

W. W. WOODWARD.

Improvement in Vents for Burial-Cases.

No. 131,073.

Patented Sep. 3, 1872.

Fig. 1.

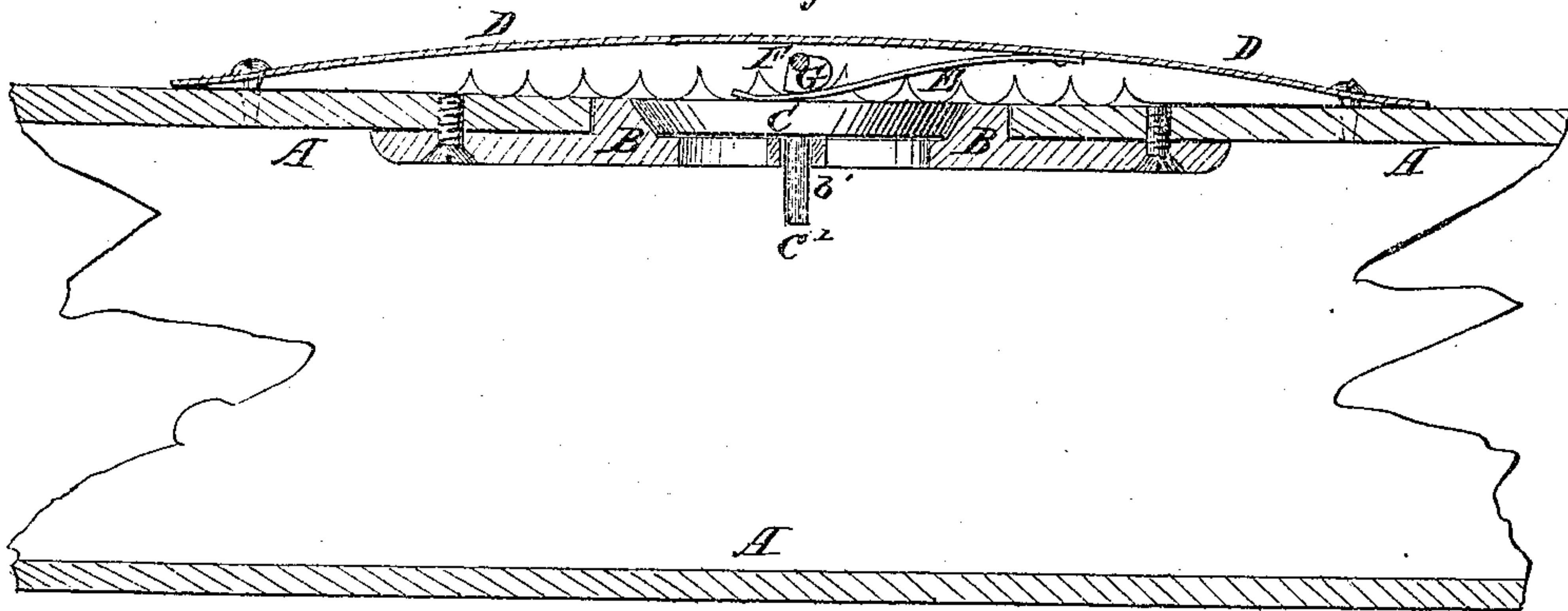
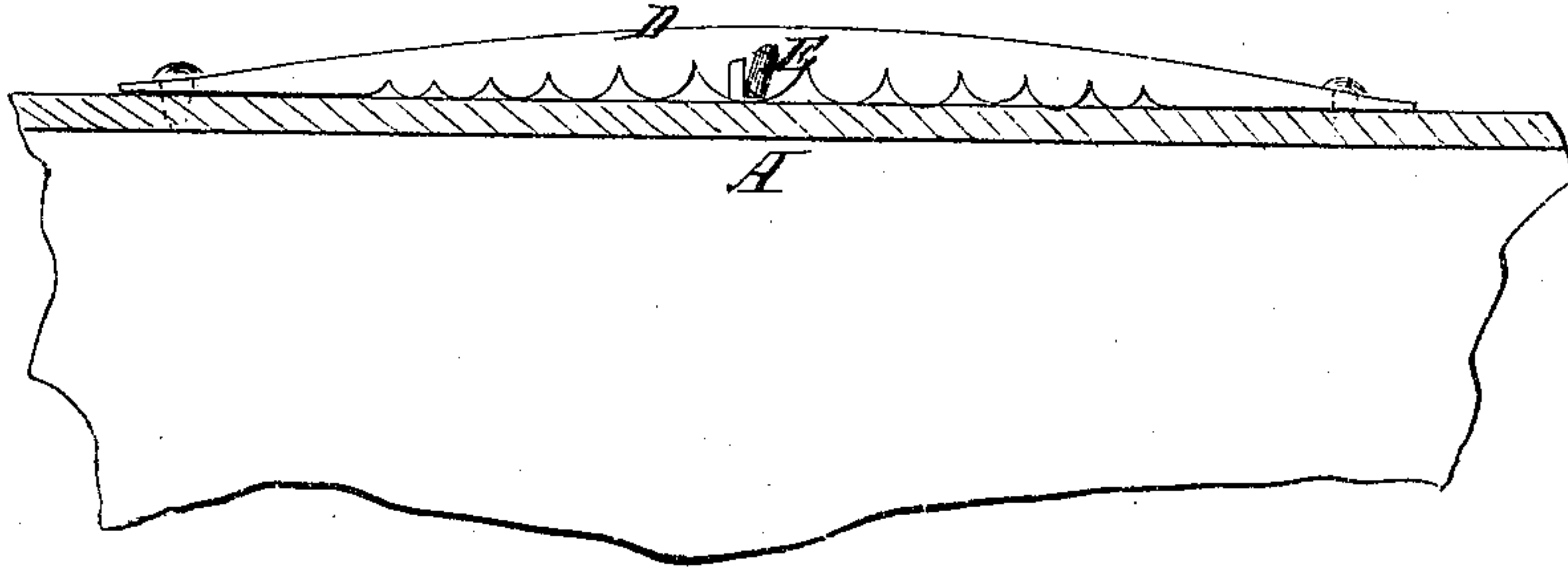


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IMPROVEMENT IN VENTS FOR BURIAL-CASES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 131,073, dated September 3, 1872.

Specification describing a new and useful Improvement in Vent for Burial-Cases, Caskets, &c., invented by WILLIAM W. WOODWARD, of Cincinnati, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a detail sectional view of my improved vent, shown as applied to a burial-case. Fig. 2 is a side view of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

My invention has for its object to furnish an improved vent for burial-cases, caskets, &c., which shall be so constructed as to prevent the case or casket from being burst open by the pressure of the gases developed by decomposition. The invention consists in a combination, with the coffin, of a valve, a locking-cam, spring, and covering-plate, said valve being provided with a guide-stem, and seated in a plate secured to the coffin lid or cover, and the operative parts being so arranged that the valve may be locked to its seat, when desired, and at other times be held closed by spring-pressure, as hereinafter described.

A represents a burial-case or casket, in the top of which is formed a hole, in which is secured a plate, B, in the middle part of which is formed a hole the edges of which are beveled or inclined to form a seat for the valve C, the stem *c'* of which passes down through a guide-hole in a bar, *b'*, which crosses the hole in the plate B, and which may be a solid part of said plate. The valve C is made heavy so as to keep it in its seat, except when forced up by the pressure of the gases, in which case the stem *c'* guides it back to its seat as soon as the escape of the gases has diminished the pressure. The valve C and the hole in the top of the case A are covered and concealed by the plate D, which is made concave upon its

lower side and convex upon its upper side, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, to allow space for the valve C to work. The edges of the plate are turned downward, and are scalloped, or have other forms of ornamental open work formed in them, through which the gases may escape. In addition to its own weight the valve C is held down to its seat by a spring, E, which is attached to the under side of the plate D, and which rests upon the said valve C. F is a rod which passes through and works in holes in the side flanges of the plate D, and to the middle part of which, directly over the spring E, is attached a cam, G, which, by turning the rod F, may be forced down upon the spring E and valve C, to lock said valve in its seat, when desired, so as to prevent the escape of the gases in the house or during transportation.

When placed in the vault or in the ground, the cam G should be turned up from the spring E and valve C to allow the gases to escape, and thus prevent the casket from being burst open by their pressure. The plate D also serves to receive the name of the deceased or other desired inscription.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The plate B *b'*, valve C *c'*, covering-plate D, spring E, and locking-cam F G, said parts being constructed and arranged to operate in connection with each other, substantially as herein shown and described, to adapt them for application to a burial-case or casket, as and for the purpose set forth.

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Witnesses:

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