H. LANIUS.

BURIAL VAULT.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 20, 1909.

938,250.

Patented Oct. 26, 1909.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

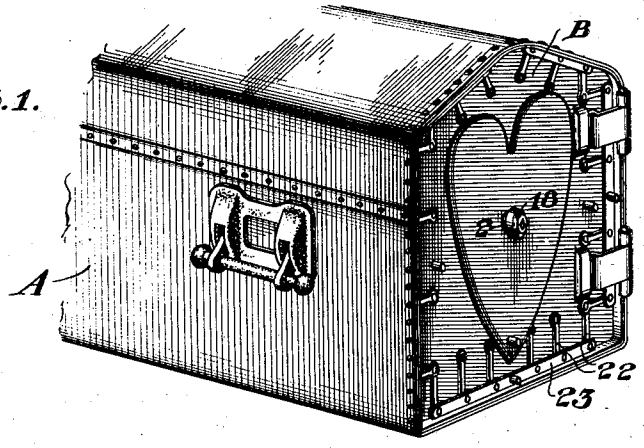
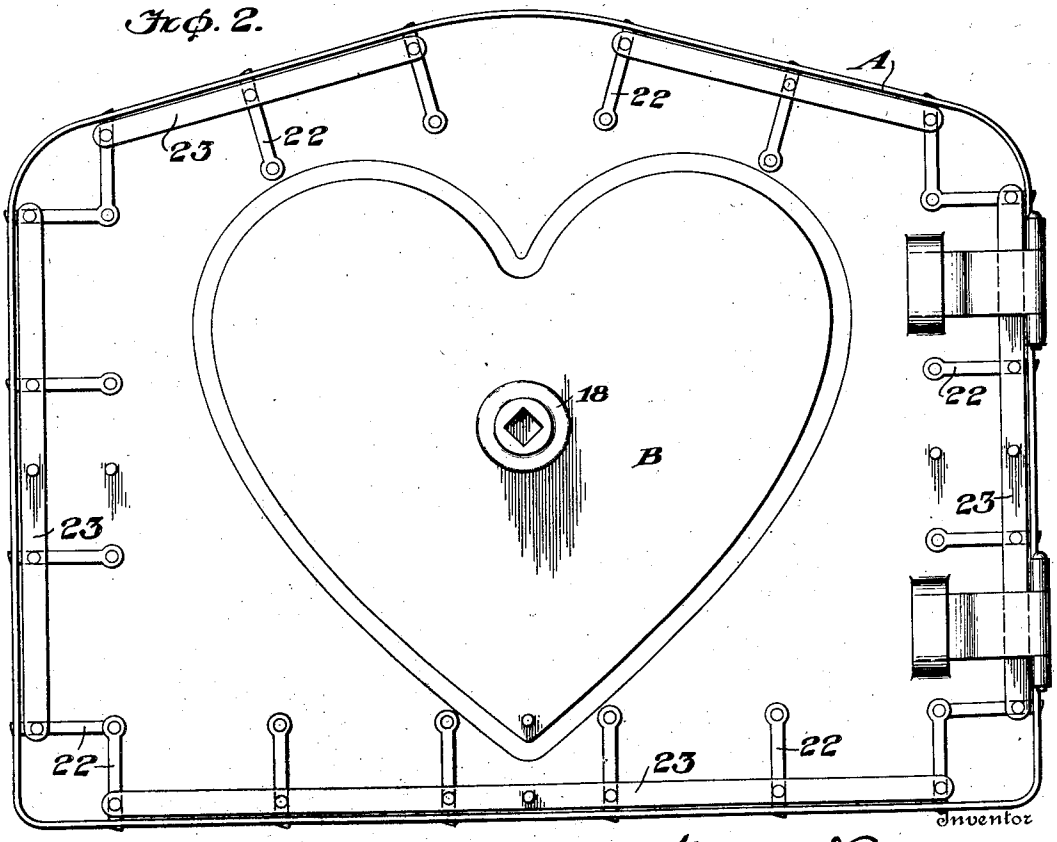



Fig. 2.




Witnesses

Lloyd W. Patch

M. A. Freeman

Inventor

Henry Lanius

By Lauis Bagger & Co

his Attorneys

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

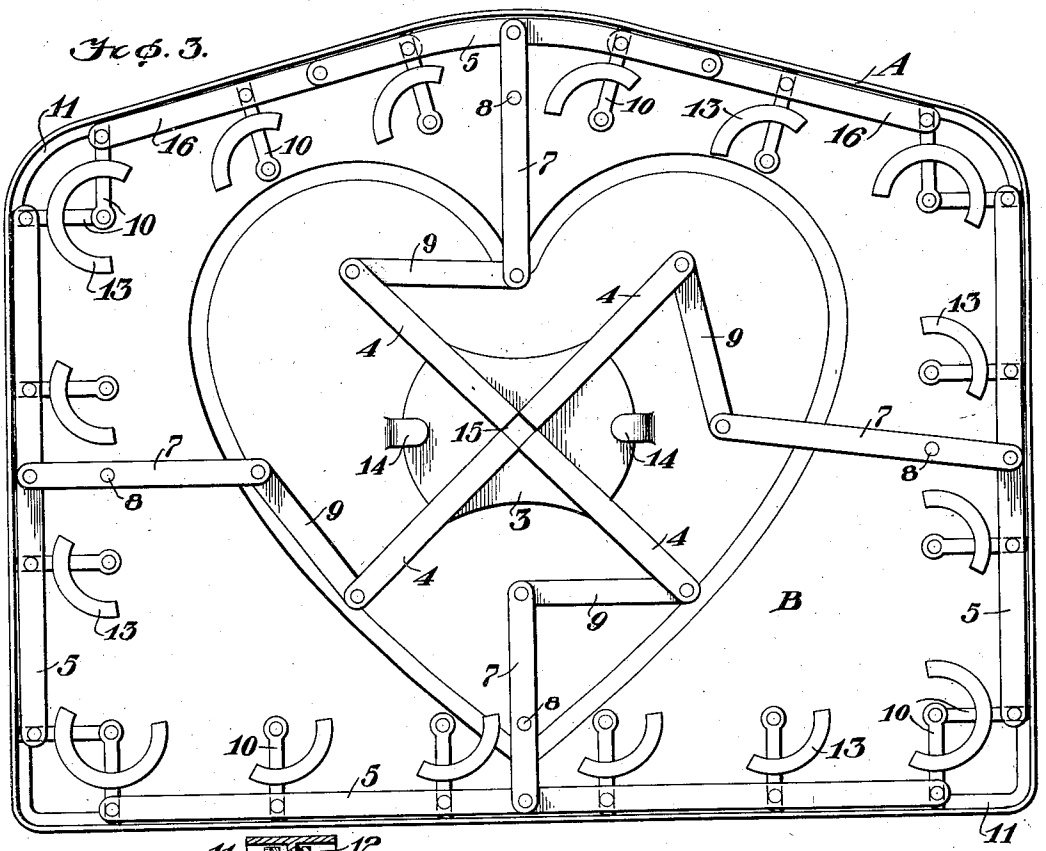



Fig. 4.

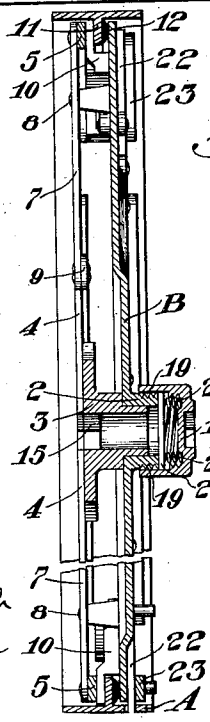


Fig. 5.

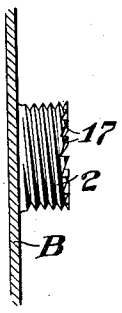


Fig. 7.

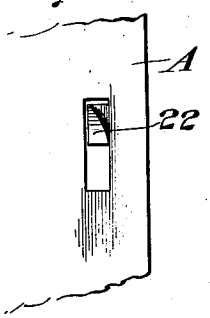
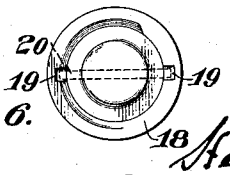


Fig. 6.



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his Attorneys

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY LANIUS, OF BUCYRUS, OHIO.

## BURIAL-VAULT.

938,250. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 26, 1909.

Application filed May 20, 1909. Serial No. 497,255.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY LANIUS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bucyrus, in the county of Crawford and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Burial-Vaults, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in metallic burial vaults, and the object is to provide a door for a vault which can be locked to the vault so that it will be impossible to open the door after it has been locked and the casket placed within the vault.

The invention consists of certain novel features of construction and combinations of parts which will be hereinafter fully described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings—Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention showing it applied to a vault; Fig. 2 is a view in end elevation showing the door; Fig. 3 is a view of the inside of the door; Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the door and a portion of the vault showing the manner of fastening the door to the wall and sides of the vault; Fig. 5 is a view of the hub on the door showing the ratchet teeth on the outer face thereof; Fig. 6 is a view of the nut looking thereinto, and Fig. 7 is a view of the latches.

A represents the vault and B is the door, which is hinged at one end of the vault. A hub, 2, is formed at about the center of the door and journaled in the hub is a disk 3 to which are connected arms 4, 4. Bars 5, 5 extend along the edges of the door, and pivotally connected to the bars are links 7, which links are pivotally connected to the door at 8. These links 7 are connected to the arms 4 by links 9. Latches 10 are pivotally connected to the door and are pivotally connected at their outer ends to the bars 5 the extreme ends of the latches projecting beyond the bars and adapted to be forced over the flange 11, which extends around the inner walls of the vault. The outer ends of the latches are rabbeted so that as they are drawn over and upon the flange 11, they will draw the door tighter upon the flange thereby forming a locking connection. A gasket 12 is placed between the flange and door B so that as the door is drawn upon the flange an air and water tight connection is formed. Guide straps 13 are connected to the door and extend over the latches 10 for limiting them in their oscillatory movements. Clips 14 are formed on the door and extend over the disk 3 for retaining it in proper position. The center of the disk 3 is preferably formed with a square opening 15 in which is received a key (not shown) for turning the disk provided with the arms 4 for actuating the links 7 and 9, which move or oscillate the bars 5 which transmit motion to the latches 10 for forcing them over and against the inner side of the flange 11 for drawing the door upon the flange and locking it thereto. The latches 10 on the upper edge of the door are preferably connected together by straps 16. That is, three latches are connected by one strap and the remaining three connected by another, and the bar 5 is pivotally connected to the straps. The same operation is performed and the same result obtained as when the latches are all connected by the bar 5 directly, but as the upper portion of the door is somewhat convex a better connection is formed by applying the straps to the latches and then connecting the bar to the straps, as the latches can be thrown against the flange in a better manner.

The hub 2 is screw threaded on its outer surface, and along the outer surface thereof ratchet teeth 17 are formed and a nut 18 provided with the usual screw-threads which are adapted to engage the screw threads of the hub 2 is provided with vertical slots 19 on its inner surface, in which a key 20 is received, a coil spring 21 being received between the key and the base of the nut. After the disk 3 has been rotated and the latches 10 are brought firmly against the flange 11 for locking the door in place the nut 18 is screwed upon the hub 2. As the nut is screwed upon the hub the key will engage the ratchet teeth 17 of the hub and after the nut has been screwed the desired distance the key will prevent the nut from being removed. In other words, the nut can be screwed upon the hub but cannot be removed as the key will not permit the nut being removed. This connection forms a locking means which would prevent any one from procuring access to the casket which is placed in the vault.

I have provided latches 22, 22 connected by a bar 23 on the outside of the door which can be operated so that the latches will project through slots in the side of the vault for temporarily locking the door.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I have provided a burial vault in which caskets can be placed and the vault locked in such a manner that access cannot be had to the casket in the vault. Furthermore the connection between the door and vault is such that water or air cannot enter the vault.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A burial vault comprising a door, locking means on the door for locking the door to the vault, a disk connected to the locking means, said disk adapted to be operated for actuating the locking means, and a locking nut connected to the disk for preventing access thereto.

2. The combination with a burial vault having a flange, of a hinged door, latches pivotally connected to the inner side of the door, bars connected to the latches, means for operating the bars whereby the latches are brought into engagement with the flange, and latches pivotally mounted on the outside of the door adapted to be operated for causing the catches to pass through openings formed in the wall of the vault.

3. A burial vault comprising a door, locking means on the door for locking the door to the vault, a hub on the door, and a disk journaled in the hub connected to and adapted to operate the locking means.

4. A burial vault comprising a door, locking means on the door for locking the door to the vault, a hub on the door, a disk connected to and adapted to operate the locking means journaled in the hub, and a locking nut adapted to be received on the hub to prevent access to the disk.

5. The combination with a burial vault having a flange, of a door, latches pivotally mounted on the door, bars connected to the latches, a hub on the door, a disk journaled in the hub, links connecting the hub and bars whereby the latches are thrown into contact with the flange upon the turning of the disk, and a locking nut adapted to be received on the hub for preventing access to the disk.

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

HENRY LANIUS.

Witnesses:
EDWARD J. LANGE,
CORNELIUS H. MYERS.