

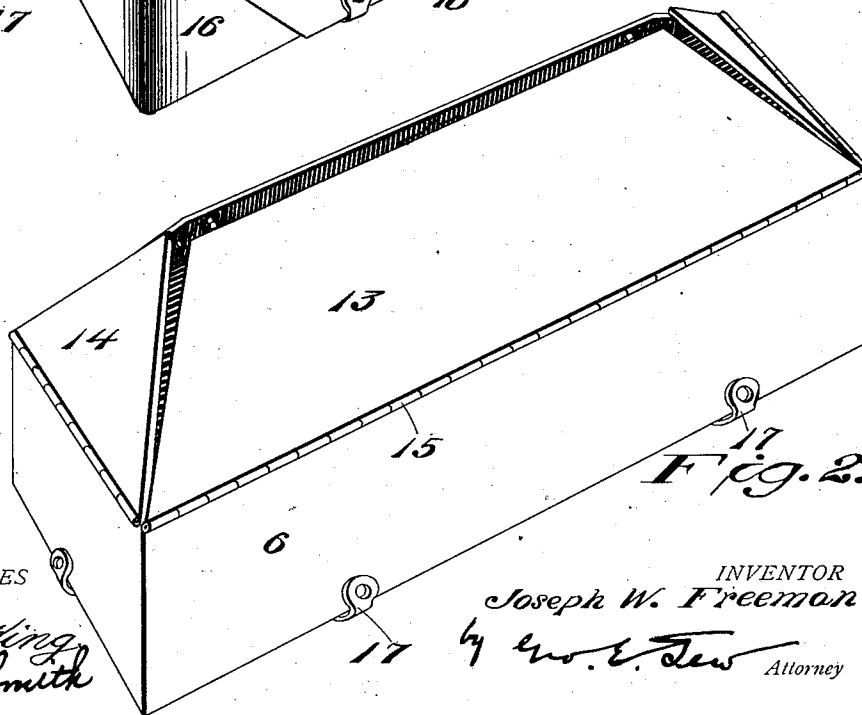
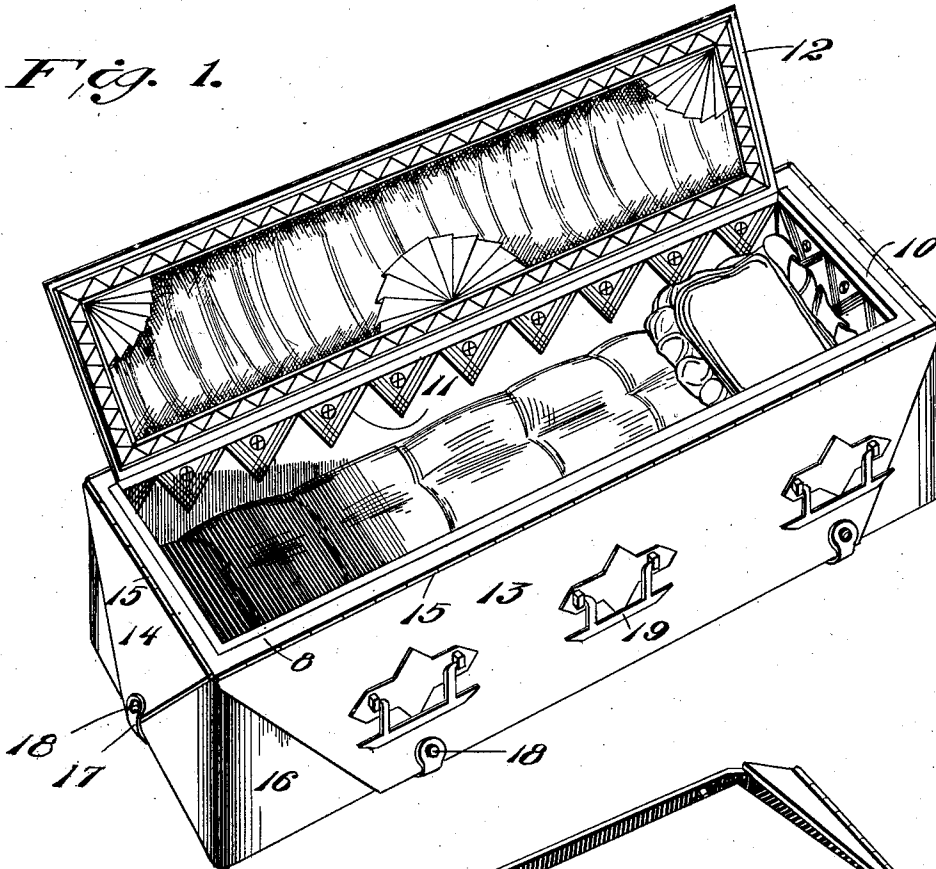
J. W. FREEMAN.
 COMBINED BURIAL CASKET AND GRAVE VAULT.
 APPLICATION FILED NOV. 25, 1911.

1,021,403.

Patented Mar. 26, 1912.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



WITNESSES

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INVENTOR

Joseph W. Freeman

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

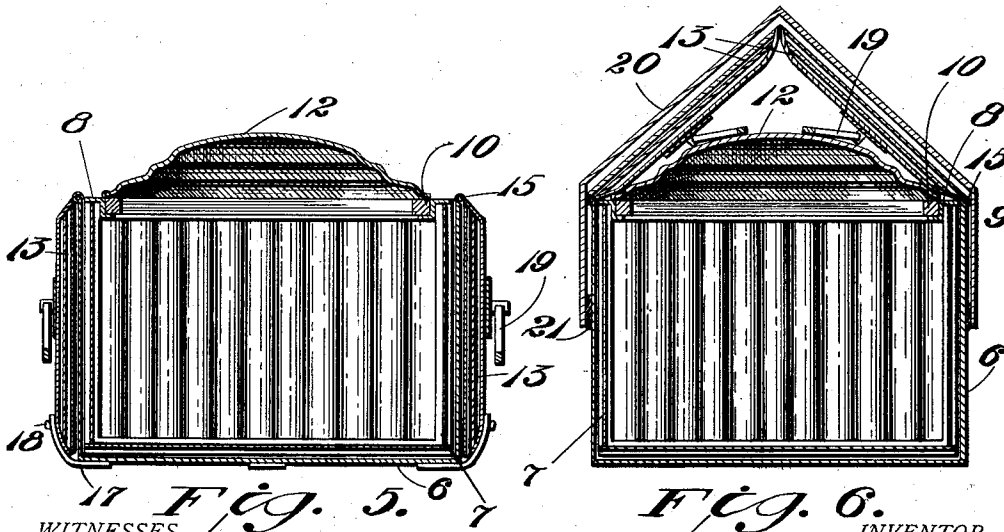
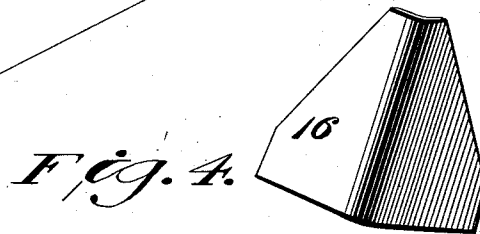
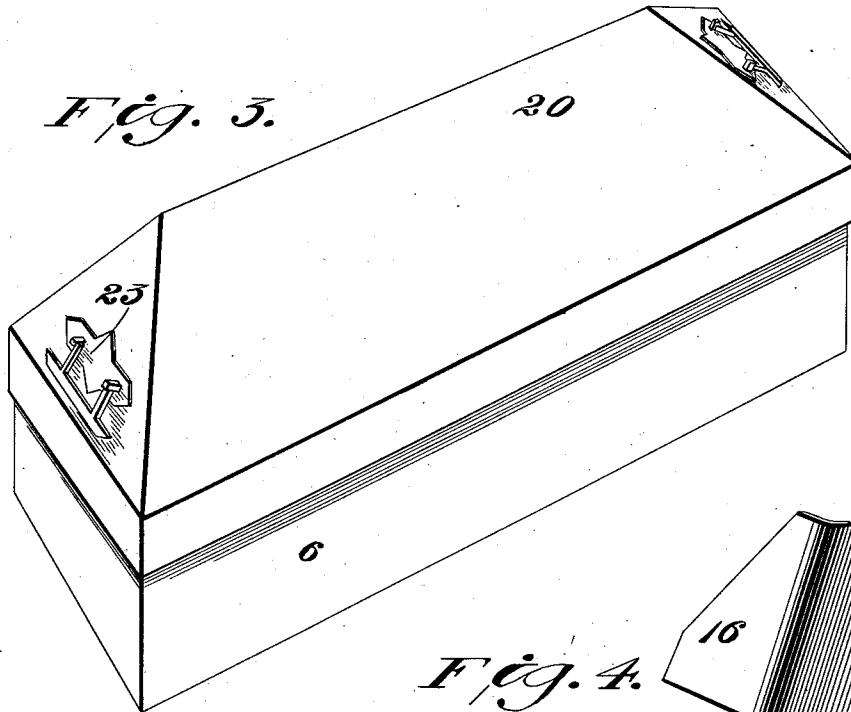


Fig. 5.
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Fig. 6.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH W. FREEMAN, OF COLUMBUS, OHIO.

COMBINED BURIAL-CASKET AND GRAVE-VAULT.

1,021,403.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Mar. 26, 1912.

Application filed November 25, 1911. Serial No. 662,496.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH W. FREEMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Columbus, in the county of Franklin and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combined Burial-Caskets and Grave-Vaults, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to combined burial caskets and grave vaults, and has for its object to provide an improved metallic structure which will serve for both purposes, that is, which can be used as a casket, and which can afterward be sealed up to form an air tight metallic vault suitable for placing in a mausoleum or for burial in the ground.

The casket is made of metal and is provided with drop sides and ends which are trimmed to give an ornamental appearance, and which can afterward be folded up and inclosed within a metallic cover which is soldered to the outer box or casing, to seal the same, and which will more fully appear from the following description and the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings—Figure 1 is a perspective view of the casket, in open condition. Fig. 2 is a similar view of the casket with the drop sides folded over the top. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the casket provided with its cover, forming a grave vault. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a detachable ornamental corner piece. Fig. 5 is a vertical section of the casket shown in Fig. 1, the lid being closed. Fig. 6 is a vertical section of the vault shown in Fig. 3.

Referring specifically to the drawings, 6 indicates the outer metal box of the casket, preferably made of plain sheet metal. Within this is another box or casing indicated at 7, made of corrugated metal. This has at the top an angular frame 8 extending around the rim of the casing, with a flange 9 to support a wooden frame 10 to which the fabric lining or trimming 11 may be attached as desired. In use the exposed parts within the casket will be covered with cloth or other suitable material (not shown) for the sake of appearance. The lid of the casket is indicated at 12, hinged to the frame 8.

The drop sides and ends are indicated at 13 and 14. These are shaped and designed to give an ornamental appearance and will be covered with cloth on the exposed sides.

The frame thereof is made of sheet metal, and they are hinged as indicated at 15 to the upper edges of the outer or main box 6, and when the device is set up as a casket, these sides and ends will be dropped down against the box 6, as shown in Fig. 1, removable cloth-covered corner pieces 16 being placed around the corners of the box, with their side edges lapped and clamped under the ends of the parts 13 and 14, to hold said corner pieces temporarily in position. The parts 13, 14 and 16 cover and completely conceal the metal box 6, and the sides and ends 13 and 14 are held in dropped position by means of clips 17 made of ductile metal and fastened to the bottom of the box 6 and adapted to be looped over studs 18 projecting at the lower edges of the drop sides and ends. These clips hold the parts in fixed position. The side handles 19 are secured to the drop sides 14, the clips 18 being stout enough to support the weight of the casket while it is being carried by the handles.

When the vault is to be placed in the grave or other receiving chamber, the clips 17 are bent out to release the studs 18, and may then be knocked off if desired. The false sides and ends 13 and 14 are then swung up over the lid of the casket, as shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 6, and the corner pieces 16 are removed. The metal cover 20 is then placed over the top of the casket, and soldered around its edges as indicated at 21, to the sides of the metal box 6, thereby completely inclosing the top part of the casket and sealing the same. The cover may have handles 23 for convenient manipulation, and when the structure is so assembled it forms a metallic grave vault which is air and water tight and permanently sealed, in condition for placing in the grave or other chamber adapted to receive it. Being made substantially of thin sheet metal such as copper or sheet steel, the vault is not excessively heavy and serves the combined purposes of a casket and permanent vault, the metal parts being concealed during ceremonial exercises, at which time the casket will not differ materially in appearance from an ordinary wooden casket.

What I claim is:

1. A burial casket comprising a box provided with drop sides and ends hinged to the rim of the box and adapted to be folded down beside the same, removable corner

pieces adapted to be fitted to the corners of the box, and means to clamp said corner pieces against the box and under the edges of said sides and ends.

- 5 2. A combined burial casket and grave vault, comprising a box having a lid at the top, drop sides and ends hinged to the rim of the box and arranged to be swung down against the sides and ends of the box or
10 swung up over the lid of the box, and a cover fitting upon and adapted to be sealed to the box and inclosing said drop sides and ends when they are swung up as stated.

3. A metal casket comprising a box; ornamental sides and ends hinged to the rim 15 of said box and adapted to be folded down against the same or swung up over the top of the box, fastening devices to hold said sides and ends in position when swung down, and handles fastened to the sides. 20

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH W. FREEMAN.

Witnesses:

S. D. SHOEMAKER,

L. M. GRAHAM.

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