A. W. Hendrick,

Coffin.

No. 95,109. Patented Sept. 21. 1869.

Fig. 1.

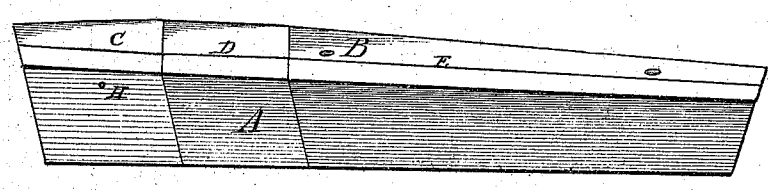


Fig. 2.

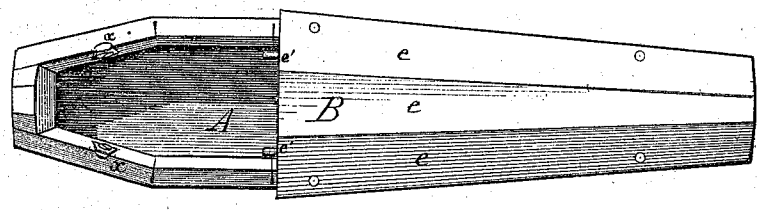


Fig. 3.

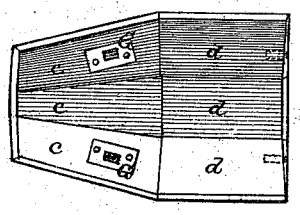


Fig. 4.

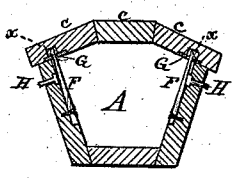
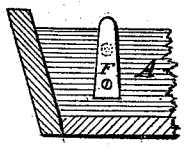


Fig. 5.



Witnesses,
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United States Patent Office.

ALEXANDER W. HENDRICK, OF BATAVIA, ILLINOIS.

Letters Patent No. 95,109, *dated September* 21, 1869.

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 ALEXANDER W. HENDRICK, of Batavia, in the county of Kane, and in the State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Coffins; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved coffin;

Figure 2 is a top view of the same, with the head and breast-piece of the lid removed;

Figure 3 is a view of the lower side of the head and breast-piece of the lid;

Figure 4 is a vertical cross-section on the line *x x* of figs. 1 and 2; and

Figure 5 is a broken vertical longitudinal section of the coffin, showing the devices for securing thereto the head and breast-pieces of the lid.

Letters of like name and kind refer to like parts in each of the figures.

My invention consists in the peculiar form and construction of the coffin-lid, and in the means employed for securing the head and breast-parts of the same to the coffin, as is hereinafter fully set forth.

In the annexed drawing—

A represents the coffin, of usual construction, and

B the lid, constructed in three sections, of which

C represents the face-board,

D, the breast-board, and

E, the body-board.

Each section of the lid is composed of three strips, lettered *c*, *d*, and *e*, respectively, of which the centre strip is placed in a horizontal position, crosswise, while the outside strips incline downward, so as to give a dome-shape to said lid. This form and construction not only give the coffin a more elegant appearance, but also enable the sides thereof to be made much lower than otherwise, by which means the apparent height of the whole is lessened.

As ordinarily constructed, the head and breast-pieces are secured to the coffin by means of screws, which method of attachment renders the operation of closing the coffin slow, and extremely painful to the friends of the deceased, all of which objections are removed by my improved fastening-devices, which are described below.

The sections composing the head and breast-board are secured together, but are separate from the body-board, so as to allow of their adjustment to, or removal from the coffin without interfering with the latter.

Secured to, and projecting outward from the ends of the side pieces of the body-board or section, are two dowel-pins, *e' e'*, which fit into corresponding holes in the ends of the side pieces of the body-section, and hold the two sections firmly together.

F F represent two springs, secured at their lower ends to the inner sides of the coffin, near its head, and projecting above the upper edges of the same, where each is provided with a projecting lip or detent, *x*. Secured to the lower side of the side pieces of the head-section, directly above the springs F F, are two plates of sheet-metal, G G, having in the centre of each an opening, corresponding with the ends of said springs, which ends project through the same sufficiently to allow the detents thereon to engage with said plates, and thereby firmly lock the portion of the lid to which they are attached firmly upon the coffin.

The upper or front side of each detent slopes upward, so as to permit it to be pressed to one side and allow the plate G to pass, after which the spring returns to place and causes said detent and plate to engage.

In order that the catches may be disengaged, so as to permit of the removal of the lid, when desired, a stud, H, provided at one end with a head, projects through a suitable opening in the side of the coffin, with said head resting against the spring, so that by pressing against the end of said stud, said spring or catch is sprung inward and released from engagement with the lid.

As thus constructed, it will be seen that the exceedingly painful operation, to the mourners, of closing the coffin, is rendered very brief, and all of its heretofore disagreeable features removed, as, in order to accomplish this object, it is only necessary to pass the end of the adjustable section over the dowel-pins and then press said lid downward until the spring-catches are engaged. If the studs and springs are pressed inward as the lid is closed, all sound will be avoided.

Having thus fully set forth the nature and merits of my invention,

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

The within-described coffin-lid, composed of two transverse sections, and secured in place by means of the spring-catches and dowel-pins, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing, I have hereunto set my hand, this 9th day of August, 1869.

ALEXANDER W. HENDRICK.

Witnesses:

THOS. MEREDITH,

M. M. KEMP.