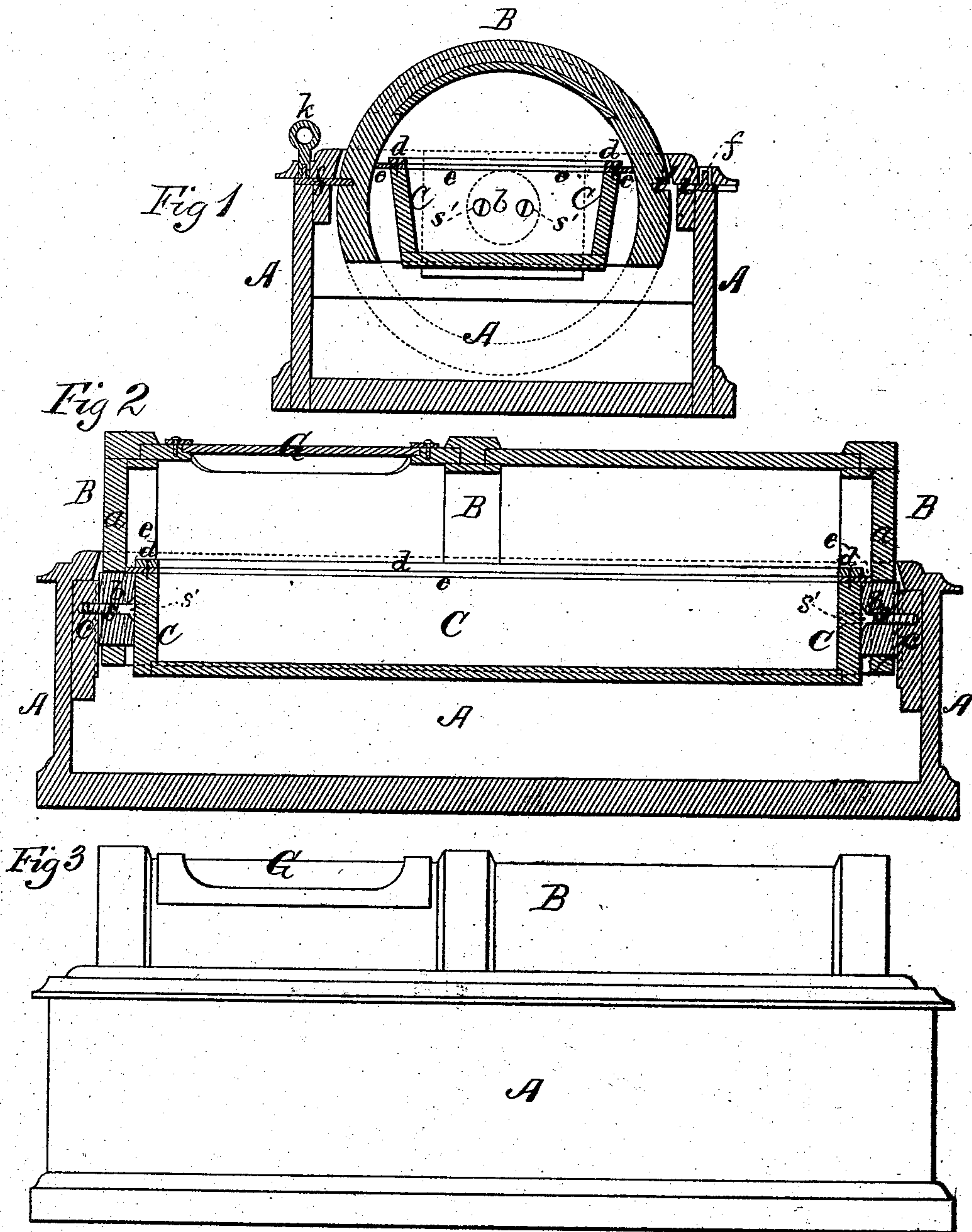


G. VAN WINKLE.
Burial-Cases.

No. 158,654.

Patented Jan. 12, 1875.



WITNESSES

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GARRET VAN WINKLE, OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN.

IMPROVEMENT IN BURIAL-CASES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 158,654, dated January 12, 1875; application filed December 5, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GARRET VAN WINKLE, of Kalamazoo, in the county of Kalamazoo and State of Michigan, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Burial-Cases; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawing is a representation of a vertical transverse section of my burial-case, and Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a side elevation.

This invention has relation to burial-cases of which the lid or top is semi-cylindrical in form, and is adapted to rotate under the inferior receptacle for the corpse, for the purpose of opening the same, and to be rotated up in position over the said receptacle, whereby it is perfectly covered.

The nature of the invention and improvement in this class of burial-cases consists in a cylindrical pivot rigidly secured to the inside of the ends of a burial-case, and adapted to be received into corresponding perforations in the ends of a rotating semi-cylindrical lid or top, whereby not only is the top accurately guided in its rotation, but a means is afforded whereby the body-receptacle may be rigidly secured against tilting when its burden is placed therein. It also consists in a strip of rubber rigidly secured to the inner receptacle at or near its upper edge, whereby all escape of gases and other products of decomposition from the interior of the case is effectually prevented when the lid is closed, by the close impinging of the said rubber strip against the inner surface of the lid.

In the annexed drawings, A designates the outer case of my improved casket, which is preferably of rectangular form. This case is designed to be of any style of ornamentation, and is preferably of wood. B designates a hollow lid or cover in the form of a segment of a cylinder, presenting in cross-section a curve greater than a semicircle, as shown in Fig. 1, which is applied within the case A, and is rigidly held against upward or down-

ward displacement by means of large cylindrical blocks *b*, which are passed through apertures of corresponding size in the ends *a* of the said lid, and are then rigidly secured to a strong wooden strip, *c*, also rigidly secured to the inside of the ends of case A by means of a screw, *s*. By this means the lid B is allowed to revolve freely about its long axis, but is prevented from either upward or downward displacement. C designates the inner receptacle of my improved casket, which is of such a length and width as that it shall fit snugly within the lid B, and is preferably of greater width at the top than at bottom.

The case C is applied within the case A in the following manner, to wit: The lid B is rotated so that it shall descend into the outer case, thereby bringing its concavity upward, and its upper edge nearly flush with the corresponding edge of the said case. The inner receptacle, C, is then introduced into the hollow of the lid, and rigidly secured by means of two or more screws, *s'*, to the cylindrical pivots *b*, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. These pivots being of considerable diameter, I am enabled to make the perforations in the ends of the receptacle for the reception of the screws *s'* some distance apart, thus holding it rigidly in a horizontal position, and preventing all vertical vibration whatever.

With a view to preventing the escape of gases evolved during decomposition, I have in practice used the following device, to wit: I apply to the upper edges of the inner case, C, a strip of rubber, *e*, of suitable thickness, and of such width that when it is rigidly clamped by means of a wooden strip, *d*, to the upper edge of the said case, it shall completely fill up the space between it and the revolving lid B at its sides and ends, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Under ordinary circumstances this rubber strip effectually prevents the escape of gases from the interior of the case.

When the body is in the case C, I use the following device to prevent the rotation of lid B, to wit: Two or more pivotal catches, *f*, are arranged at each side of the outer case, A, in horizontal slots *i* cut into the vertical sides of the said case, which are caused by means of a key or knob, *k*, to engage with a corre-

sponding groove, *i*, in the outer surface of the lid, securely locking the same, and preventing all casual vibration.

I may, in practice, make use of a glass plate, *G*, over the face of the corpse, and may, with a view to showing the full-length figure, construct the whole lid of the same material.

What I claim as new is—

1. In a burial-case, the combination, with the outer case, *A*, and the inner receptacle, *C*, rigidly connected by means of screws *s* and cylindrical blocks *b*, of the lid *B*, rotating on the said blocks, substantially as specified.

2. The combination, with the rotating hollow lid *B*, of the rubber strip *e*, held in position upon the upper edges of case *C* by clamp-strips *d*, substantially as specified, and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

GARRET VAN WINKLE.

Witnesses:

HENRY C. BRIGGS,
GEORGE E. UPHAM.