I. C. Shuler,

Coffin,

No. 20,095. Patented Apr. 27, 1858.

Fig: 1.

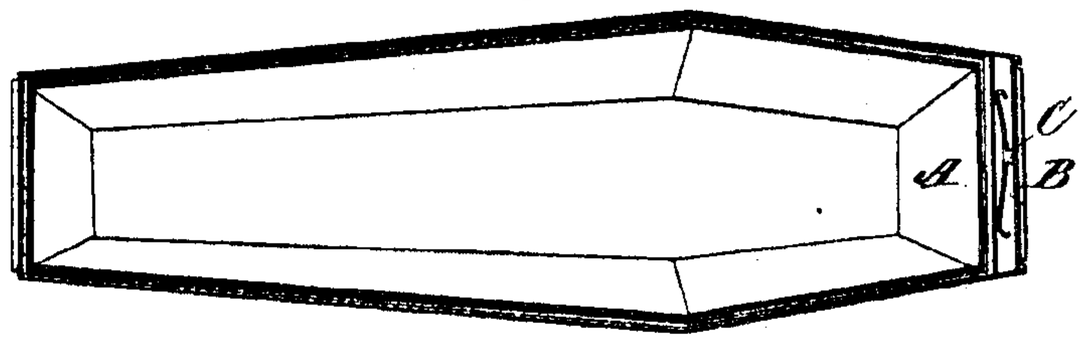


Fig: 2.

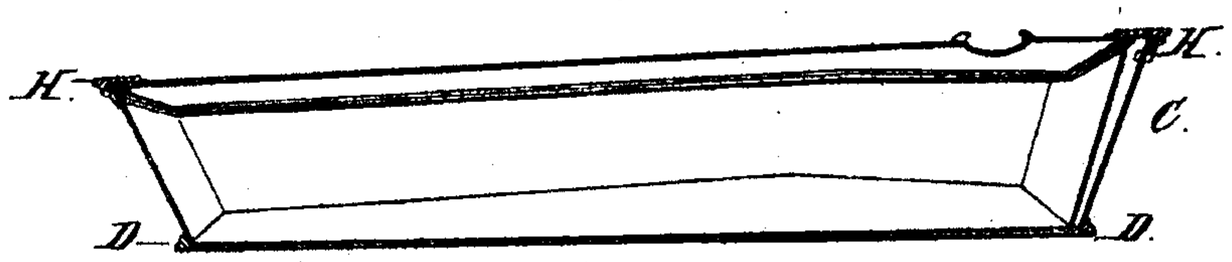
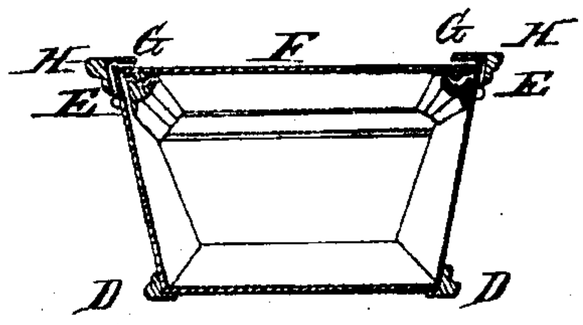


Fig: 3.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ISAAC C. SHULER, OF AMSTERDAM, NEW YORK.

CONSTRUCTING COFFINS.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 20,095, dated April 27, 1858.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ISAAC C. SHULER, of Amsterdam, in the county of Montgomery and State of New York, have invented an Improvement in the Construction of Coffins; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which make a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1, represents an interior view of my coffin the top being removed. Fig. 2, represents a vertical longitudinal section of my coffin complete. Fig. 3, represents a transverse section of my coffin complete.

My improvement consists in the use of galvanized rolled iron for the body of the coffin stiffened with pieces of cast or wrought iron as hereafter described constructed in such a manner that when the corpse is placed within it the rolled portion of the top may be soldered to the rolled portion of the sides, and the soldering afterward covered by an iron frame which attaches itself securely by means of a spring or snap for the purpose of making a metallic coffin which will preserve the human body for a greater length of time than any heretofore in use and one which shall at the same time be neat, light and ornamental.

I construct a plain coffin shaped box of the galvanized rolled iron soldering the bottom, sides and foot piece firmly together air-tight. At the head I then turn the ends of the sides toward each other at right angles, forming a small shoulder about half an inch wide.

The head has two end pieces united at the bottom, but standing apart at the top. The inner piece (A) is soldered to the sides and forms the true head piece of the coffin. The outer piece (B) is a false head piece which is held and pressed against the shoulders mentioned by the spring (C). This piece has a slight bead or projection at the top which serves as a latch. The foot piece has a similar projection. I next cast a neat beaded frame (D) as a base into which I fit the bottom of the box and rivet it fast. This frame may be of any stiff metal. Along the upper edges of the box on the outside and coinciding with the projections mentioned as being on the foot piece and outer head piece, and within about a quarter of an inch of the top, I rivet another light and ornamental strip of iron. Directly opposite to this along the inside of the box proper, I place an entire cast iron frame (E) projecting inward somewhat at its upper edge containing a groove in its upper surface. The galvanized iron shows itself above and between the two pieces of iron last mentioned. I then cut out the top (F) of the galvanized rolled iron fitting the inside edges which appear above the cast iron. To the underside of this top I rivet a tongue (G) which fits the groove in the cast frame (E).

I place a zinc framed face window in which glass may be set air tight with proper cement. I then cast an ornamental frame (H) projecting downward at the sides about half an inch and having a shallow socket in either end so fitted that on hitching it on to the foot of the coffin and pressing it down it will crowd in the false head piece (B) and latch itself securely to the top of the coffin thus covering up the joint which will be formed when on placing the corpse in the coffin the top and sides are soldered together. The whole may then be neatly painted to resemble mahogany or rosewood.

Having thus described my invention and the method of constructing the same

I claim—

1. The combination of the self securing frame (H) with the catch on the false head piece (B) operated by the spring (C) as a cover over the joints after soldering in the top of a metal coffin.

2. The arrangement of placing inside of a metal coffin near the upper edge of the walls the iron frame (E) or its equivalent fastening it securely for the purpose of shaping permanently the upper part of the body of the coffin, exactly like the beaded frame (D) at the bottom, and as a means of securing a close joint on the top for soldering the same to the walls of the coffin. Also for the purpose of supporting the top, on a line sunk somewhat below the upper edge, sufficient to leave an extension or projection of the metal all around the upper edge of the walls above the coffin top when fixed in its proper place. This extension of the metal which shows itself above the frame (E) is made expressly for the purpose of soldering on the coffin top without using the lap or lock joint.

3. The false head piece (B) and the spring (C) or its equivalent.

ISAAC C. SHULER.

Witnesses:

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