Dec. 1, 1931. H. M. WELLS 1,833,959

BURIAL VAULT

Filed Nov. 21, 1930

Fig. 1.

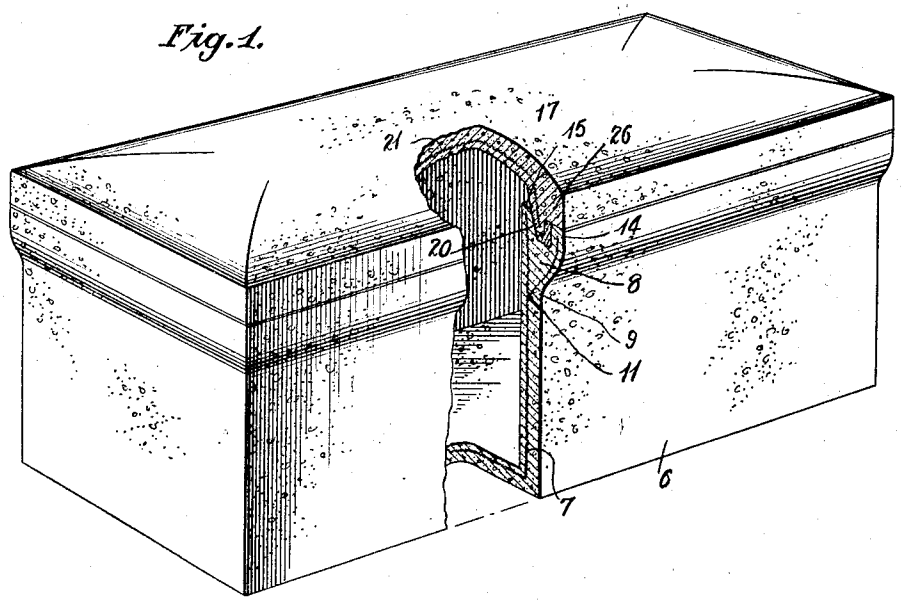


Fig. 2.

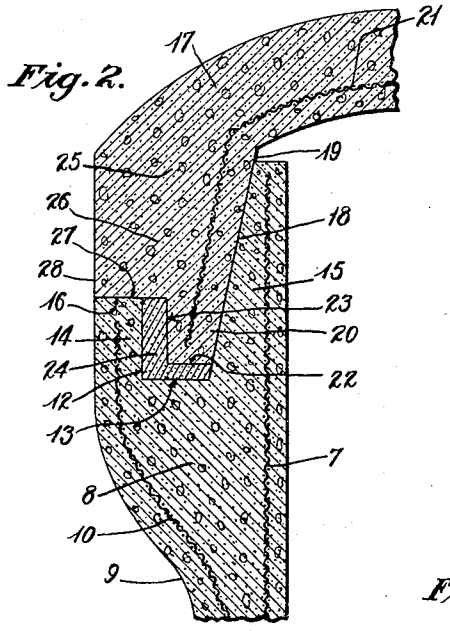


Fig. 4.

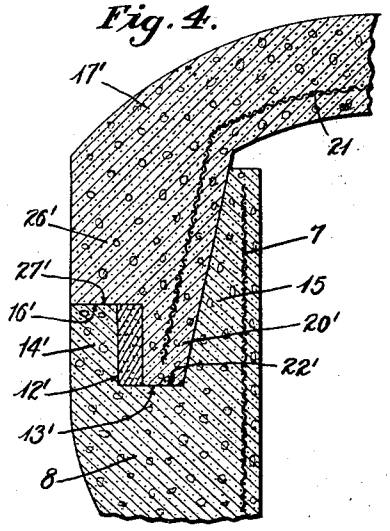


Fig. 5.

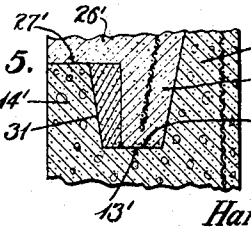
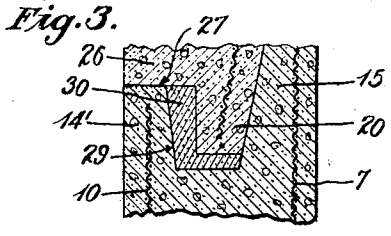


Fig. 3.



Inventor

Harry M. Wells

By Cushman, Bryant & Daly

Attorneys

Patented Dec. 1, 1931

1,833,959

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

HARRY M. WELLS, OF SOUTH OMAHA, NEBRASKA

BURIAL VAULT

Application filed November 21, 1930. Serial No. 497,290.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in burial vaults and particularly those adapted to contain and enclose a casket in an air-tight manner to preserve the same when embedded in the earth.

An important object of the invention is to provide a vault comprising a receptacle and cover therefor with a joint therebetween of a construction to form a perfect seal and to present a finished appearance, but precludes the lodgement of earth on and about the joint.

Another important object of the invention is to provide a joint of the above character in which the cementitious filling material employed in the joint is highly compressed between two or more surfaces of both the cover and receptacle to more effectively seal a casket within the vault.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of the description and wherein like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the several views:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved burial vault with portions of the receptacle and cover thereof broken away to illustrate the construction of the joint therebetween.

Figure 2 is an enlarged transverse section of this joint.

Figure 3 is a similar fragmentary view of a modification thereof.

Figure 4 is an enlarged transverse section of a modified form of joint, and

Figure 5 is a similar fragmentary view of the same.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings for a more detailed disclosure, the numeral 6 designates the body or receptacle portion of the vault formed of concrete or any other suitable material to assume a substantially rectangular configuration, as shown in the drawings.

The walls and bottom of this receptacle are suitably reinforced by a metallic reinforcing fabric 7 embedded in the walls during their formation.

The upper edges of the side and end walls of the receptacle are of increased cross sectional area as at 8 gradually merging as at 9 into the walls and ends as shown. This enlarged upper edge portion of the receptacle is reinforced by a metallic fabric 10 embedded therein during manufacture which conforms to the curvature of the outer surface of this enlargement and is united to the reinforcing fabric 7 as at 11.

The upper horizontal surface of the end and side walls of the receptacle is provided with a continuous seat or groove 12 having a bottom wall 13 and side walls defined by outer and inner vertical flanges 14 and 15 respectively. The upper horizontal surface 16 of the outer flange 14 forms the support of a cover 17 for the receptacle in a manner which will be more specifically described hereinafter.

The inner flange 15 is substantially taller than the outer flange 14 and at its outer face 18 is inclined downwardly and outwardly to meet the bottom 13 of the groove or seat 12. This surface is inclined so as to slidingly engage a corresponding wall 19 of a flange 20 depending from the sides and ends of the cover 17.

This cover is also suitably reinforced by metallic reinforcing fabric 21 which is arched to conform to the arched formation of the cover and provided with dependencies extending down into the flange 20 of the cover. The bottom surface 22 of the flange 20 is substantially parallel to the bottom surface 13 of the seat in the receptacle, and the flange 20 being shorter in height than the outer flange 14, is adapted to be spaced from the bottom of the groove or seat when the cover is in position on the receptacle. This flange 20 is also narrower than the width of the seat or groove 12 so that its vertical outer surface 23 is spaced from the outer wall of the groove to permit the disposition of cementitious material 24 in the seat.

In order to support the cover 17 upon the receptacle with the bottom of the flange 20 spaced from the bottom of the groove 12, the depending marginal portion of the cover is formed of increased cross sectional area as at

25, which in effect equips the flange 20 with an outwardly and laterally extending shoulder 26 with a horizontal surface 27 adapted to rest upon the upper surface 16 of the outer flange 14 when the cover is positioned upon the receptacle. The outer surface 28 of this shoulder is disposed in the same plane with the outer surface of the outer flange 14 incident to the projection and overlapping of the shoulder 26 over the outer flange 14, thereby completely covering the joint and enhancing the symmetry of the vault.

In the modification of the joint shown in Figure 3, the only difference over the form just described resides in the formation of the inner wall 29 of the outer flange 14 with a draft or inclination which makes for the accommodation of more cementitious material at the point designated by the numeral 30. Otherwise, this joint possesses the same construction as that heretofore described and shown in detail in Figure 2.

In use, cementitious material 24, preferably cement or concrete is placed in the groove 12, after which the receptacle 6 is then lowered into the grave. A casket is next lowered into the receptacle 6. The cover 17 is then lowered into the grave so that its depending flange 20 rides down the inclined face 18 of the inner flange 20 of the receptacle and moves into the cementitious material 24, thereby compressing the latter between the bottom 22 of the flange 20 and bottom 13 of the groove as well as between the outer surface 23 of the flange 20 and the inner surface of the outer flange 14 to form a compression joint. The cementitious material is cut off in its escape out of the groove by the surface 27 of the shoulder 26 coming to rest upon the upper surface on the outer flange 14 which being of greater height than the flange 20 supports the cover 17 on the receptacle with the bottom surface 22 of the flange 20 spaced a distance above the bottom 13 of the groove or seat.

In the modification shown in Figure 4, the construction of the joint is practically the same as in the preceding embodiments, except for the fact that the flange 20′ is of substantially the same height as the outer flange 14′ of the receptacle, which will cause the bottom surface 22′ of the flange 20′ to come to rest on the bottom 13′ of the seat or groove 12′ at the same time the horizontal surface 27′ of the shoulder 26′ comes to rest upon the upper surface 16′ of the flange 14′.

The same construction is true in the modification shown in Figure 5, but in this joint the inner surface 31 of the outer flange 14′ is formed with a draft in the same way the inclined surface 29 is formed in the modification shown in Figure 3. Consequently, in the modification shown in Figures 4 and 5, the cover 17′ has two points of support upon the receptacle, namely in the surfaces 22′ and 27′, whereas in the modification shown in Figures 2 and 3, there is only one point of support effected by the engagement of the surface 27 of shoulder 26 with the upper surface of the outer flange 14.

It is to be understood that various changes in the shape and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A burial vault comprising a receptacle having a groove defined by an outer flange for the reception of sealing material, a cover fitting upon said receptacle and having a flange for reception in said groove, and said cover having a shoulder integrally with and extending outwardly from said flange and resting upon the groove defining flange in abutting contact therewith.

2. A burial vault comprising a receptacle having a groove defined by inner and outer flanges, the inner flange being taller than the outer flange, sealing material in said groove, a cover fitting upon said receptacle and having a flange for reception in said groove, said cover flange being of less height than said outer flange and disposed in the sealing material to compress the same within said groove, and said cover having a shoulder integrally with and extending outwardly from said flange in engagement with the outer flange to prevent the escape of the sealing material and to support the cover on the receptacle.

3. A burial vault comprising a receptacle having a sealing groove defined by inner and outer flanges, said groove having a substantially horizontal bottom surface, said outer flange having a substantially horizontal upper surface, a cover closing said receptacle and having a depending flange extending into and partially filling said groove, said depending flange having a substantially horizontal lower surface, said cover having a shoulder projecting outwardly from said flange and having a substantially horizontal under surface and being supported when in position on said receptacle by one of said horizontal surfaces of said cover resting directly upon and in contact with one of said horizontal surfaces on said receptacle, and sealing material in the portion of said groove not filled by said flange.

4. A burial vault comprising a receptacle having a sealing groove defined by inner and outer flanges, said groove having a substantially horizontal bottom surface, said outer flange having a substantially horizontal upper surface, a cover closing said receptacle and having a depending flange for reception in said groove said depending flange having a substantially horizontal lower surface, said cover having a shoulder projecting outwardly from said flange and having a substantially horizontal under surface, said cov-

er being supported when in position on said receptacle by one of said horizontal surfaces of said cover resting directly upon and in contact with one of said horizontal surfaces on said receptacle, whereby said cover is positively positioned with respect to said receptacle by said contacting horizontal surfaces, said other horizontal surface of said cover being spaced from and directly above said other horizontal surface of said receptacle, and sealing material in said groove.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

HARRY M. WELLS.