

July 20, 1943.

G. P. BLEAKLEY

2,324,465

GRAVE CRIBBER

Filed May 9, 1941

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

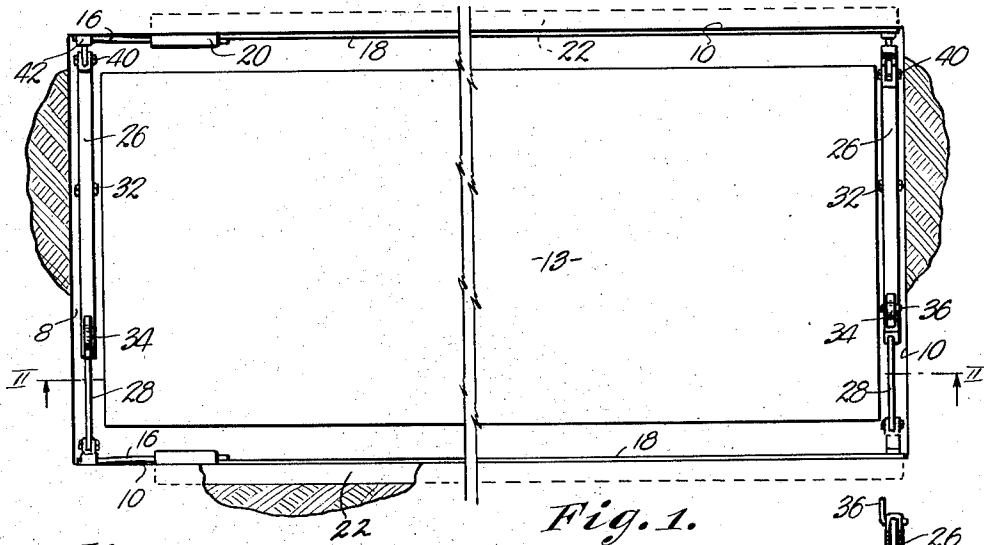
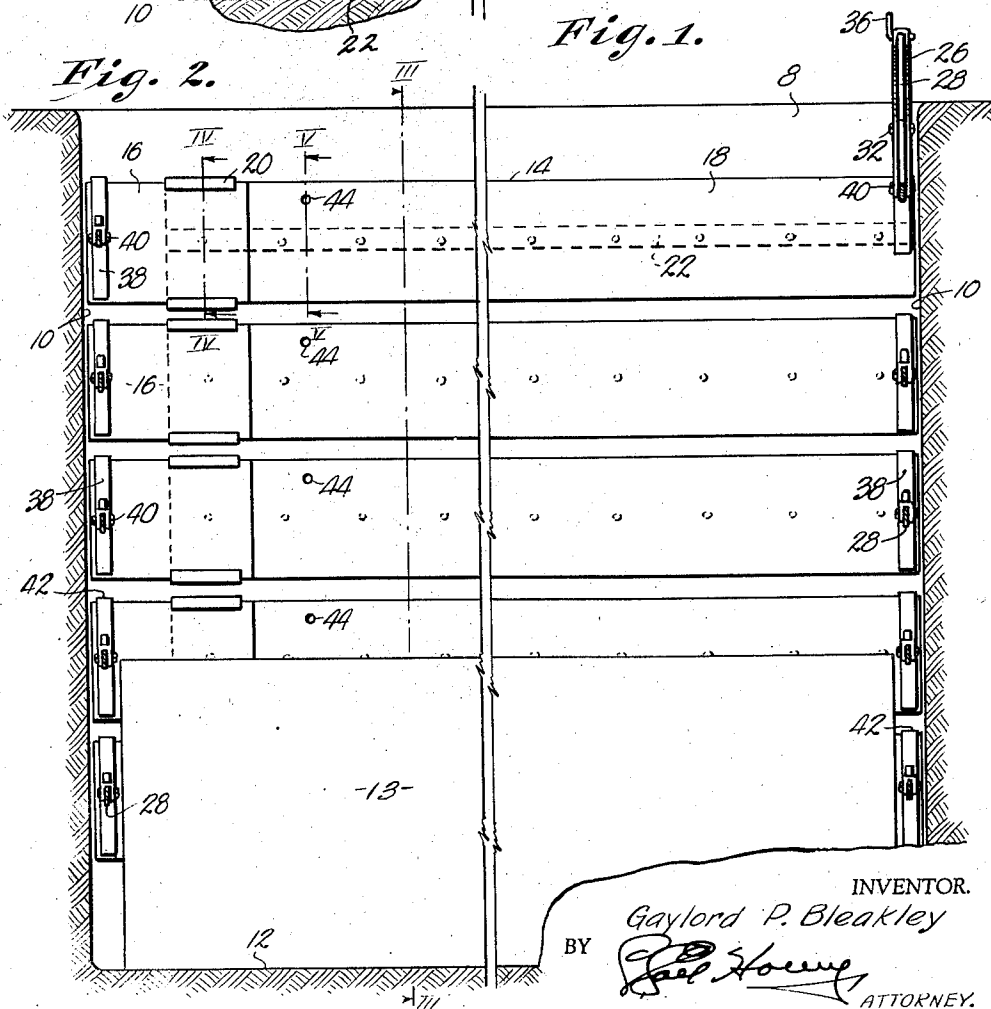


Fig. 2.



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

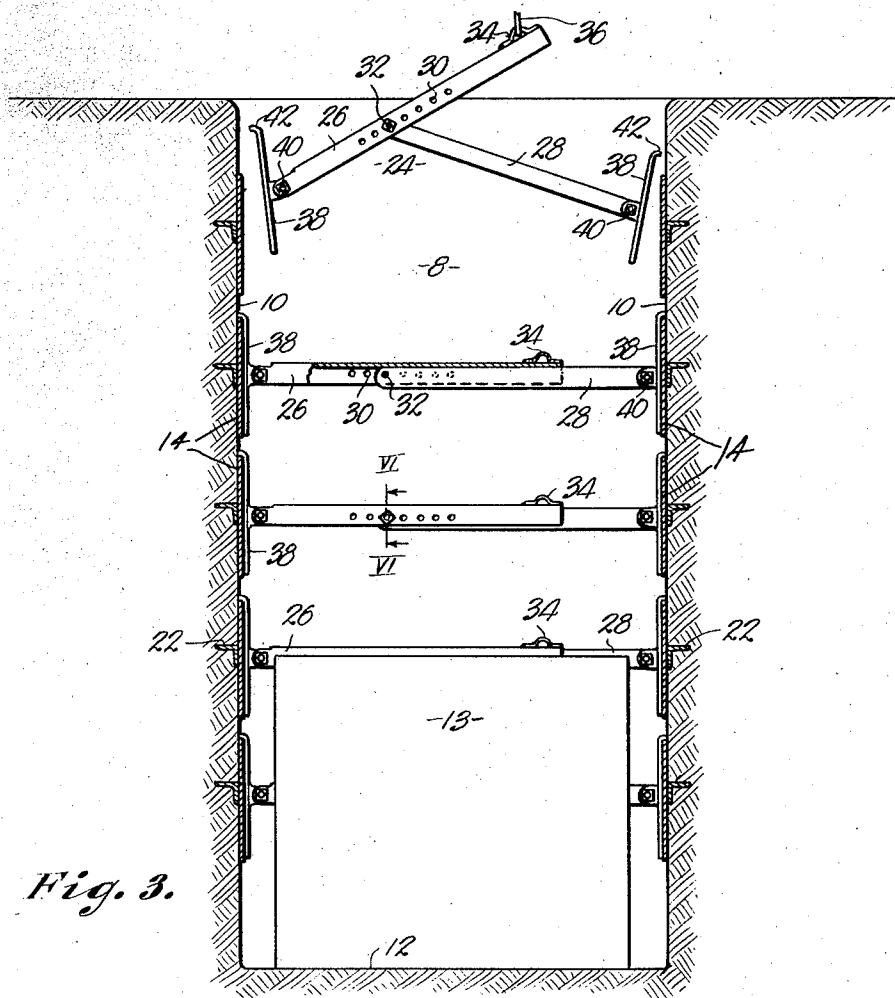


Fig. 3.

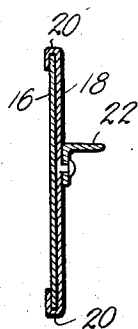


Fig. 4.

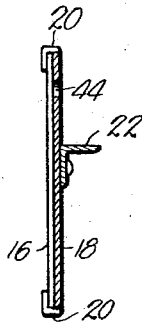


Fig. 5.

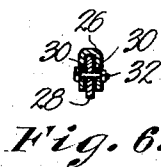


Fig. 6.

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2,324,465

GRAVE CRIBBER

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Application May 9, 1941, Serial No. 392,692

7 Claims. (Cl. 61—41)

This invention relates to cribbing of the character particularly constructed for use in connection with excavations used for graves, and the primary object is to provide cribbing that will be strong, effective, easy to install and capable of placement without difficulty.

One of the important aims of the instant invention is to provide grave cribbing comprising parts that are relatively simple in construction, compact in nature, and easily installed and removed from the operative position and which permits the excavation to be of minimum size to eliminate the necessity of forming a relatively large grave merely because cribbing is to be used.

Another object of this invention is to provide side plates forming a part of the cribbing that have means for piercing the sides of the excavation, and which hold the plates in position while specially formed braces are operably connected to oppositely disposed plates for the purpose of imparting outward pressure thereto.

This invention has for another aim, the provision of specially formed braces comprising flanged feet that rest upon the aforesaid side plate in a manner to prevent dropping while the tightening action of the brace takes place.

A yet further object of the present invention is to provide cribbing and parts thereof, that may be easily placed and removed from position without the necessity of the operator entering the excavation and without the employment of tools other than a hooked rod, by means of which the parts of the cribbing may be lifted from the excavation.

Minor objects of the invention will appear during the course of the following specification, referring to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of cribbing embodying this invention, in place within an excavation.

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view through the cribbing taken on line II—II of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a vertical cross sectional view through the cribbing, taken on line III—III of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a detailed sectional view through one of the side plates of the cribbing, taken on line IV—IV of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is a similar view taken on line V—V of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary detailed sectional view taken on line VI—VI of Fig. 3.

It has heretofore been customary to provide grave cribbers, constructed of relatively heavy material, necessitating digging the excavation from 4 in. to 8 in. wider than needed merely to

provide space for the cribbing parts and yet allow the lowering of the vault. This invention contemplates the employment of materials for the production of cribbing parts that will be strong, yet thin in order that the excavation might remain the same in dimension yet still receive the vault when the cribbing is in place.

In the drawings the numeral 8 designates the excavation generally having side walls 10 and a bottom 12 upon which rests the vault 13, when the latter is lowered to position.

As the excavation 8 increases in depth, the digger applies oppositely disposed side plates 14, each of which comprises at least two sections 16 and 18 respectively. Section 16 is relatively short and extends longitudinally from one end of section 18 and is slidably supported by channels 20. Section 18 has a rib 22 secured along the outer face thereof to extend into sides 10 of excavation 8 when side plate 14 is first positioned.

Rib 22 extends laterally from the said outer face of section 18 at substantially right angles thereto and a sufficient distance to support the plate and all of its parts until brace 24 is brought into play. Brace 24 comprises a pair of arms 26 and 28 respectively, the former being U-shaped in transverse cross section. The legs of this U-shaped arm 26 are provided with opposed perforations 30, which receive pin 32 carried by the free end of arm 28.

Arm 28 is a single strip of steel or strap metal and enters between the legs of arm 26 when brace 24 is exerting pressure upon side plates 14.

One end of arm 28 is secured to arm 26 intermediate its ends as just above set down so that arms 26 and 28 are articulated for easy manipulation.

An ear 34 secured to one end of U-shaped arm 26 receives the hooked end of a rod 36, which the operator may use to withdraw all parts of the cribber from excavation 8.

Each arm 26 and 28 has a foot 38 of identical character, pivotally mounted at the remote ends thereof through the medium of bolts or the like 40. Each foot 38 has an outwardly extending flange 42 at the normally upper end thereof for engaging the upper edge of oppositely disposed side plates 14. Thus, when the brace 24 is first moved to place within the excavation, it may hang on the previously positioned side plates 14 until sufficient downward force is exerted at the zone of juncture between arms 26 and 28 to move the arms to alignment, as shown in Fig. 3. Each side plate 14 has a hole 44 to receive the hooked end of rod 36.

During the preparation of excavation 8, side plates 14 are applied to sides 10 of the excavation as it is deepened. After the side plates 14 are placed, braces 24 are disposed at each end of excavation 8 to exert outward pressure on the side plates. Ribs 22 on each section 18 of plates 14 will strengthen the side plate assembly to such an extent that longitudinally arching will not occur and since sections 16 and 18 of plates 14 are made of sheet metal, less than 1/2 in. in thickness, they will not occupy an appreciable amount of the space formed within excavation 8.

After the vault 13 is lowered to position, hooked rod 36 is used to remove all parts of the cribbing. The operator need not enter the excavation to manipulate tools or the like, to disassemble the parts. An upward pull on ears 34 of braces 24 "breaks" the rigid condition existing because of the strain, after which the oppositely disposed side plates 14 may be withdrawn from excavation 8 by engaging holes 44. Obviously, the distance between the inner faces of side plates 14 should be very slightly less than the distance between the outer faces of feet 38, with arms 26 and 28 in alignment, before the brace 24 is forced to place. Thus, a sufficient amount of pressure is exerted to hold braces 24 against side plates 14 and prevent accidental displacement as the depth of excavation 8 increases.

In most instances, it is desirable to slot sides 10 of the excavation with a shovel or the like, so that ribs 22 may be received and serve as hangers for the side plates prior to the application of braces 24.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. In cribbing of the character described, a series of oppositely disposed side plates; braces extending between the side plates; and flanged feet pivotally secured to the braces formed to hang on the plates with the faces thereof in abutting relation therewith throughout their lengths as the braces are swung about the pivots to and from the operative position.

2. In cribbing of the character described, a series of oppositely disposed side plates; and braces extending between the side plates, each side plate having a horizontal, laterally projecting, rib along the outer face thereof between the longitudinal edges thereof to extend into the sides of the excavation to suspend the plate in operative position, said side braces each having a pair of articulated arms, a foot pivotally secured to the free ends of said arms respectively, and a flange on each foot for engaging the upper edges of the adjacent plates.

3. In cribbing of the character described, a series of oppositely disposed side plates; and braces extending between the side plates, each side plate having a horizontal, laterally projecting, rib along the outer face thereof to extend into the sides of the excavation to suspend the plate in operative position, said braces each having a pair of articulated arms, a foot at the free ends of said arms respectively, and a flange on each foot for engaging the upper edges of the adjacent plates, one of said arms being U-shaped in cross section and provided with perforations in the legs thereof, the other of said arms being embraced by the U-shaped arm and having a pin

thereon extending outwardly through opposed perforations, said feet being pivotally secured to their respective arms the point of connection between the feet and said braces being in the same horizontal plane as the ribs on the plates when the flanges of the feet are in engagement with the upper edges of the plates.

4. In cribbing of the character described, a series of oppositely disposed side plates; braces extending between the side plates; and flanged feet on the braces formed to hang on the plates when in the operative position, said flanges engaging the upper edges of the plates, the said feet being pivotally secured to their respective arms the pivotal connection between said feet and the braces being adapted to allow the entire faces of the feet to lie flat against the plates as the brace is moved to and from a position to exert force thereagainst.

5. In cribbing of the character described, a pair of oppositely disposed side plates adapted for placement against the vertical faces of a grave; and braces extending across the grave between said side plates at each end respectively thereof, each of said side plates comprising at least two slidably engaged planar sections, one of the sections of each plate having a longitudinal L-shaped rib secured thereto and extending substantially the full length thereof, one leg of the L-shaped rib being perpendicular to one face of the section to enter the earth and serve as a support and stiffener for the section, the other section of each plate being smooth on both faces thereof for free movement longitudinally along the outer face of the first mentioned section; said braces each comprising a pair of overlapping arms, a pivot pin extending through the arms, and a foot on the free end of each arm respectively, said feet having flanges at the upper ends thereof to rest upon the upper edges of the respective sections of the side plates, said feet being pivotally joined to the respective arms and having smooth outer sides to lie flat against the sections of the side plates before the arms are moved to parallel relation with each other to exert outward force against the said sections.

6. In cribbing of the character described, a series of oppositely disposed side plates; braces between said plates, each comprising a pair of arms, one of said arms having one end pivotally connected to said other arm intermediate the ends of the latter; and a foot pivotally mounted on the free end of each arm, said foot having a flange on its upper edge for resting on the upper edge of one of said plates.

7. In cribbing of the character described, a series of oppositely disposed side plates; braces between said plates, each comprising a pair of arms, one of said arms being U-shaped in cross section for embracing the other arm, said other arm having one end pivotally connected to the arm of U-shaped cross section intermediate its ends whereby movement of the arms to a horizontal position is limited to an aligned relation of one arm to the other; a foot pivotally mounted on the free end of each arm for engaging a side plate; and a loop on the opposite end of the arm of U-shaped cross section for the introduction of a hook to break the aligned relation of said arms.

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