No. 785,186. PATENTED MAR. 21, 1905.

J. M. STAFFORD.

COFFIN.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 11, 1904.

Fig. 1.

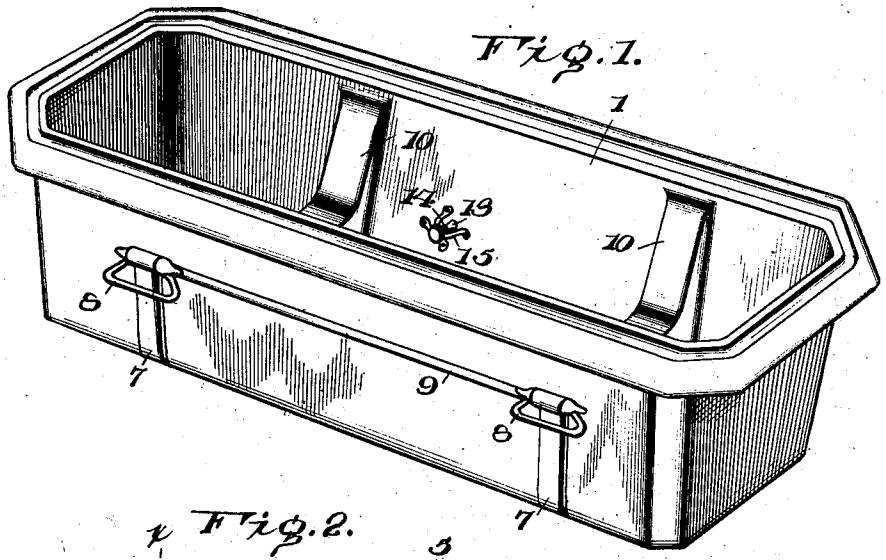


Fig. 2.

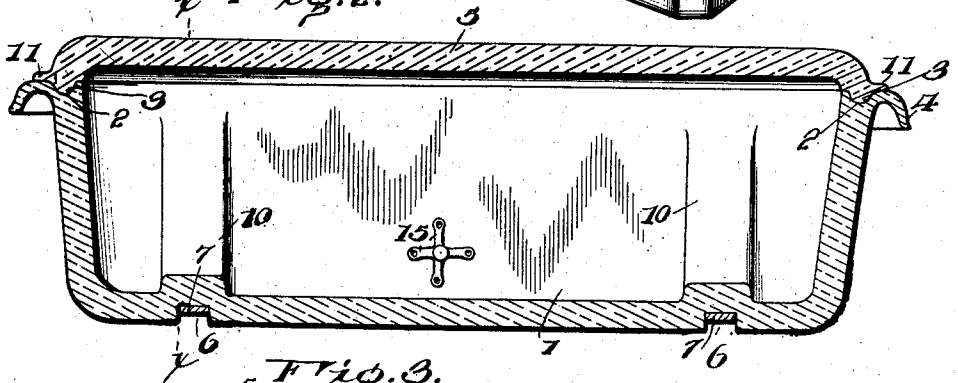


Fig. 3.

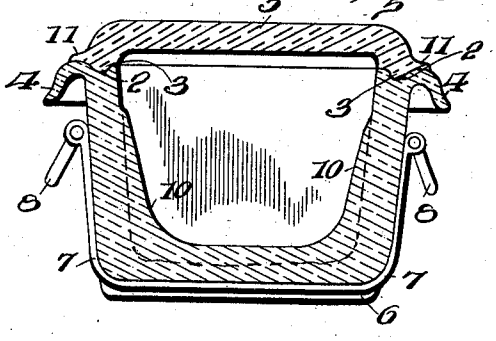
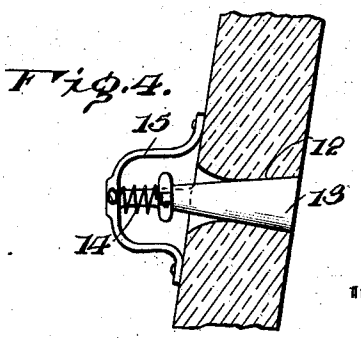


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

W. W. Woodson

Inventor

J. M. Stafford.

By R. A. B. Lacey. Attorneys

No. 785,186. Patented March 21, 1905.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES M. STAFFORD, OF PETERSBURG, INDIANA.

COFFIN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 785,186, dated March 21, 1905.

Application filed June 11, 1904. Serial No. 212,149.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES M. STAFFORD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Petersburg, in the county of Pike and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Coffins, of which the following is a specification.

This invention provides a case for reception of the dead which will resist the action of erosive elements and exclude the air and maintain the vacuum caused by exhausting the air after the case has been hermetically sealed.

An essential feature of the invention is a coffin or burial-case of glass or plastic composition molded with bottom and side grooves to receive corresponding portions of slings and having corresponding inner bottom and side ribs to strengthen the coffin and form rests for the corpse.

For a full description of the invention and the merits thereof and also to acquire a knowledge of the details of construction of the means for effecting the result reference is to be had to the following description and drawings hereto attached, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a coffin or burial-case embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a central longitudinal section of the coffin, having the cover in position. Fig. 3 is a transverse section on the line *x x* of Fig. 2 looking to the right. Fig. 4 is a detail view of a portion of the coffin, showing the closing-valve.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

The coffin or burial-case is indicated at 1 and is preferably constructed of glass or vitreous material, although it is contemplated to utilize any plastic composition in its manufacture. Glass or vitreous material is preferred because of its resistance to erosive influences or elements and because of its being free from pores, thereby excluding fluids and maintaining a vacuum after the coffin has been hermetically sealed and the air exhausted therefrom. The bottom and inclosing sides of the coffin are of integral formation and are molded or pressed while the material is in a plastic or molten state. A groove 2 is formed in the upper edge of the inclosing sides to receive the tongue 3 of the cover and the cementing or sealing substance interposed in the joint. A lip or roll 4 projects outward from the inclosing sides and is curved and gives a finished appearance to the case, while at the same time providing a handpiece to assist in the manipulation of the coffin when handling the same during the burial services after the corpse has been deposited therein. The lip or roll 4 also assists in providing an extended joint between the cover 5 and the sides of the coffin.

A groove 6 is formed in the bottom of the coffin near each end and extends transversely thereof and is adapted to receive straps, by means of which the receptacle is lowered into the grave. The grooves 6 also provide seats for receiving slings 7, which embrace opposite sides of the coffin and extend beneath the bottom thereof and are provided at their ends with handles 8. Rods 9 connect corresponding ends of the slings 7 to prevent relative displacement thereof when carrying the coffin. The transverse grooves or seats 6 extend around the lower corners of the case and vanish into the sides thereof.

Ribs 10 are provided upon the inner side of the coffin near each end to strengthen the same and to provide rests upon which the corpse is placed to give proper support and prevent the remains from jostling or displacement in the event of the receptacle being roughly handled incident to shifting or being transported over rough roads or places. The ribs 10 are preferably located about in line with the respective grooves 6, thereby reinforcing the case at the places where it would otherwise be weakened by formation of the grooves or seats 6. Moreover, the ribs 10 resist the internal pressure occasioned by lifting upon the handles 8, thereby preventing fracture or crushing in of the sides of the coffin when suspended by means of the slings 7 and handles 8.

The cover 5 is preferably arched or raised, and its pendent portion is formed with the tongue 3 to enter the groove 2 and with an outer flange 11 to overlap the upper portion of the lip or roll 4, so as to brace the latter

and provide for an extended joint between the body of the coffin and its coven. The cover may be of any material, glass being preferred for the reasons herein stated.

After the remains have been placed within the coffin the cover is placed in position and hermetically sealed. In the furtherance of the invention it is contemplated to exhaust the air from the coffin or at least to get rid of the oxygen, which, as is well known, promotes decomposition. After the coffin has been sealed the air is exhausted therefrom. This is effected by means of any ordinary air-pump or suction contrivance fitted to a valve-controlled opening 12, formed in a side of the coffin at any convenient point. The opening 12 is outwardly flared and constitutes a valve-seat. A tapering valve 13 is fitted in the opening 12 and is normally held seated by means of a spring 14, having one end connected to the valve 13 and its opposite end attached to a spider 15, said spring normally exerting an inward pull upon the valve. It has been demonstrated by experiment that after the air has been exhausted a certain proportion of oxygen yet remains within the coffin, and this is neutralized by burning phosphorus within the coffin, the same being ignited by electrical or other means, thereby removing the last trace of oxygen and insuring preservation of the deceased.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a coffin of glass or like material having transverse grooves in its bottom near each end to form seats, said grooves extending part way up the sides and vanishing into the same, and having inner bottom and side ribs opposite to the respective bottom and side grooves for the purpose of strengthening the coffin and providing rests for the corpse, substantially as set forth.

2. In combination, a coffin of glass or like material having transverse grooves in its bottom near each end, slings fitted into said grooves, handles at the ends of the slings, and longitudinal rods connecting corresponding ends of the slings, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JAMES M. STAFFORD. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
WARNER HOWELL,
A. B. LACEY.