or other case which it is desired to close so as to render air-tight. D are strips of India rubber, leather, oil-cloth, or other suitable material, and these strips are attached to the coffin with white lead or cement, in such a manner that one-half of the width of the strip is on one side of the joint and the other half on the opposite side. These strips may be about one-fourth of an inch thick and two inches wide, so as to allow one inch on each side of the seam, and the strips are to be applied to all of the joints of the coffin, both where the bottom board is joined to the sides and ends, and also where the sides and ends themselves meet. The India rubber having been cemented to the coffin, it is now secured against any displacement by means of sheet-metal strips E, which are attached to the coffin by screws or nails, e, which are caused to pass completely through the India rubber and into the substance of the wood. The strips E may be of zinc, copper, galvanized iron, or any other suitable metal, but I prefer zinc on account of its cheapness, and also because it is not liable to corrode when it comes in contact with the acids of the decomposing body. The metal strips E should be of the same width as the rubber strips D, and that part of them designed for the corners may take the form shown in fig. 3, and which may be either cast or be struck up out of sheet metal, the long strips for the bottom angles being soldered to the portions d d'. The angles in the lid may be rendered air-tight in the same manner.

A coffin constructed in this manner can be transported any distance in the warmest weather without emitting any offensive or noxious odor, and although the coffin might be immersed in water the interior would remain perfectly dry.

I claim herein as new, and of my invention—

1. A coffin, whose joints are hermetically closed by means of cemented rubber strips D and sheet-metal strips E, the same being applied and secured substantially as herein described and set forth.

2. In combination with the rubber strips D and metal strips E, I claim the angle-iron D d', as and for the purpose explained.

In testimony of which invention I hereunto set my hand.

THOMAS B. ESTEP.

Witnesses:

GEO. H. KNIGHT,
JAMES H. LAYMAN.