

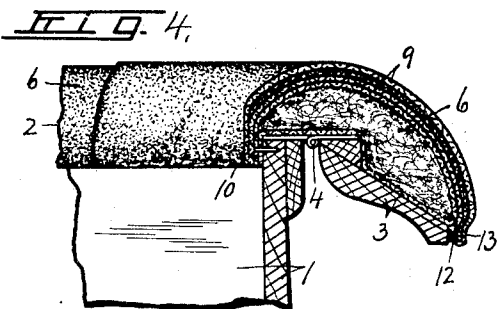
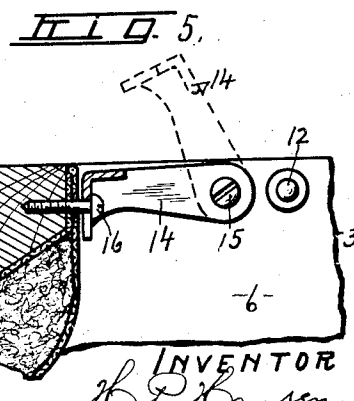
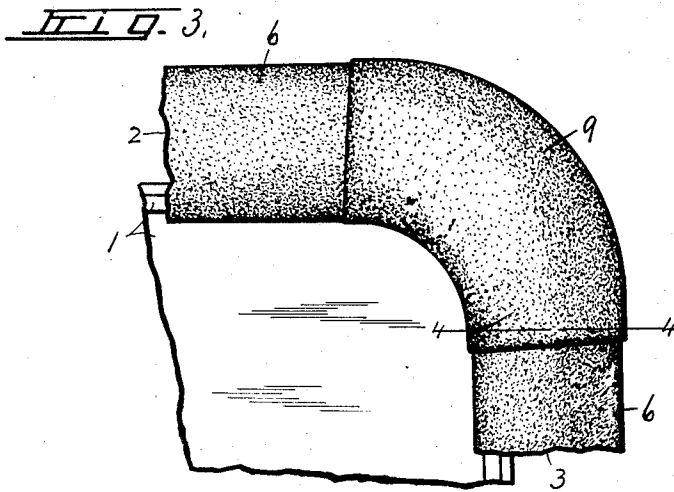
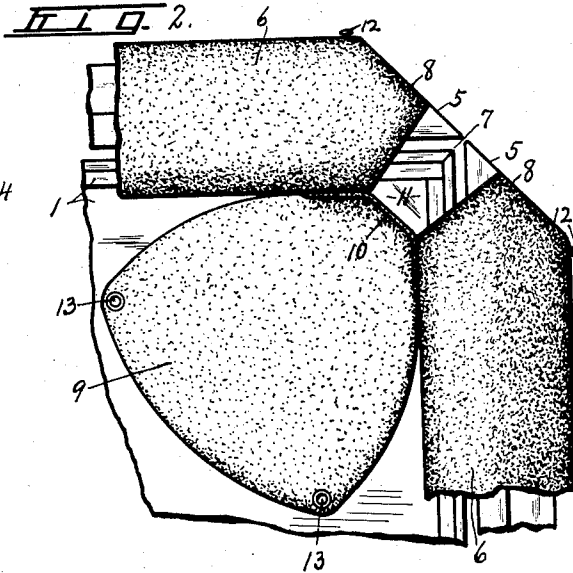
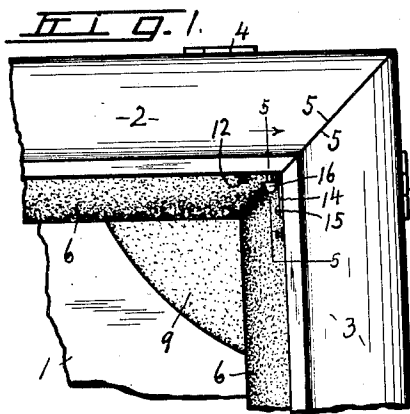
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BURIAL CASKET

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BURIAL CASKET

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5 Claims. (Cl. 27—19)

This invention relates to burial caskets having opposite side and end wings or mouldings hinged to the top of the box to swing inwardly and outwardly and mitered at the corners so that when closed they will project inwardly beyond the corresponding walls of the box with their mitered ends in close contact to form a reasonably tight joint, or, when unfolded outwardly their mitered ends will be spaced some distance apart.

10 The interior of the casket, including the inner faces of the wings, are usually provided with more or less elaborate and expensive upholstery and as heretofore practiced the upholstering on the inner faces of the wings has extended continuously around the corners or across the meeting ends of the wings so as to cover the gap across the corners when the wings are unfolded.

15 These continuous extensions of the upholstering on the wings across the gaps must of necessity be of sufficient length and flexibility to extend across the gaps at the corners when the wings are opened or folded outwardly without liability of over-straining or tearing the fabric.

20 On the other hand, when the wings with the upholstery thereon, extend continuously around the corners are closed or folded inwardly the corner portions of the upholstery must be displaced or compressed inwardly to such an extent as to form objectionable inwardly projecting enlargements of the corner portions of the upholstery at the junctions of the wings one with the other, all of which requires considerable time and care and produces an objectionable irregularity of appearance of the interior upholstery.

25 The main object of the present invention is to avoid these objectionable results by terminating the upholstery on the wings at the adjoining ends thereof and providing an extra flap of pleasing appearance capable of being moved at will to a position across the gaps at the adjacent ends of the wings when the latter are unfolded so as to present the appearance of continuity of the upholstery around the corners and at the same time permitting the flap to be folded inwardly into the interior of the casket when the wings are folded inwardly to their closed positions.

30 In other words, I have sought to incorporate with the interior upholstery of the main body of the casket an upholstered flexible flap normally positioned within the casket when the wings are closed and adapted to be unfolded outwardly across the gaps at the corners or rather between the adjacent ends of the wings and permanent upholstery thereon when the wings are open or unfolded.

Another object is to provide releasable means for attaching the free edge of the flap to the outer portions of the wings when the latter are opened.

Other objects and uses relating to specific parts of my improvements will be brought out in the following description.

In the drawing:—

Figure 1 is a top plan of one corner of a burial casket showing the wings as closed or folded inwardly to abut end to end against each other at the corners, the upholstering flap being shown in its inwardly folded position within the casket.

Figure 2 is a top plan of the same corner of the casket showing the wings with the permanent upholstery thereon as opened and the flap as folded inwardly into the interior of the casket.

Figure 3 is a top plan of the same corner of the casket showing the wings as unfolded and the flap as adjusted across the gap between the adjacent ends of the wings to give the appearance, without actuality, of continuity of the upholstery of the wings.

Figure 4 is an enlarged vertical sectional view of a portion of the same corner of the casket taken on line 4—4, Figure 3.

Figure 5 is an enlarged vertical sectional view taken on line 5—5, Figure 1, showing more particularly the means for locking the wings in their closed positions.

This burial casket may be of any well-known construction in so far as it includes a main box-like section 1 and opposite side and end wing sections 2 and 3 of wood, metal or any other suitable material, the wing sections being hinged at 4 to the upper marginal edges of the main body section to swing inwardly and outwardly to and from positions across the upper edges of the adjacent portions of the box.

The end wings 3 preferably extend from side to side of the box while the side wings 2 are relatively short as compared with the full length of the box but are of uniform length and preferably arranged at the head end of the casket at which the end wing 3 is also located so that the side and end rails meet at the corners in diagonal planes at angles of 45 deg., to the longitudinal centers of the wings.

For this latter purpose, the ends of the wings at the corners are mitered at 5 so that when the wings are closed the mitered ends will abut against each other to form a reasonably tight joint.

It, therefore, follows that when the wings are opened or unfolded outwardly to substantially horizontal planes the mitered ends will be open

to their maximum degree and will be disposed in diagonal planes across the corners, as shown more clearly in Figure 2.

The interior of the main body or box of the casket is usually provided with more or less elaborate and expensive upholstery (not shown) while the inner sides of the wings 2 and 3 are preferably provided with corresponding upholstery 6, permanently secured thereto to extend the major portions of the lengths thereof but terminating short of the adjacent ends thereof to allow the wings to fold inwardly to their closed positions with their mitered ends 5 abutting against each other without material interference of the adjacent ends of the upholstering pads one with the other.

In previous practice, so far as I am aware, it has been customary to extend the upholstering pads 6 continuously around the corners and across the adjacent ends of the wings 2 and 3 and it, therefore, follows that the portions of the pads at the junction of the side and end wings must be of sufficient length to allow the opening or outward folding of the wings without excessive strain of the pads or upholstering thereon.

Under these conditions, it is obvious that when the upholstered wings are folded inwardly, the upholstering material if continued across the adjacent ends of the wings, must be compressed and at the same time forced inwardly into the body of the casket some distance beyond the inner ends of the wings, thus forming more or less irregular and objectionable deformations of the interior upholstering of the casket.

On the other hand, as shown in my improved structure, the termination of the adjacent ends of the upholstering pads on the wings some distance from the adjacent ends thereof form an intervening gap 7 of sufficient area to permit the wings to fold inwardly to their closed positions with the mitered ends abutting against each other without affecting the normal positions of the adjacent ends of the wing pads, thereby avoiding the objectionable inward projections incidental to the extension of the wing pads continuously across the corners.

The opposite longitudinal edges of the pads 6 are tacked or otherwise secured to the inner face of the adjacent wall of the box 1 and to the free edge of the wing, thus establishing a more or less flexible connection of the pad across the hinged joint between the box and wing, the edge of the pad adjacent the miter 5 being tacked thereto so as to lie in a plane substantially coincident with the miter while the remaining portion 8 of the terminal end of each pad at the corner is extended inwardly at an obtuse angle to the mitered edge 5, as shown more clearly in Figure 2.

The angles of the end edges 8 of the pads 6 relatively to the corresponding miters 5 are arranged so as to abut against each other when the wings are folded inwardly to their closed positions to avoid any possibility of crowding any portions of the pads inwardly into the casket.

It is obvious from the foregoing description that some means should be provided for covering the gap between the terminal ends of the pads 6 at the corners in order that the upholstering may present the appearance of continuity when the wings are opened or unfolded outwardly, and for this purpose, I have provided what may be termed flexible upholstered flaps 9, one for each corner, near the junctions of the adjacent terminal ends of the wing pads 6 to

be moved or adjusted at will to and from positions across the surfaces of said pads and therefore of greater area than the gaps for covering the latter when the wings are opened or unfolded to the position shown in Figures 2 and 4.

Each of these flaps is considerably wider than its corresponding gap so that when unfolded outwardly it will overlap upon the adjacent ends of the wings and has its inner end as 10 truncated and tacked or otherwise secured to a corner brace 11 which, in turn, is secured to the inner corner of the box close to the upper edge thereof, as shown in Figure 2, the opposite lengthwise edges and free edge of the flap being curved outwardly, as shown more clearly in Figure 2, to fit more closely upon the surfaces of the adjacent ends of the unfolded wings, as shown more clearly in Figures 3 and 4.

The sides of each flap adjacent its truncated apex 10 are also tacked or otherwise secured to the inner walls of the adjacent portions of the box 1 leaving the major remaining portions of the flap free to fold from its normal position within the casket, as shown in Figure 2, to a position across the surfaces of the adjacent ends of the wing pads 2 so as to completely cover the gap 7 when the wings are unfolded, as shown in Figure 3.

That is, the flap normally extends inwardly diagonally to the adjacent corner of the box and is of considerably greater area than the gap which it is adapted to close so that when folded over and upon the surfaces of the adjacent ends of the wing pads 6 it would extend some distance beyond the opposite end walls of the gap and also over and upon the mitered edges 5 where the free edge is secured by releasable means, presently described.

This releasable means preferably consists of standard clasp sections 12 and 13, preferably of the ball and socket type in which the sections 13 are permanently attached to the corners of the free ends of the flap while the sections 12 are permanently attached to the outer lengthwise edges of the adjacent ends of the wing sections near the adjacent ends of the miters 5, indicated in Figure 2.

As previously stated, the pad is upholstered and made of more or less elaborate and expensive fabric and, therefore, may be stretched laterally within reasonable limits.

When the wings 3 are unfolded, as shown in Figure 2, the distance between the fastening members 12 is slightly greater than the distance between the fastening members 13 so that when the flap is folded over and upon the surfaces of the adjacent ends of the pads 6, the free end of the pad may be slightly stretched to allow its fastening members 13 to be attached to the fastening members 12 for holding the pad in its operative position across the gap 7, as shown in Figure 3.

Suitable means is also provided for locking the meeting ends of the wing sections 3 in their closed positions, as shown in Figure 1, and for this purpose a latch member 14 is pivoted at 15 to the inner edge of one of the wings near the mitered edge 5 thereof, and is adapted to be moved into and out of engagement with a keeper member 16 which is secured to the inner edge of the adjacent end of the other wing, as shown more clearly in Figure 5, so that when the latch member 14 is engaged with its keeper 16, the mitered ends of the wings will be held in close contact.

Operation

When the wing sections 3 are closed to the position shown in Figures 1 and 5, the flap 9 will be in its normal position projecting within the casket and lying loosely upon the upholstery thereof under which conditions the latch members 14 at the corners of the wings will be interlocked with their respective keepers 16 to hold the wings in their closed positions.

On the other hand, when it is desired to open the wings the latch members 14 will be unlocked from their respective keepers 16 whereupon the wings 3 may be unfolded to the position shown in Figures 2, 3 and 4 followed by the outward folding of the flap 9 over and upon the surfaces of the wing pads 6 and across the gap 7 in which positions it is held by the engagement of its clasp sections 13 with the clasp sections 12 on the wings, thus exposing the interior upholstery at the head of the casket.

When it is desired to close the wings, the clasps 13 will be detached from the clasps 12 after which the flaps 9 will be returned inwardly upon the upholstery within the casket to the position shown in Figures 1 and 2, whereupon the wings 3 may be folded inwardly or closed, as shown in Figure 1 and relocked to each other by means of the latch members 14 and keepers 16.

Although the construction and manner of attachment of the flap shown and described is particularly simple, practical and efficient, it is evident that the form of the flap and means for attaching it in its normal and operative positions, may be varied without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim is:

1. The combination with a burial casket having a box section, and side and end wings hinged thereto to fold inwardly and outwardly, the ad-

jacent ends of said wings adjacent the corner of the casket being mitered to meet when folded inwardly and to form a gap when unfolded, of a flap movable at will to and from a position across the gap independently of the movement of the wings when the latter are unfolded, said flap being of greater area than the gap so as to extend beyond the adjacent mitered ends of the wings when the flap is unfolded.

2. The combination with a burial casket having a box section, and side and end wings hinged thereto to fold inwardly and outwardly, the adjacent ends of the wings adjacent the corners of the casket being mitered to meet when folded inwardly and to form a gap when unfolded, of a flexible flap for each of said corners, each flap being attached at one end to the interior of the box across the adjacent corner thereof and has its remaining portions of considerably greater width than the gap to extend beyond the adjacent mitered ends of the wings when unfolded outwardly.

3. A burial casket as in claim 2 in which the opposite lengthwise edges and free ends of each flap are curved outwardly to fit closely upon the adjacent ends of the unfolded wings.

4. A burial casket as in claim 1 in which releasable means is provided for fastening the free end of the flap to the outer edges of the unfolded wings.

5. A burial casket as in claim 1 in which the inner faces of the wings are provided with upholstery terminating at the meeting ends thereof and having their adjacent ends in spaced relation whereby the opposite lengthwise edges of the flap, when unfolded outwardly, will overlap upon the adjacent ends of the upholstery of the wings.

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