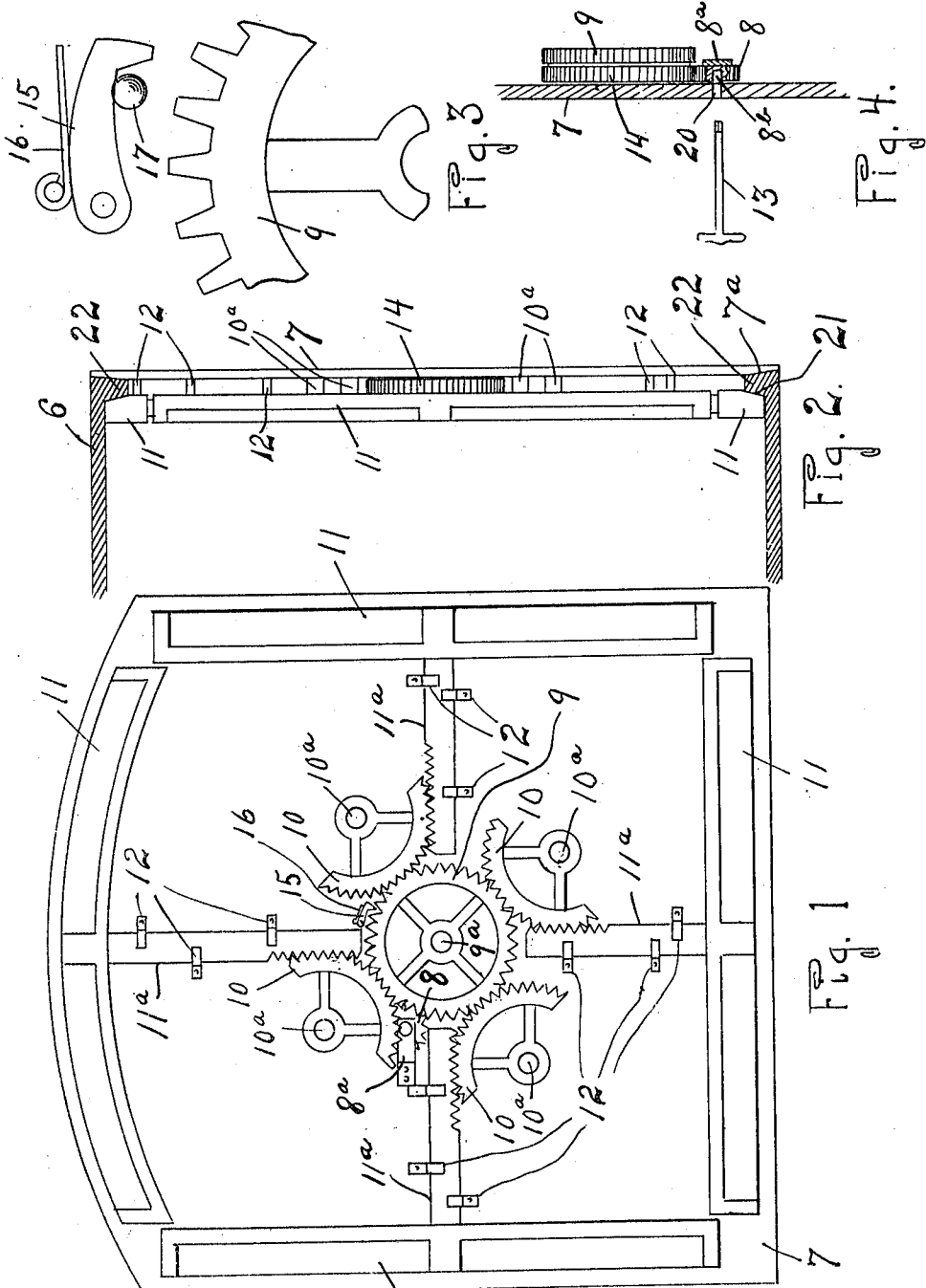


M. E. COBB.
 VAULT CLOSURE.
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1,035,531.

Patented Aug. 13, 1912.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MANUEL E. COBB, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO JOHN F. ELDER,
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VAULT-CLOSURE.

1,035,531.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 13, 1912.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MANUEL E. COBB, citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Vault-Closures, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to vault closures, and particularly to devices intended for locking and hermetically sealing grave vaults, so that after being closed the closure cannot be opened.

In practice the casket will be placed in the vault, and the closure or door applied and locked, so that it cannot be opened without destroying the structure.

The object of the invention is to form improved devices of the kind and for the purpose stated.

In the accompanying drawings—Figure 1 is an inner elevation showing the locking or securing devices which are applied to the closure plate. Fig. 2 is a sectional view showing the locking devices in edge elevation. Fig. 3 is a detail illustrating the pawl for preventing reopening of the closure. Fig. 4 is a detail in section illustrating the means for operating the locking device.

Referring specifically to the drawings, 6 is the casing of the vault, which is open at one end to receive the door or closure plate 7, which is a solid plate the edges of which fit against a beveled seat 7^a formed at the end of the casing. Mounted upon the inner side of the plate 7, by means of guides or guards 12, are a plurality of locking members or bolts 11, the length and shape of which substantially accord with the adjacent edges of the plate, the locking members being provided with rack stems or bars 11^a which extend radially, and the racks of which are engaged by gear segments 10 mounted on stub shafts 10^a on the back of the plate. These gears are arranged around and mesh with a master gear 9, fastened to or formed integral with a gear 14, both of these gears being mounted upon a stub shaft 9^a at the back of the plate 7. The gear 14

meshes with a pinion 8 which is supported in position by a bracket 8^a and the pinion 8 has a squared opening or recess 8^b at the center, adapted to receive the squared end of a key 13 which may be inserted therein through a hole 20 in the plate 7, whereby the pinion may be turned. A pawl 15 is pivoted on the back of the plate 7 and is adapted to drop between the teeth of the gear 9 and so lock the gear against rotation. This pawl may be pressed by a spring 16. A pin 17, inserted through a hole in the plate 7, serves to support the pawl out of engagement until the vault is finally locked.

The locking members 11 engage behind or within a projecting flange 22 around the opening to the vault, and the edges of the members are beveled slightly as indicated at 21, so that when the locking members are advanced the wedge action will draw the plate 7 tightly against the adjacent edges of the casing, in order to make a tight joint and seal the vault.

In the use of the device, the closure is applied to the front of the vault, and by means of the key 13 the pinion 8 is turned, and this rotates the master gear 9 and the intermediate gears 10, which, by engagement with the racks on the stems of the locking members, advance the said members radially to engagement with the flange 22, and thereby draws in the plate 7 and locks the closure, after which the key 13 is removed. By removal of the pin 17 the pawl 15 drops to engagement with the gear 9 and prevents reverse motion thereof, and when the pawl drops it also closes the hole through which the pin 17 was inserted. The vault is thus permanently closed and cannot be opened except by destruction of the closure. By reason of the beveled engagement and wedge action of the members 11 the plate 7 is drawn tightly to its seat, the gearing affording the necessary power to produce this effect, by the advance of the locking members.

What I claim is:

A vault closure, comprising a door adapt

ed to seat against the edge of the opening to
the vault, bolts movably mounted on said
door and provided with racks, gears en-
gaging said racks respectively, a master
5 gear located at the center of the door and
meshing with said gears, and means to ro-
tate said master gear comprising a pinion
engaging the same and having an opening

to receive a key, said door having a hole
through which the key may be inserted. 10

In testimony whereof, I do affix my signa-
ture in presence of two witnesses.

MANUEL E. COBB.

Witnesses:

JOHN A. BOMMARDT,
STEDMAN J. ROCKWELL.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D. C."