

J. S. Merrill,
Coffin Lid.

N^o 38,713.

Patented May 26, 1863.

Fig 1

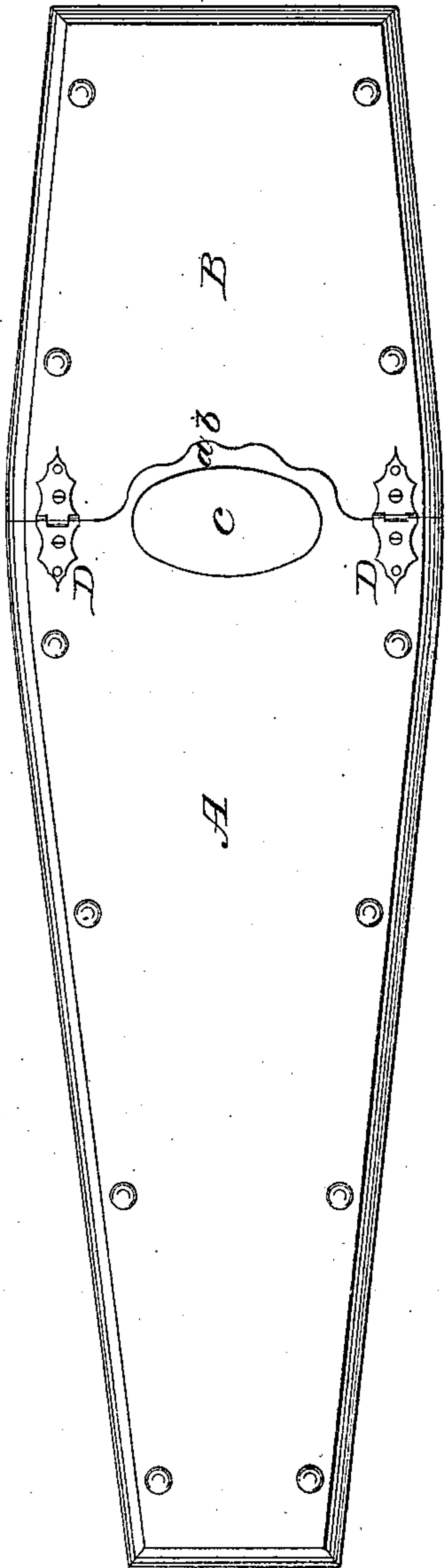
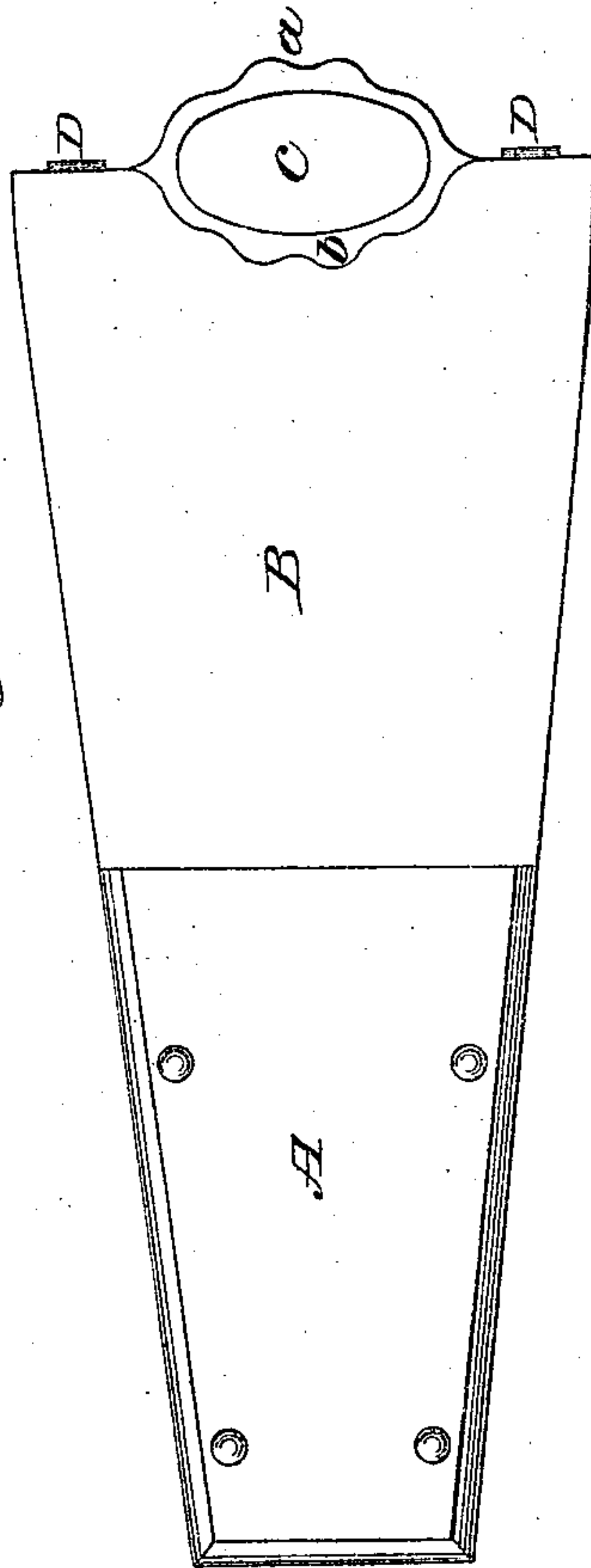


Fig 2



Witnesses:

S. F. Motman
Wm L Merrill

Inventor:

James S. Merrill

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES S. MERRILL, OF POLAND, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND GEORGE W. HORNER, OF MINOT, MAINE.

IMPROVEMENT IN COFFIN-LIDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 38,713, dated May 26, 1863.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES S. MERRILL, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Poland, in the county of Androscoggin and State of Maine, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Coffins or Burial-Cases; and I do hereby declare the same to be fully described in the following specification, and represented in the accompanying drawings, of which—

Figure 1 is a top view of a coffin-cover with the lid in a closed position, the said cover and lid being furnished with my invention. Fig. 2 is a top view of them as they appear when the lid is open or turned back upon the cover.

The purpose of my invention is to exhibit the name-plate or the inscription on the cover, whether the cover be either closed or open; and it consists of a coffin cover and lid, as made with an inscription-plate projection and a corresponding recess, arranged with respect to the inscription-plate or inscription, the cover and lid, and the hinges thereof, substantially as hereinafter described, and as represented in the accompanying drawings.

Generally speaking, the name or inscription plate of a coffin cover is so placed thereon as to be visible only when the lid is closed, or when the lid is open or thrown back (it being supposed to be hinged to the cover) it so completely covers over the plate as to render it difficult, if not impossible, for a person to read

the inscription thereon. With my invention the plate is always exposed to view, whether the lid be either open or closed.

In these drawings, A exhibits a coffin cover, B being the lid thereof, while D D are the hinges by which they are connected. The cover, instead of being made with a straight head or upper end, is formed with a projection, *a*, to enter a corresponding recess, *b*, made in the lid B. The inscription or inscription-plate *c* is to be placed, either in part or in whole, on the projection *a*. The longer axis of the inscription *c* is exhibited in the drawings as arranged in line with the joints of the two hinges.

Under the above circumstances, the inscription-plate or the inscription will be in plain sight, whether the lid be either wholly open or entirely closed.

I claim—

A coffin cover and lid, as made with an inscription-plate projection, *a*, and a corresponding recess, *b*, arranged with reference to the inscription or its plate *c*, the cover A, the lid B, and the hinges D D thereof, substantially in manner and for the purpose as hereinbefore described.

JAMES S. MERRILL.

Witnesses:

SARAH J. HATHAWAY,
GEO. W. HORNER.