

Alfred G. Reed.
Corpse-Preserver.

No. 88,510

Patented Mar. 30 1869.

Fig. 2.

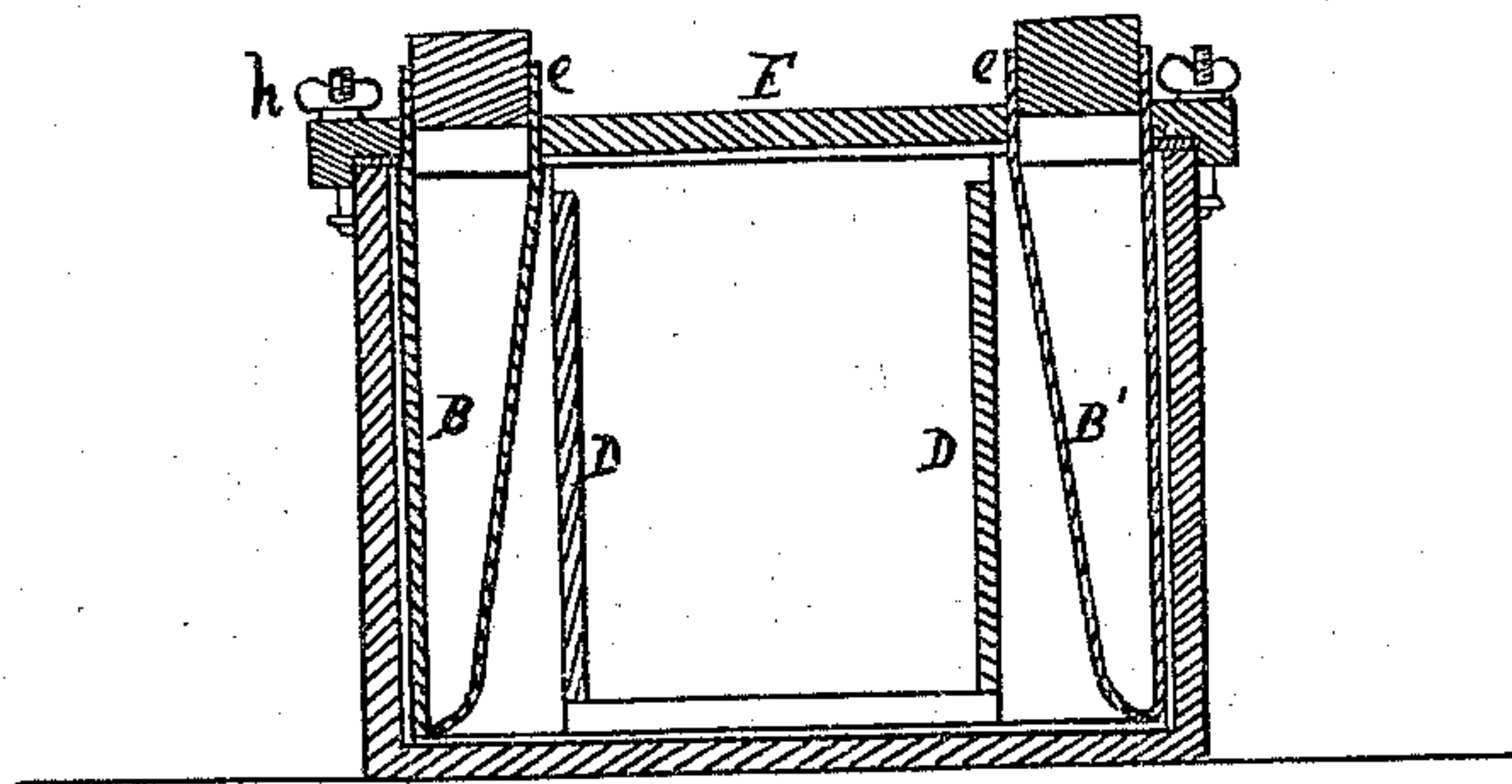
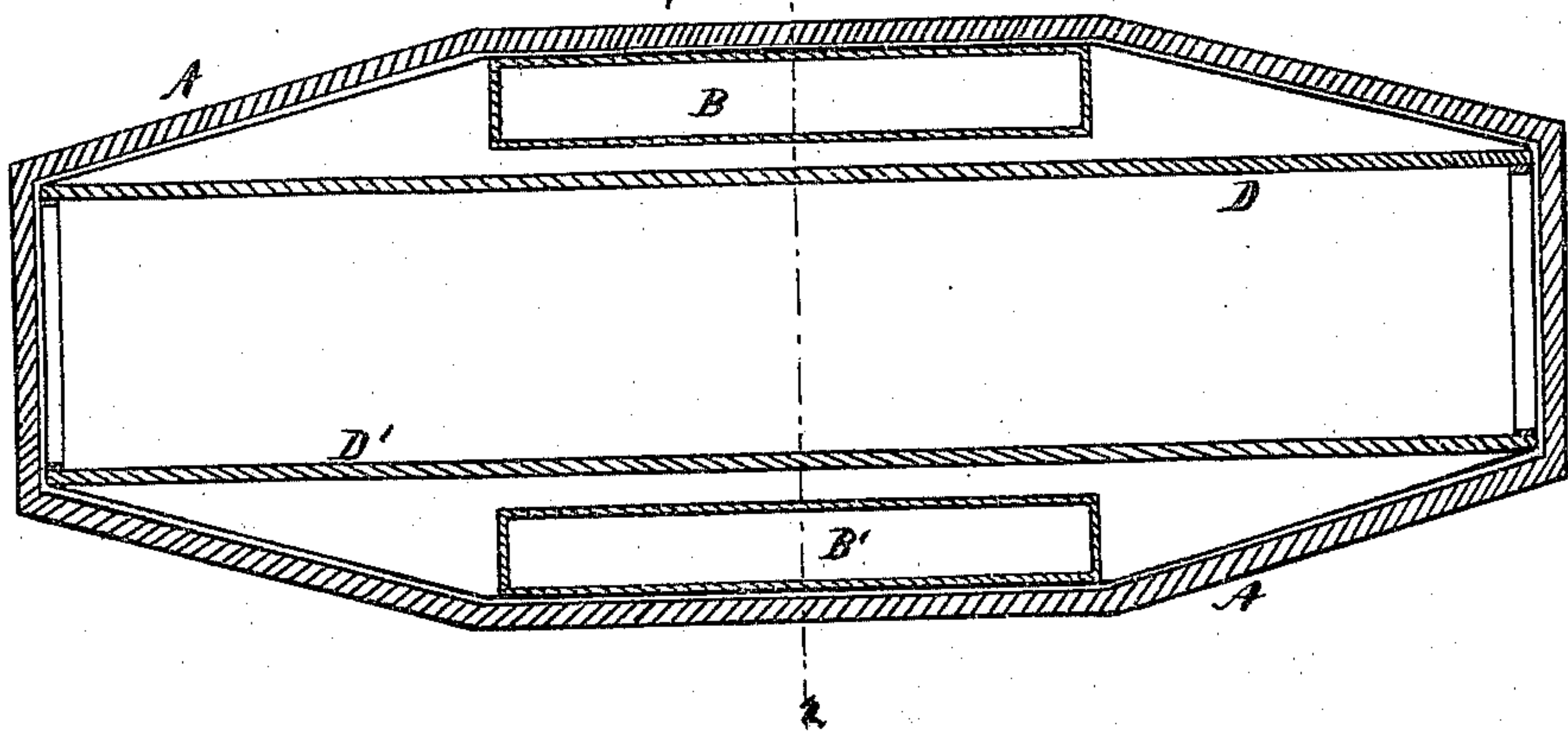


Fig. 2'.



Witnesses

Wm. A. Steel
Jos. B. Harding.

Inventor.

Alfred G. Reed
by his Attorney
Henry Stowson

United States Patent Office.

ALFRED G. REED, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

Letters Patent No. 88,510, dated March 30, 1869.

IMPROVED CORPSE-PRESERVER.

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

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED G. REED, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented a Corpse-Preserving Case; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention consists of an air-tight case, of non-conducting material, within which are arranged vessels for containing freezing-mixture, and partitions for causing a circulation of air within the case, after the corpse is enclosed in the same, all as fully described hereafter, so that the interior of the case may be so chilled and so free from moisture, that the corpse will be preserved from decay.

In order to enable others to make my invention, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, which forms a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of my improved corpse-preserving case, with the cover removed, and

Figure 2, a transverse section of the same, on the line 1-2, fig. 1.

A is the case, the precise shape of which is immaterial, providing it is of proper form to receive the corpse, the two metal vessels B and B', and partitions D and D', described hereafter.

The case is made of wood, and must be lined throughout with felt, or other equivalent non-conducting material, and this is maintained in place, and the case rendered air-tight, by an inner lining of thin metal.

Within the case, on each side of the same, is a vessel, B, of thin metal, which may be of such a length, and so situated, as to extend from about the knees to the breast of the corpse.

Between the latter, however, and each vessel, extends a partition, D, which may be in contact with the corpse, but there must be a narrow space between each partition and the adjacent vessel.

There must, also, be open spaces between the lower edges of the partitions and the bottom of the case, and between the upper edges of the partitions, and the lid E of the case.

The vessels B and B' extend, vertically, from the bottom of the case, to the upper edge of the same, each vessel being entirely closed, with the exception of an opening at the top of a hollow projection, e, which passes through the cover, and which, on the outside of the same, is furnished with a suitable plug.

The lid E may be made of wood, and must be lined, on the under side, with felt, or other equivalent non-

conducting material, covered with thin metal; and at the edge of the case there should be a packing of rubber, or other like substance, for it is essential that the entire case should be so prepared as to be air-tight.

The lid E may be secured by thumb-nuts, h, adapted to bolts, connected, at suitable intervals, to the case, and passing through the said lid.

The corpse, which I prefer to treat, in the first instance, in the manner described in a separate application, which I am about to make for a patent, is placed in the case, between the partitions D and D', and the lid is secured in its proper position, when ice and salt, or other freezing-composition, is deposited in the vessels through the openings in the projections e, the said openings being afterward stopped by suitable plugs.

The freezing-mixture so chills the cases B and B' that all moisture emanating from the corpse is soon frozen, and adheres to the outer surface of the metal, at the same time.

After the body is first enclosed, a circulation of the air in the case is maintained through the spaces between the chilled vessels and the partitions, until the interior of the vessel is at a temperature below the freezing-point. This temperature, together with the absence of moisture in the case, effectually preserves the corpse from decomposition.

I have found that the partitions D and D', arranged in the manner described, induce this circulation, which soon results in the chilling of the entire corpse.

Whatever water may drip from the outer surface of the vessels, may pass into a groove, or receptacle at the bottom of the case, and may be withdrawn from the latter by any suitable waste-cock, which will prevent the access of air to the case.

Without confining myself to any particular form of case, or to any specific length of the vessels B and B', which, if desired, may be as long as the case itself,

I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The arrangement described, of the partitions D D' and vessels B B' in respect to a case and cover of non-conducting material, for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

A. G. REED.

Witnesses:

JOHN WHITE,
HARRY SMITH.