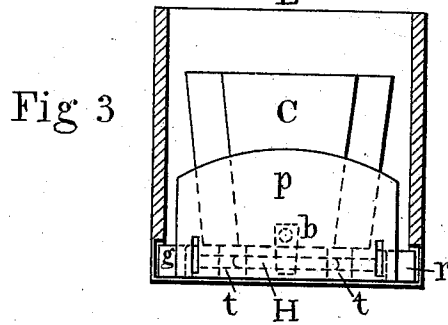
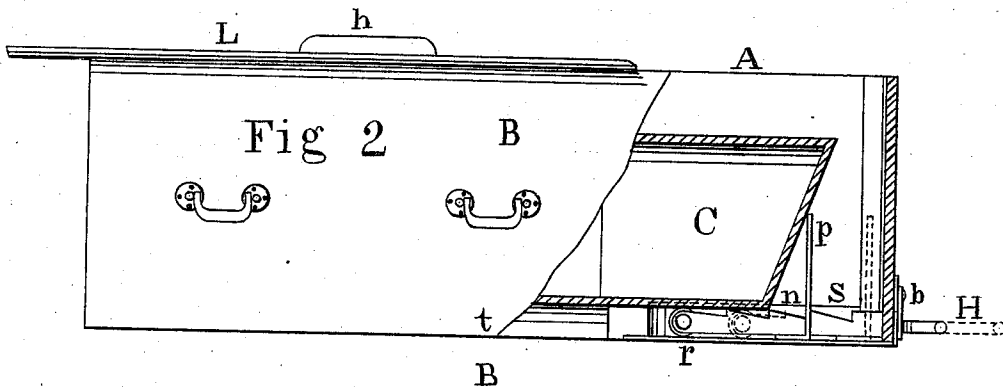
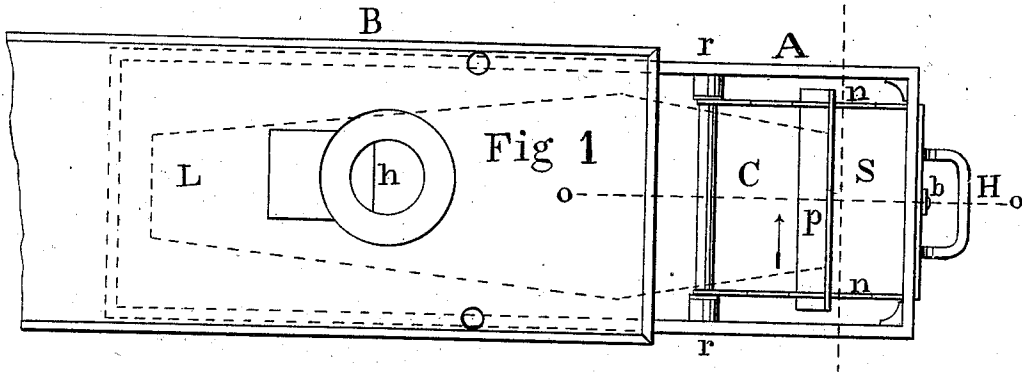


H. EAST.
COFFIN-CASE.

No. 173,397.

Patented Feb. 15, 1876.



Witnesses:

A. C. Parsons
Peter M. Brothers

Inventor:

Henry East
per
Benj. F. Parsons atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY EAST, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN COFFIN-CASES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **173,397**, dated February 15, 1876; application filed December 30, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY EAST, of the city of Rochester, in the county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Coffin-Cases; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to which it appertains to construct and make use of the invention, reference being had to the drawings accompanying this specification, and to the figures and letters of reference marked thereon, in which like letters refer to like parts throughout the same, and on which—

Figure 1 represents a top view or plan of the invention. Fig. 2 represents a longitudinal vertical section of the invention through the line *o o*. Fig. 3 represents a transverse vertical section of the invention.

My invention relates to a case for inclosing coffins during funeral ceremonies. The object of my invention is to furnish a case representing an ornamented coffin or casket, more or less expensive, for inclosing and transporting a cheaper coffin or casket, the case to accompany the hearse on all occasions, and to inclose the coffin when lying in state and during the funeral ceremonies, which, for the purpose of interment, after the case is placed over the grave, is, unseen to but few, released from the case, and let down into the grave, leaving the impression and answering all the purposes of an interment in an ornamented casket.

My invention is designed to answer all the purposes, in every respect, from first to last, including lying in state to lowering the coffin in the grave, of a costly and expensive coffin, and at a small per cent. rental, when, in fact, a cheap coffin is used. It consists in a receptacle or case of wood or other material, whose contour and ornaments are as preferred, and has passing inward, near the bottom of each inside end, a metal slide-frame, which moves in grooves that are sunk at the lower inside faces of the case on metal rolls, and which frame has, for holding a retaining-plate in its side bars, ratchet-teeth; also, on its outside ends, for operating the said frames, handles, all of which will now be described.

A represents one end of the case, which,

as both ends are alike, is deemed sufficient to illustrate the invention. This case is constructed of any preferred contour, size, or ornamentation, or of any material, and without the usual bottom. L shows the lid drawn back, as in exhibiting a corpse previous to burial, and serves to illustrate the invention also without dotted lines. C represents a section of the coffin, resting on the rolls *r* of the slide-frame S, which is of metal, rectangular, constructed in any preferred manner, and operated on metal bearings affixed in the head of the case and said rolls *r* by the handles H, which handles it is intended shall, when the slide is in the case, fold into a recess in the head of the case. These rolls *r* act on journals formed on the projecting ends of the front cross-bar of the slide-frame and in the grooves *g*, which are sunk for the purpose in the lower inside edges of the sides of the case, and have a metal bottom of any sheet metal fastened to the bottom edge of the case's sides, which forms a metal track for the slide-rolls.

If preferred, the rolls are left off, in which event the grooves are reduced to suit the journals, and the frame entire slides in the grooves, instead of the rear end only sliding.

It is supposed there are more than one size of cases, and the slide-frame extends into each to suit the case; but they must, to prevent accident, go fairly beyond the end of the coffin.

For the purpose of securing different-length coffins against side or endwise oscillation after being placed in the case, there are retaining-plates *p* adjusted in the notches *n*, formed in the top edges of the side bars of the slide-frame, the buttons *b* or equivalent device, in the meantime, preventing an outward, and the wood between the bars an inward, movement of the frame. On the lid of the case there is a metal wreath, *h*, provided with flanges for securing the usual plate.

When laid in the case, the rolls receive the full weight of the coffin. In their absence the coffin rests entirely on the frame.

To release the frame for withdrawal preparatory to lowering the coffin out of the case into the grave, as the case is placed on the bars lying over across the grave, the cleats *t*, first secured to the coffin's bottom, coming a

little below the case, first come in contact with the bars over the grave, and receive the weight of the coffin, when the case also immediately drops onto said bars, completely releasing the slide-frame and the case from the coffin. The appliances for lowering the coffin out of the case into the grave are adjusted for receiving its weight, and the bars are taken from under the coffin and placed under the ends of the case, when the coffin is lowered out of the same, exposing it to but a few persons, for by the time, in its descent, it is out of the case, it is so much below the surface as to be out of view except to those directly around, which attains the object of keeping up appearances, at the same time from twenty-five to seventy-five per cent. of the ordinary expense of a casket or coffin is saved.

Thus having described my invention in coffin-cases, what I claim, and wish to secure of the United States by Letters Patent, is—

An exterior bottomless coffin, provided at each end with adjustable devices for holding the ends of an interior coffin, and releasing them when the interior coffin is lowered out from under the case and into the grave, all as and for the purposes substantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto, in the presence of these two witnesses, subscribed my hand this 27th day of December, A. D. 1875.

HENRY EAST.

Witnesses:

BENJ. F. PARSONS,
HENRY J. RINTZ.