Sept. 29, 1931. E. HEDEEN 1,825,397

BURIAL VAULT LATCH

Filed June 20, 1930

FIG. 1.

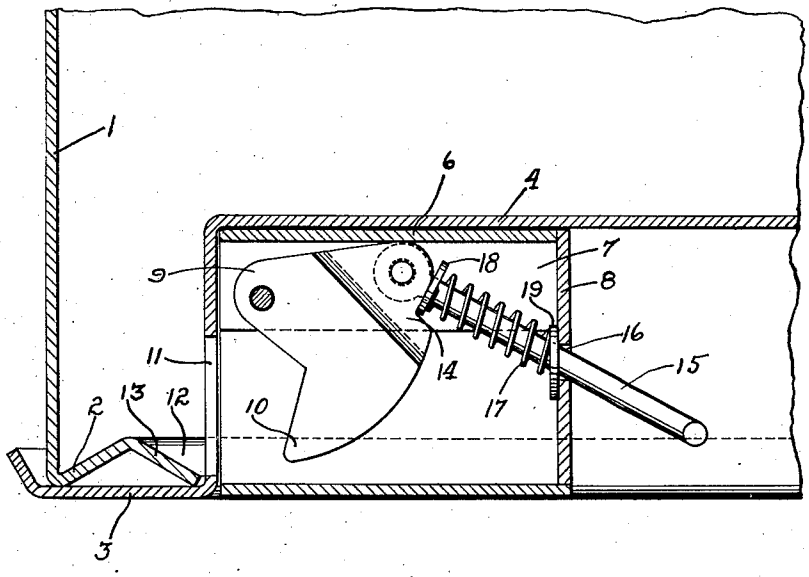
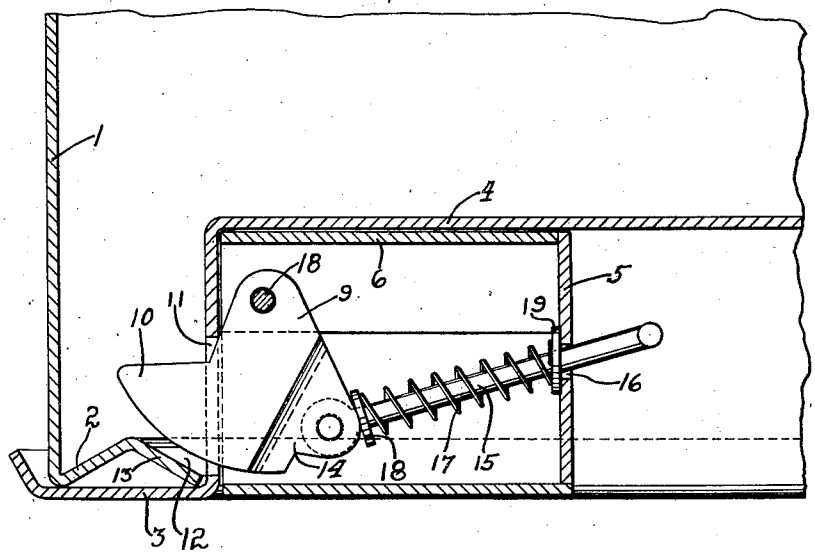


FIG. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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BURIAL VAULT LATCH

Application filed June 20, 1930. Serial No. 462,529.

This invention relates to burial vaults, but more particularly to latch means for securing the vault member to the platform member, and an object is to produce a simple and efficient device which is dependable for holding the vault member to the platform member, and which is accessible so that it may be released for separating such members.

Another object of this invention is to provide a latch of the above character with means for holding the latch in latching position, and which is also operative to retain the latch in inoperative position.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter appear, and the invention is shown by way of illustration, but not of limitation, in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a vertical, sectional elevation of a portion of vault and platform members in assembled relation showing the latch in inoperative position; and

Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but showing the latch in latching position.

The illustrated embodiment of the invention comprises a vault member 1, which may be of sheet metal construction, and which is provided at its lower marginal edge with an inwardly extending flange 2, which extends around the vault member. The flange 2 rests on a countersunk ledge 3 of the platform member 4.

Provided at each corner of the platform is a housing having an end wall 5, top wall 6, and side wall 7 for containing the latch mechanism. Pivoted to the side wall 7 on a pin 8 is a latch 9, generally of triangular shape, which is provided with a latching nose 10 adapted to project through an opening 11 formed in the vertical wall of the platform member 4. The lower edge 12 of the latching nose 10 is curved for engagement with an inclined portion 13 of the vault flange 2, the arrangement being such that the inclined surface 13 engaging the curved surface 12 when the vault is lifted operates to wedge the parts tightly together to prevent disengagement of the platform member from the vault member, it being observed that the forward edge of the latch 9 abuts against the vertical wall of the platform member 4.

The rear end portion 14 of the latch 9 is bent outwardly to lie in a plane of the latch body and at one side thereof. Pivoted to the outer end of the portion 14 is a rod 15, the outer end of which extends through an opening 16 in the end wall 5 of the latch housing. Encircling the rod 15 is a coil spring 17, one end of which abuts against a washer 18 secured to the rod 15. The opposite end of the spring 17 bears against a washer 19, which registers with the opening 16, and is secured to the wall 5.

As shown on the drawings, the parts are so arranged that when the latch 9 is in latching position the spring 17 holds the latch so that the nose 10 projects outwardly through the opening 11, and the forward edge of the latch abuts against the vertical wall of the platform. In order to retract the latch the outer end of the rod 15 is pulled rearwardly to withdraw the nose 10, and then by pressing down on the projecting end of the rod the latch is swung upwardly in a counter-clockwise direction (Fig. 1) so that the portion 14 thereof abuts against the top wall 6 of the latch housing. In this position the spring 17 urges the latch against the wall 6, and holds the same in inoperative position. It will be apparent that the end of the rod 15 is accessible from beneath the platform 4, and may be readily manipulated. When it is desired to move the latch from inoperative to operative position it is merely necessary to pull slightly on the rod 15 and move the latch to such position that the component force of the spring 17 moves the latch to latching position.

It is to be understood that numerous changes in details of construction, arrangement and operation may be effected without departing from the spirit of the invention, especially as defined in the appended claims.

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

1. In a burial vault, a platform having a countersunk ledge around the edge thereof, a vault having an inturned flange at the lower edge portion thereof adapted to rest on said ledge, and means for securing said vault to

said platform, said means comprising a latch, means for pivotally mounting said latch on the underside of said platform, a rod pivoted to said latch at a point remote from the pivotal mounting of said latch, a spring encircling said rod adapted to hold said latch in latching position, and a plate depending from said platform having an opening to receive said rod, one end of said spring abutting against said plate, the parts being so constructed and arranged that said latch may be swung out of latching position by said rod and upon a slight additional movement of said rod the component of spring force serves to hold said latch in non-latching position.

2. In a burial vault, a platform having a countersunk ledge around the edge thereof, a vault having an inturned flange at the lower edge portion thereof adapted to rest on said ledge, and means for securing said vault to said platform, said means comprising a pivoted latch carried by said platform and engageable with said flange, a rod pivoted to said latch having its outer end accessible for manipulation, a coil spring encircling said rod, an abutment on said rod for one end of said spring, and a stationary abutment for the opposite end of said spring, said rod being so pivoted to said latch that in one position the spring urges said latch to latching position, and in another position the spring urges said latch away from latching position.

3. In a burial vault, a platform having a countersunk ledge around the edge thereof, a vault having an inturned flange at the lower edge portion thereof adapted to rest on said ledge, means for securing said vault to said platform, said means comprising a latch engageable with said inturned flange, a pivotal mounting for said latch on the underside of said platform, a rod pivoted to said latch at a point spaced from the pivotal mounting of said latch and having its outer end accessible for manipulation, a relatively stationary element apertured to receive said rod, and spring means exerting tension against the pivotal connection of said rod with said latch whereby in one position the spring urges said latch to latching position and in another position the spring urges said latch away from latching position.

4. In a burial vault, a platform having a countersunk ledge around the edge thereof, a vault having an inturned flange at the lower edge portion thereof adapted to rest on said ledge, and means for securing said vault to said platform, said means comprising a latch pivoted to said platform and having a part engageable with said flange, a rod pivotally connected to said latch at a point spaced from the pivotal mounting of said latch and having one end accessible from the under side of said platform, an apertured guide to receive the end portion of said rod, and a spring abutting at one end against said guide and at the opposite end against the pivotal connection of said rod with said latch thereby to hold said latch in latched or unlatched position.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name to this specification.

ELMER HEDEEN.