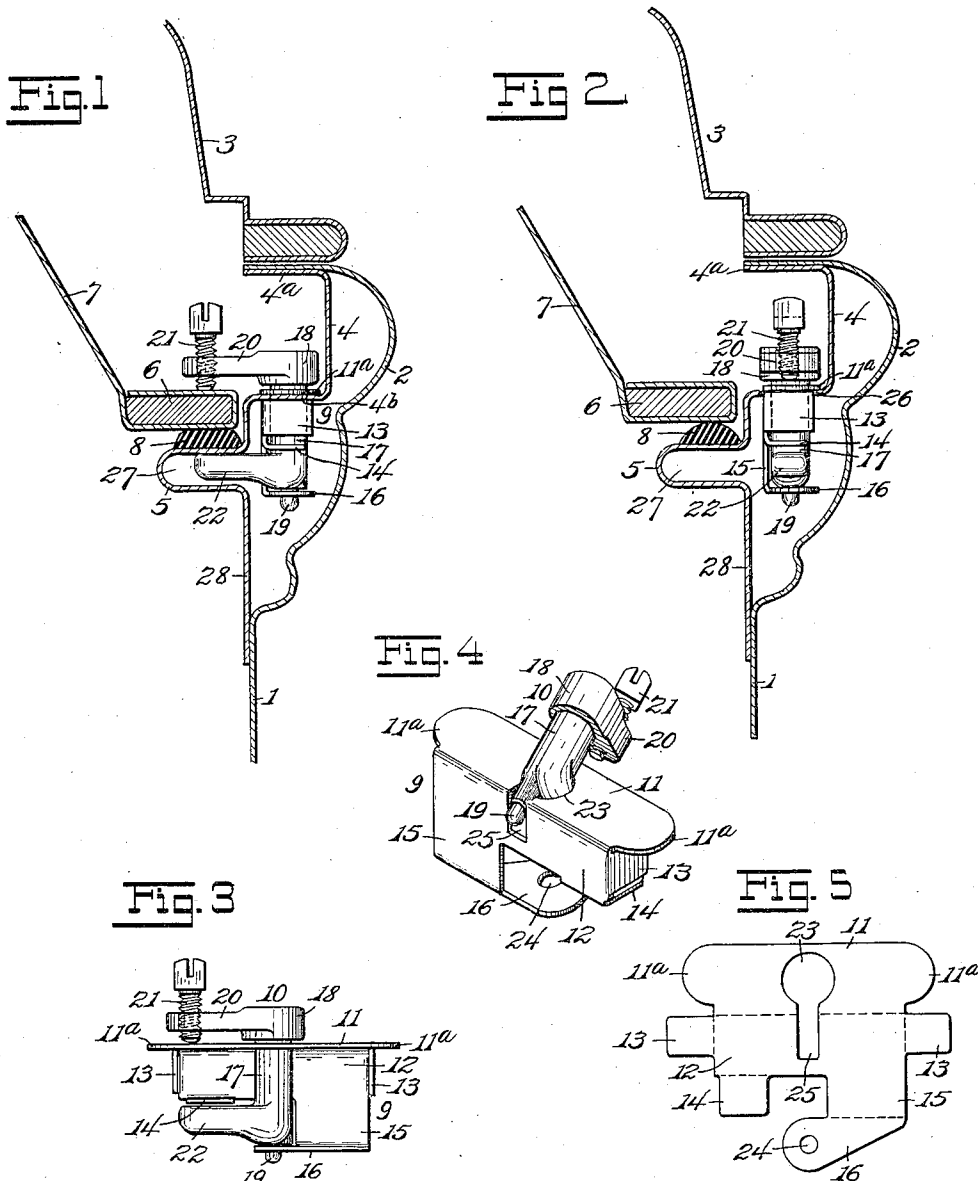


H. A. NEFF.
CLAMP FOR CASKET COVERS.
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1,170,094.

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CLAMP FOR CASKET-COVERS.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY A. NEFF, a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of Bellaire, county of Belmont, and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clamps for Casket-Covers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates broadly to burial caskets, and specifically to mechanism for locking casket covers in place.

The primary object of the invention is to provide simple and inexpensive means whereby the cover of a metallic casket may be clamped in sealing relation to the body thereof.

A further object is to provide, in connection with a metallic casket having inner and outer covers, a seating ledge for the inner cover and means for locking or clamping said inner cover in seated position on said ledge.

With these and other objects in view, the invention resides in the features of construction, arrangement of parts and combinations of elements which will hereinafter be fully described, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a cross section of a portion of a casket illustrating my invention, the clamp being shown in locking position; Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the clamp in inoperative position; Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the clamp and bearing member; Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the same illustrating the manner in which the clamp is introduced in bearing member; and Fig. 5 is a plan view of the sheet-metal blank of which the bearing member is formed.

Referring to said drawings, in which like designating characters distinguish like parts throughout the several views—1 indicates the metal wall of a casket body which is shaped adjacent to its upper edge to form an outwardly projecting portion which may be of any suitable ornamental shape or profile, as the molding-like astragal 2. The turned upper edge of the astragal is designed to have an outer cover, or casket top, superposed thereon and secured thereto in any appropriate manner, as by soldering. Said astragal further serves as a hood within which is received the major portion of a sheet-metal panel which extends around the interior of the casket body and which

carries the clamping mechanism; said panel and clamping mechanism constituting the present invention. Said panel is bent longitudinally into an irregular shape, to provide an upper inwardly-facing channel portion 4 and an inwardly directed open crimp or fold 5. The upper horizontal terminal edge 4^a of said panel underlies the turned upper edge of the astragal 2, constituting a support or reinforcement for the latter. Extending vertically downward from the fold 5 is the lower portion 28 of the panel which is rigidly attached, as by soldering, to the wall 1 of the casket body at or adjacent to the lower edge of the astragal.

The upper or top surface of the fold 5 constitutes a horizontal ledge designed as a seat for the rim 6 of an inner cover 7. A gasket 8 of rubber or other suitable material is interposed between said rim and said seat and is adapted to be compressed to form an air-tight seal between said parts. For so compressing said gasket and at the same time locking said inner cover 7 in place I have devised a novel and efficient clamping or locking device which will now be described. Said clamping device comprises a casing-like bearing member, generally designated by the numeral 9, and a pivoted clamp, generally designated by the numeral 10. Said bearing member 9 is composed of a single sheet-metal blank shaped to form a flat top 11 having projecting ears 11^a, a vertical inner face 12 from the opposite ends of which end portions or wings 13 extend in a rearward direction, a turned under horizontal tongue 14 extending rearward from the lower edge of said face 12 adjacent to one end of the latter, a vertical leg 15 formed by continuing said face 12 downward adjacent to the other end of the latter, and a horizontally disposed lug 16 extended rearwardly and laterally from said leg. The clamp 10 consists of a vertical spindle 17 having at its upper end an integral flange or collar 18 and having at its lower end an axial stud 19. Extending horizontally from the upper end of said spindle 17 is a fixed arm 20 in the outer end of which a vertically disposed set-screw 21 is adjustably mounted; and extending horizontally from a point adjacent to the lower end of said spindle is a tongue 22, said tongue being in parallel alinement with said arm 20. Said clamp is rotatably mounted in said member 9, the

spindle 17 being received in a hole 23 provided therefor in the top 11 and the stud 19 being seated in a hole 24 provided therefor in the lug 16. A slot 25 leading forward from the hole 23 and extending downward into the face 12 of the bearing member affords a passage through which the stud 19 swings, as shown in Fig. 4, in introducing the bolt in position with respect to the casing.

The clamp 10 having first been introduced and turned to the position shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the body of the bearing member 9 is forced downward through a suitable seating slot or aperture 26 provided therefor in the lower intumed member 4^b of the channel portion 4 until the ears 11^a assume a seated position upon said member at opposite ends of said aperture. The inner cover 7 then having been placed in position with its rim 6 resting upon the gasket 8, the arm 20 is swung laterally inward to a position wherein its free end overlies said rim, as shown in Fig. 1. This action produces a corresponding movement of the tongue 22, causing the latter to enter the channel 27 formed between the members of the fold 5. The set-screw 21 is then turned down to bear upon the rim 6 for binding the latter upon the gasket 8 interposed between it and the ledge or seat constituted by the upper member of said fold.

It being understood that a plurality of the clamps described is employed, the same being located at suitably spaced points about the interior of the casket, it is apparent that the inner cover 7 will be firmly clamped in sealing relation to the casket body.

The inner edge of the leg 15 constitutes a stop against which the tongue 22 abuts when swung into locking position in the channel 27. Thus, in turning to and from locking position the clamp can only describe an arc of substantially 90 degrees. The rearwardly directed tongue 14 overlies the tongue 22 when the latter occupies its outwardly swung, or inoperative, position, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3; consequently, chance elevation of the clamp which would effect the withdrawal of the stud 19 from its pivotal mounting 16 and otherwise disarrange the parts is effectually prevented. As is obvious, the clamp can only be removed from the bearing member when the latter has been withdrawn from the slot or aperture 26 in the panel, due to the fact that the arm 20 and tongue 22 must be swung to extend rearwardly, as indicated in Fig. 4, to effect such removal, and such movement is prevented by the proximity of the outer wall of the channel portion 4 to the spindle 17.

What is claimed is—

1. Means for securing a cover on a casket body, comprising a panel rigidly mounted interiorly of said body adjacent to the upper

edge thereof, said panel having an inwardly directed open fold formed therein, the upper member of said fold constituting a ledge for the reception of the rim of said cover, a pivoted element mounted rearwardly of said ledge and having a tongue adapted in one position of said element to project into the channel between the members of said fold, an arm carried by the upper end of said element parallel to said tongue for overlying the cover rim, and adjustable means carried by said arm for depressing said rim with respect to said ledge.

2. Means for securing a cover on a casket body, comprising a panel rigidly mounted interiorly of said body adjacent to the upper edge thereof, said panel having an inwardly directed open fold formed therein, the upper member of said fold constituting a ledge for the reception of the rim of said cover, a bearing member mounted on said panel at the rear of said ledge, a vertical spindle pivoted in said bearing member and having an arm adapted in one position of the spindle to overlie the rim of the cover, a tongue carried by said spindle parallel to said arm and adapted to enter the channel of said fold to underlie said ledge, and adjustable means carried by said arm for forcing said rim downward with respect to said tongue.

3. Means for securing a cover on a casket body, comprising a panel mounted interiorly of said body adjacent to the upper edge of the latter, said panel being shaped to form an inwardly directed open fold and a ledge above and at the rear of said fold, a gasket seated upon the upper face of said fold, a bearing member mounted upon said ledge, a spindle pivoted in said bearing member, said spindle having a tongue adapted to enter the channel between the members of said fold in closely underlying relation to the upper member of the latter, an arm carried by the upper end of said spindle parallel to said tongue, said arm being adapted to overlie the rim of a casket cover seated on said gasket, and adjustable means for forcing said rim downward to compress said gasket.

4. Means for securing a cover on a casket body, comprising a panel mounted interiorly of said body adjacent to the upper edge of the latter, said panel being shaped to form an inwardly directed open fold and a ledge above and at the rear of said fold, a gasket seated upon the upper face of said fold, a bearing member mounted in said ledge and extending downward therefrom, a member pivoted in said bearing member and having portions adapted to assume positions on opposite sides of the upper member of said fold, and means carried by the upper of said portions for depressing a cover rim into compressing relation to said gasket.

5. The combination with a casket body, of

a panel mounted interiorly of said body adjacent to the upper edge of the latter, said panel being shaped to form two horizontal ledges one of which is located below and inward with respect to the other, a bearing member supported by the upper ledge and extending below the latter, a vertically disposed rotary spindle mounted in said bearing member, horizontal members disposed in parallel alinement carried by said spindle above and below said upper ledge, and a vertically disposed set-screw carried by the uppermost of said members, said spindle being adapted for movement to a position wherein the lower member underlies the lowermost ledge and the upper member overlies the rim of a cover seated on the latter.

6. The combination with a metal casket body, of a panel mounted interiorly of said body, said panel being shaped to form an inwardly directed open fold and a ledge above and at the rear of said fold, a gasket seated upon the upper face of said fold, a

bearing member having a portion projected downward through said ledge, a spindle pivoted in said bearing member, said spindle having a tongue adapted to enter the channel between the members of said fold in closely underlying relation to the upper member of the latter, an arm carried by the upper end of said spindle parallel to said tongue, said arm being adapted to overlie the rim of a casket cover seated on said gasket, and adjustable means for forcing said rim downward to compress said gasket, and means formed on said bearing member for preventing chance elevation of said spindle when the tongue occupies inoperative position.

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

HARRY A. NEFF.

Witnesses:

W. T. MURRAY,
E. D. McELWAIN.

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