

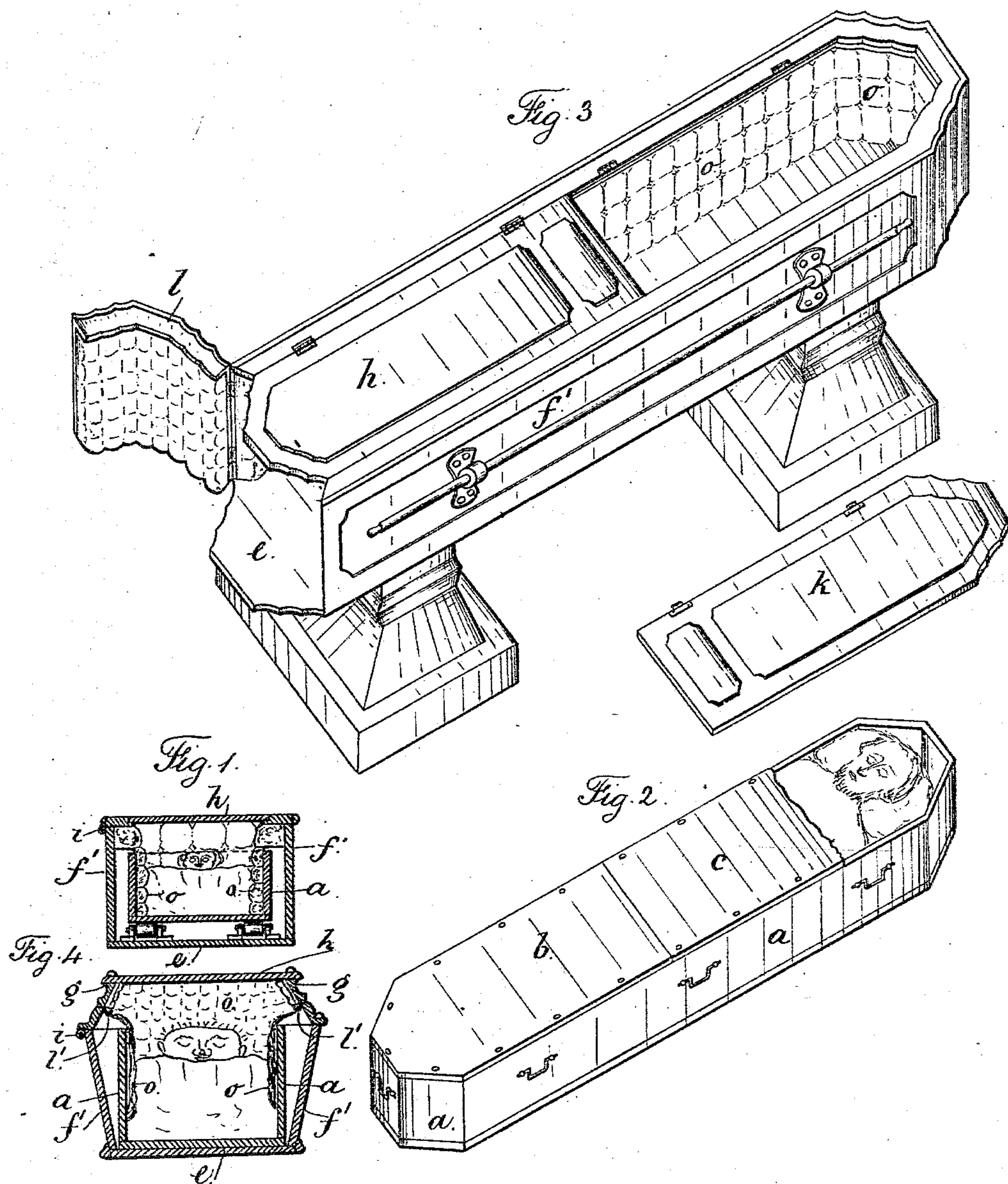
(No Model.)

G. S. EATON.

BURIAL CASKET.

No. 274,575.

Patented Mar. 27, 1883.



Witnesses:

J. Stark
Harold Serrell

Inventor

George S. Eaton

per Lemuel W. Serrell atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE S. EATON, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF
AND WILLIAM A. FRENCH, OF SAME PLACE.

BURIAL-CASKET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 274,575, dated March 27, 1883.

Application filed September 4, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE S. EATON, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented an Improvement in Burial-Caskets, of which the following is a specification.

In the burial of the dead the habit of public funeral services has rendered it appropriate that the coffin or casket of the deceased should not be objectionable in its appearance, and that it should be suitable for public inspection, and for being conveyed to the grave in the open or glass hearse usually employed.

The burial-caskets generally employed are costly, and the fear of offending others or of showing a lack of respect to the deceased, leads many into extravagant expenses for funerals that deprive the living of necessities.

Efforts have been made to provide a showy or handsome exterior dummy-casket, which holds the remains in an ordinary plain coffin during the funeral services and during transportation to the grave.

My improvement, as distinguished from the mock or dummy coffins that have heretofore existed, relates to the peculiar construction hereinafter set forth, for more conveniently exposing the face of the deceased and for removing the coffin from the casket at the time of burial.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a cross-section of the casket and coffin. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the coffin detached from the casket. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the casket partially open, the removed lid being shown below; and Fig. 4 is a cross-section of a casket and coffin, the casket having inclined sides.

The coffin *a* is of a size and shape adapted to the reception of the body. It may be of any suitable wood, and either plain, stained, or varnished, or it may be of metal or earthenware, or other material. The lid *b c* of the coffin is preferably made in two pieces, the division being near the middle, so that the portion *c* can be removed, and the portion *b* left in place over the lower part of the body and legs.

The casket is made of light, strong material. It has a bottom, *e*, sides *f'*, and removable cov-

ers, *h k*, and a movable end, *l*. These parts are to be of any usual or desired construction. They, however, will usually be of wood, covered with cloth, according to the present preferred style, with silvered mountings, and handles, by which the casket is moved from the place of the funeral exercises to the hearse or grave. The two-part cover *h k* is either hinged in place or held by dowels or screws, so that the part *k* can be removed to allow the deceased to be seen. Around the inner part of the casket, near the edge of the opening in the top, there is an ornamental lining, border, or shrouding, *o*, secured so that after the coffin has been placed in the casket, with the lid portion *c* removed, the lining can be drawn over the edge of the coffin and passed down inside the same, around the form of the deceased, and give the appearance of a lining to the coffin or casket, and entirely hide the coffin itself.

It will now be understood that during the funeral exercises the lid of the casket may be closed. Afterward the lid portion *k* can be lifted off, and the friends view the deceased; then that the lining can be drawn from inside the coffin and passed down outside the coffin, between the same and the inside of the casket. The half cover of the coffin, which usually will be inside the casket, is placed upon the coffin and screwed on firmly. The cover *k* of the casket is then closed, being screwed down or otherwise secured in any convenient manner. The casket and contents are then transported to the grave, and the movable end of the casket opened and the coffin slipped out endwise and buried. It is to be observed that the casket having a two-part lid that is removable gives facility for introducing and properly placing the coffin, and that the movable end to the casket can be taken off while the casket is in the hearse, and there will be nothing objectionable in appearance, and the coffin will take less space for burial than the large cases heretofore usual.

The movable end of the casket should be hinged at one side with slip-hinges, and provided with a lock, so that it will be firmly secured when in place, but can be lifted off when unlocked.

The casket may be made as a frame, of wood

or other suitable material, with the cloth or other ornamental covering, and it is generally preferable to employ rollers in the inside of the casket, on which the coffin is rolled in withdrawing it.

In Fig. 4 I have shown the casket of a more ornamental shape than in Fig. 1, and I remark that the flat top portion *h* of the casket is preferably screwed to the molding portion *g*, and the latter is hinged at *i* to the bottom portion *f'* of the casket, so that the entire lid and molding can be lifted for inserting the coffin, if desired. The lining or drapery *o* on the inner portion of the casket may be fastened on permanently, or it may be removably connected by hooks or similar means at *l'*, and be hung down into the coffin around the body in preparing the body for the burial services.

I am aware that a burial-casket case has been employed simply as a box or case for receiving and storing the coffin containing the corpse in a vault preparatory to burial. This case has had a removable end to allow of the coffin being put into and taken out of it.

I am also aware that an exterior finished coffin has been employed as a covering for an interior or common coffin, which contains the corpse. This coffin is, however, a simple shell to put over the interior case, and it is without a bottom. Neither is there a lining or removable end and rollers, such as I employ.

I claim as my invention—

An outer ornamental coffin or casket, provided with movable lids and a movable end, and a hanging lining attached to the interior portion thereof, substantially as set forth, whereby the hanging lining can be passed into the interior case or coffin containing the corpse, substantially as specified.

Signed by me this 31st day of August, A. D. 1882.

GEO. S. EATON.

Witnesses:

HAROLD SERRELL,
WILLIAM G. MOTT.