

W. G. ALGEO.  
Coffins.

No. 98,730.

Patented Jan. 11, 1870.

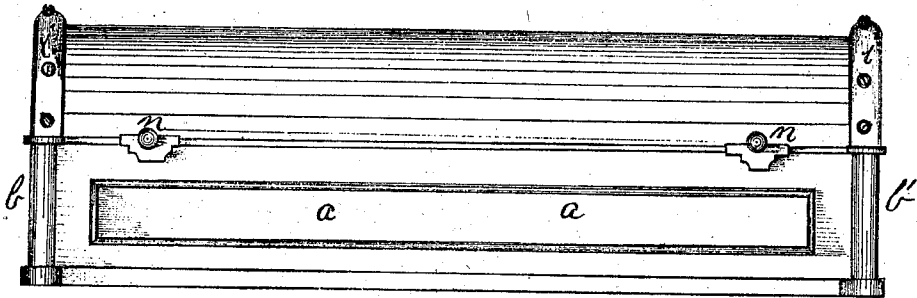


FIG. 1.

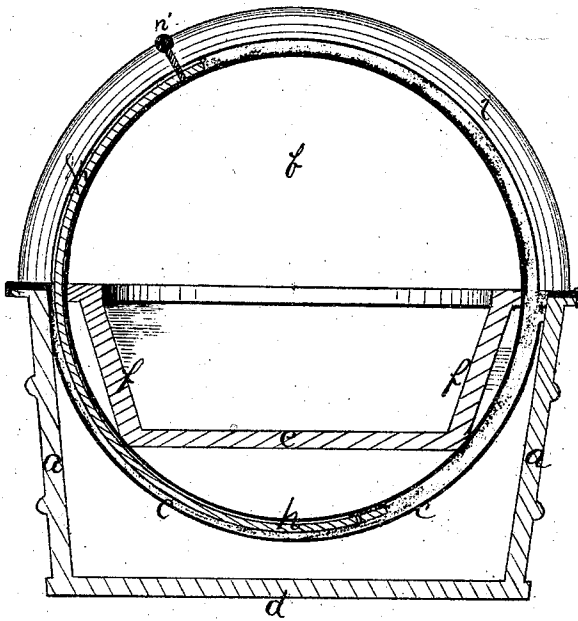


FIG. 2.

Witnesses:

*Thos B Kern*  
*R. Wrenshaw*

Inventor:

*Wmly Algeo*  
*by his attorneys*  
*Baxwell & Christy.*

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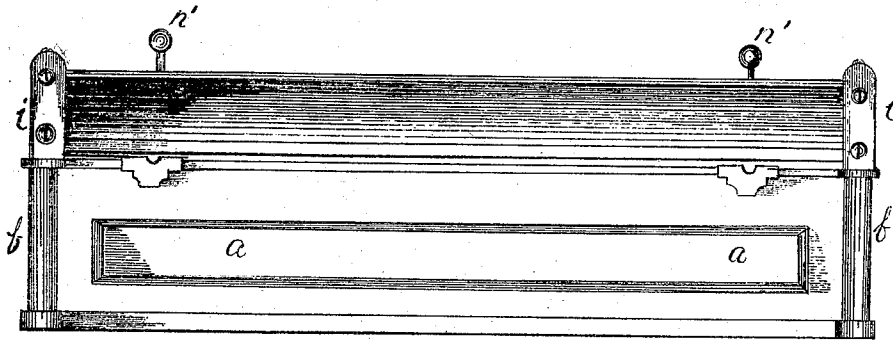


FIG. 3.

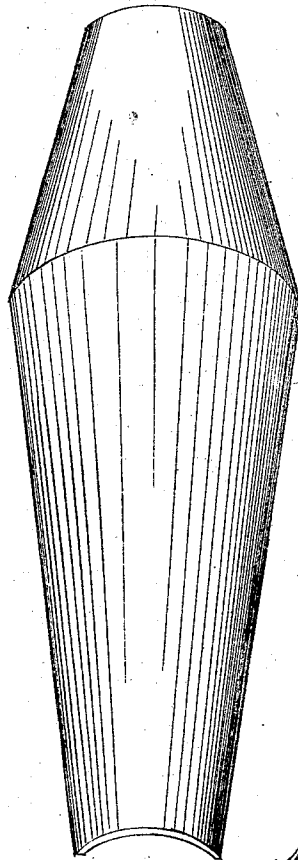


FIG. 4

Witnesses:

*Thos B Keen*

*R. W. Wrenshall*

Inventor:

*Wmly Algeo*

*by his attorneys*

*Bakewell & Christy.*

# United States Patent Office.

WILLIAM G. ALGEO, OF ALLEGHENY, PENNSYLVANIA.

Letters Patent No. 98,730, dated January 11, 1870.

## IMPROVED COFFIN.

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

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM G. ALGEO, of Allegheny, in the county of Allegheny, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Burial-Caskets; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of the coffin with the lid closed, and

Figure 2 is a sectional end view of the same.

My improvement relates to the top or cover of burial-caskets, whether constructed of wood, metal, or other material, and is designed to prevent the annoyance incident to the use of a detachable cover, such as is ordinarily employed for coffins and burial-cases.

To enable others skilled in the art to construct and use my improvement, I will proceed to describe the same, as applied to a wooden burial-casket.

The burial-casket represented in the drawing has straight sides, *a a'* and *b b'*, although it is not necessary, in using my invention, that the ends and sides should be straight, it being only requisite, so far as the end pieces *b b'* are concerned, that the bottom of the circular groove *c*, in each of the end pieces *b b'*, should be in the same plane all around, and that the grooves should be parallel the one to the other.

The end pieces *b b'* are at right angles to the bottom piece *d* of the casket, while the side pieces *a a'* may be inclined inward, toward the bottom, as shown in the drawing.

Within the case, thus formed, are a false bottom, *e*, parallel to the bottom piece *d*, and false sides, *f f*, which extend from end to end of the casket, and are attached to the end pieces *b* and *b'*. These, with the end-pieces, form the case, within which the corpse is laid, and they are at such distance from the outer bottom and side pieces as to leave room for the semi-cylindrical lid or cover *h* to lie between them when the casket is open, as seen in section in fig. 2, the edges of the cover *h*, when open, being flush with the upper edges of the side pieces *a a'*, and false sides *f f*.

The lid or cover *h*, made of wood or metal, is (if the sides of the casket are straight) a semi-cylinder, of such length that its ends will enter a circular groove, *c*, in each of the end pieces *b b'*, which grooves not only support the cover *h*, and keep it in place, but serve as guides, in which it moves as it is being opened or shut.

The upper part of the groove, at one or both ends, may be formed by a bead or strip, *i*, screwed on to the top of the end pieces *b b'*.

If of sheet-metal, the edges of the lid may be strengthened by a strip of iron, riveted on the inner side, unto which are screwed or riveted the pins *n n'*, of which there may be one, two, or more, on each side; but the pins, on one side, must be removable, by being screwed, or otherwise detachably secured into the side of the cover, near the edge, as the cover cannot be opened unless the pins *n'*, on one side, are removed.

There should be notches *o* in the upper edge of the outer side pieces *a a'*, to receive the pins *n n'*, although this is not absolutely necessary, but adds to the appearance of the casket.

The interior of the grooves *c c*, in which the top or cover *h* slides, are lined with cloth or soft leather, or other suitable material, so that the cover may be turned, to open or shut it, without noise.

The cover is fastened, when shut, by screwing the removable pins *n'*, on one side, and is opened by unscrewing and removing these pins, and turning it around, by taking hold of the fixed pins *n*, on the other side.

If desired, the cover may be made in two or more sections, as, for instance, a piece may be made separate from the main portion of the top, to cover the upper part of the casket, which may be opened, so as to expose to view the face of the corpse, while the rest of the casket remains covered.

If the burial-casket, instead of having straight sides, be made larger at the breast, or coffin-shaped, the top or cover, instead of being a right cylinder, may be made, as shown in fig. 4, of suitable shape to conform to the shape of the casket, the ends being of the shape of an arc of a circle.

Having thus described my improvement,

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination, with a burial-casket, of a revolving top, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof, I, the said WILLIAM G. ALGEO, have hereunto set my hand.

WM. G. ALGEO.

Witnesses:

THOS. B. KERR,  
WM. B. NEPPER.