

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEONARD SNIDER, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

IMPROVEMENT IN COVERING COFFINS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **25,682**, dated October 4, 1859.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEONARD SNIDER, of Indianapolis, in the county of Marion and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Covering Coffins, of which the following is a full and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying specimen and ingredients.

The coffin is first sand-papered and brought to a smooth surface, as when a coat of varnish is to be applied. A paint composed of lamp-black and Japan varnish, mixed to the proper consistency, is then applied with a paint-brush. It is then allowed to become thoroughly dry, when it is again sandpapered. This fills the pores of the wood and makes a smooth surface for the reception of the following compound: To one gallon of linseed-oil add one-half pound of ivory-black, or one-fourth of a pound of lamp-black, one pound of white lead, one-half of a pound of red lead, two ounces of Prussian blue, and one pound of litharge. Put the whole in a kettle and boil about two hours, when you have a rich deep blue-black compound, which, when applied with a brush,

flows to a smooth, fine, level surface, and in a few minutes is ready to receive a coating of fine black flock, which is applied as follows: Through a fine hair sieve sift the flock upon the surface thus prepared, completely covering the same. The opposite side of the board is then tapped with a hammer for the purpose of setting the flock. Being allowed to dry, it is then divested of the loose flock and dust, and presents the appearance of fine black cloth, and having much greater durability. While it presents the exact appearance of cloth, and is far more durable, its cost will not exceed one-tenth the cost of cloth.

I do not claim the within-described mode of preparing or applying flock to surfaces; but

I do claim—

Using and applying flock as a covering for coffins, whether the same is prepared or secured on in the manner herein set forth or in any other manner substantially the same.

LEONARD SNIDER.

Witnesses:

JOHN H. REDSTONE,

J. L. BROWN.