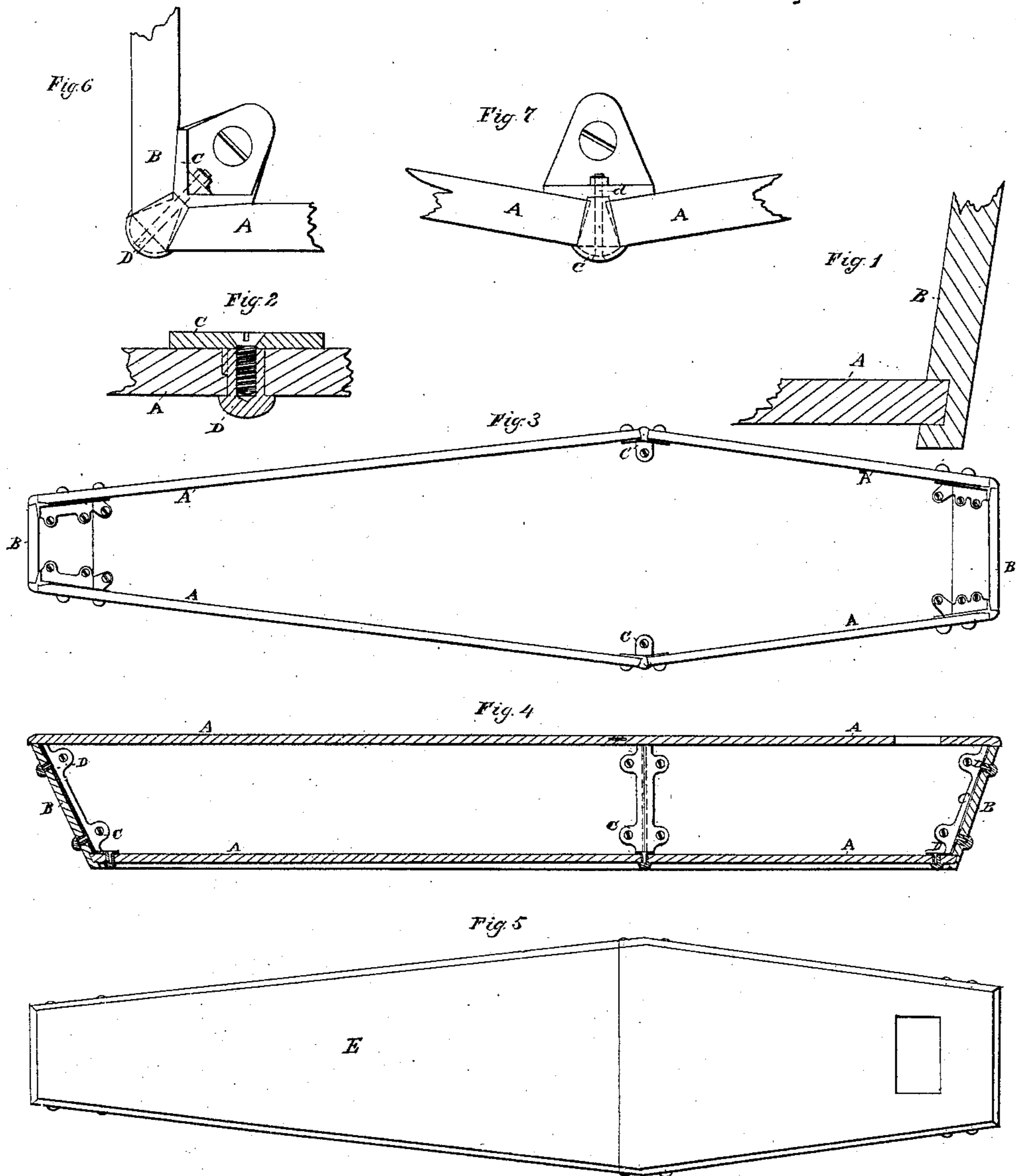


Potter & Jones,

Coffin.

No 76,344,

Patented Apr. 7, 1868.



Witnesses.  
 A. V. Sherman.  
 G. W. Allen

Inventors.  
 Collins Potter & Eliza Jones by William Brown Atty.

# United States Patent Office.

COLLINS POTTER, OF PAWLET, VERMONT, AND ELEAZER JONES, OF MIDDLE GRANVILLE, NEW YORK.

*Letters Patent No. 76,344, dated April 7, 1868.*

## IMPROVEMENT IN COFFINS.

*The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.*

### TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that we, COLLINS POTTER, of Pawlet, in the county of Rutland, State of Vermont, and ELEAZER JONES, of Middle Granville, Washington county, New York, have invented, made, and applied to use certain new and useful Improvements in the Construction of Coffins; and that the following is a full, clear, and correct description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, in which—

Figure 1 is a view showing the manner of connecting together the end and side sections.

Figure 2 is a view showing the construction and operation of the screw employed in fastening the metallic braces to the sides and ends of the coffin.

Figure 3 is a view of the coffin, the cover of the same being removed.

Figure 4 is a side elevation (sectional) of the improved coffin.

Figure 5 is a top view of the same.

Figure 6, view of side brace of metal sometimes employed by us

Figure 7, view of end brace of metal sometimes employed by us.

In the drawings, like parts of the invention are indicated by similar letters of reference.

The nature of the present invention consists in the improvements in the manufacture of coffins, more fully hereinafter set forth, by which a coffin can be constructed of a series of sections or parts, united and secured together by means of metallic braces, as fully described.

The object of the present invention is not only to greatly cheapen and facilitate the manufacture of coffins, but to allow the same to be readily taken apart and packed in a small compass, for purposes of transportation from the point of manufacture to the place of sale.

To enable those skilled in the arts to make and use the invention, the following description will be found sufficient:

The bottom or base of the coffin is made in one entire piece, and may be formed from slate, stone, marble, or any suitable material. This bottom serves to support the side, A, and end, B, pieces, forming, when combined, the coffin. These side and end-pieces are made of the same material as the bottom or base, and may be made of any desired size. The side-pieces or sections are grooved longitudinally, and the end-pieces are grooved transversely, near their lower edge, so that, when placed in position, the bottom or base will enter these grooves and allow a perfectly tight joint to be formed. C is a series of metal braces, employed to secure the side and end-pieces and the bottom or base together. These braces are so constructed that a portion of each brace shall project sufficiently forward beyond the face of the same, as to fill compactly and snugly the space between the sections. The brace is also provided with a foot, to admit of its being attached to the base or bottom of the coffin, and with the ears, through which pass the screws, securing the braces to the side and end-pieces or sections. D shows the bolts and screws employed to hold and secure the sections to the braces. The bolts are, when desired, provided with an ornamented head, and are made with a lug fitting into a slot in the opening in the side and end sections, through which the bolt enters, the object being that the bolt may be held securely in position, while the screw which passes into the same is inserted from the inside of the coffin.

The braces used to connect the end and side sections are so constructed that the portion of the metal which projects beyond the face of the same shall form a smooth corner for the coffin. Thus it will be observed that, when the sections of which the coffin is composed are secured together by the braces, the spaces between them are snugly filled by the same, and that the parts are firmly secured to each other and to the bottom or base. After the different pieces have been thus placed in position, the cover, E, made also in sections, may be placed in position and secured in any convenient way. A portion of the upper section of this cover may be excavated, and a plate of glass inserted therein, over which, when desired, an outer lid may be placed, and secured by screws passing through the same and the glass previously perforated to receive them. Thus the remains of the deceased may be viewed without the necessity of removing the lid proper, a removal of the outer lid alone being required.

In figs. 6 and 7, of the drawings, a second form of metallic braces, to connect the sections together with

the side and end sections, is shown, which mode is sometimes preferable. In this case the braces are made not of one but of two pieces of metal. One of these pieces partially fills the space between the sections of which the coffin is made up, and projects a short distance beyond the face of the same, while the other fills the remaining portion of this space, and is secured upon the inside of the coffin. The outer section is provided with the pins *w*, having screw-threads cut upon them, which pins pass through the interior section of the brace, and are provided with nuts, by tightening which the brace, made in sections as described, is held together and firmly united. In making the outer or exterior half of this brace, the metal is turned over at its upper end, so as to form a lip or ear, which, when the outer and inner braces are secured together, covers the upper portion of the inner section.

As previously stated, coffins can be made more rapidly, and at a reduced cost, by manufacturing in the manner described, while the cost of transporting the same is greatly reduced, owing to the smaller space the same will occupy when taken apart and packed.

Having thus described the present invention, what is claimed as new, is—

As a new and improved article of manufacture, a coffin, constructed substantially as herein described.

COLLINS POTTER,  
ELEAZER JONES.

Witnesses:

WM. E. JONES,	} as to POTTER.
HUGH WILLIAMS,	
A. SIDNEY DOANE,	} as to JONES.
H. W. HENDLEY,	