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STRAP RELEASE FOR CASKET AND BURIAL VAULT LOWERING DEVICES

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Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

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This invention relates to improvements in undertaking devices and pertains particularly to a lowering device strap release for burial vaults and caskets.

In lowering caskets and burial vaults into graves there is usually employed a lowering device which makes use of a pair or more of straps which pass under the casket or vault and facilitate the dropping or lowering of the same evenly and smoothly. When the casket comes to rest upon the floor of the grave these straps frequently become tightly held and considerable difficulty is experienced in removing them.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a means whereby the release or removal of the lowering straps may be easily effected.

The invention broadly contemplates the provision of a pair of supporting elements which are pivotally attached to the under side of the vault or casket so that when under normal conditions they may be swung up out of view but in placing the casket in the grave they are swung down into operative position so as to provide means whereby by the bottom of the casket or vault will not rest flatly upon the floor of the grave after it has been lowered thereinto. There is thus provided a sufficient clearance between the floor of the grave and the bottom of the vault for the removal of the lowering device straps.

The invention will be best understood from a consideration of the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification, with the understanding, however, that the invention is not confined to any strict conformity with the showing of the drawing but may be changed or modified so long as such changes or modifications mark no material departure from the salient features of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of a vault showing the application of the present invention thereto;

Figure 2 is a transverse sectional view through the lower part of the vault taken substantially upon the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken substantially upon the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing wherein like numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views, the numeral 1 indicates generally a burial vault, the top and bottom portions of which are indicated respectively by the numerals 2 and 3. The device embodying the present invention is applied to the under side of the bottom of the vault or, when used in connection with the casket, is applied to the bottom thereof, and this device is indicated generally by the numeral 4. The device 4 comprises a bar of strap iron which is preferably of two inches in width and approximately one-quarter inch thick and intermediate its ends it is formed to provide the relatively long off-set portion 5 while at each end a turned-up portion 6 is formed in the manner shown. Each of the turned-up end portions 6 of the bar is rounded as indicated at 7 and is provided with the aperture 8. Each of the bars 4 is thus formed to provide the two foot portions 9 which are located at the sides of the vault or casket when the device is in use.

As previously stated each vault or casket is provided with two of the supporting devices and these are disposed transversely of the bottom and the ends of the up-standing portions 6 are pivotally secured thereto by means of suitable bolts or rivets 10 which are passed through the openings 8 as shown in Figure 2.

Suitable means may be formed upon the inner faces of the flanges or aprons which are formed integral with the bottom of the vault for facilitating the attachment of the supports thereto in the manner shown.

While the supporting bolts 10 carry the supports 4 in such a manner that the latter may be swung or pivoted thereon they hold the ends 6 sufficiently tightly to retain the supports in any position to which they may be moved. Thus, when the casket or vault is not in use the supports may be turned up to the position shown in dotted lines so that the casket or vault may rest upon its base in the usual manner.

When the casket or vault has been placed in position over the grave to be lowered thereinto upon the lowering device straps the supports 4 are swung down to the position shown in full lines and thus when the floor of the grave is reached the casket will be supported a few inches above the same and no difficulty will be experienced in removing the straps from beneath it.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. The combination with a burial container, of a pair of bar members disposed transversely of the bottom of the structure and having a portion at each end turned at right angles and having an aperture therethrough adjacent its free end, and bolt means passing through the apertures of
said turned ends and pivotally securing the same to the bottom of the structure whereby the bar may be swung to a position to extend beyond the bottom of the structure as described.

2. The combination with a burial container, having a surrounding supporting base flange, of bosses upon the inner face of said flange each having a threaded aperture therein, a pair of bodies each formed of an elongated single length of material having a portion of each end turned upwardly and provided with an aperture, each of said bodies extending transversely of the base and having an upturned end disposed against a boss, and a pivot screw extending through the aperture in each of said upturned ends and threadably engaging in the aperture of the adjacent boss.

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