(No Model.)

F. MILLER.

GRAVE VAULT.

No. 278,354. Patented May 29, 1883.

Fig. 1.

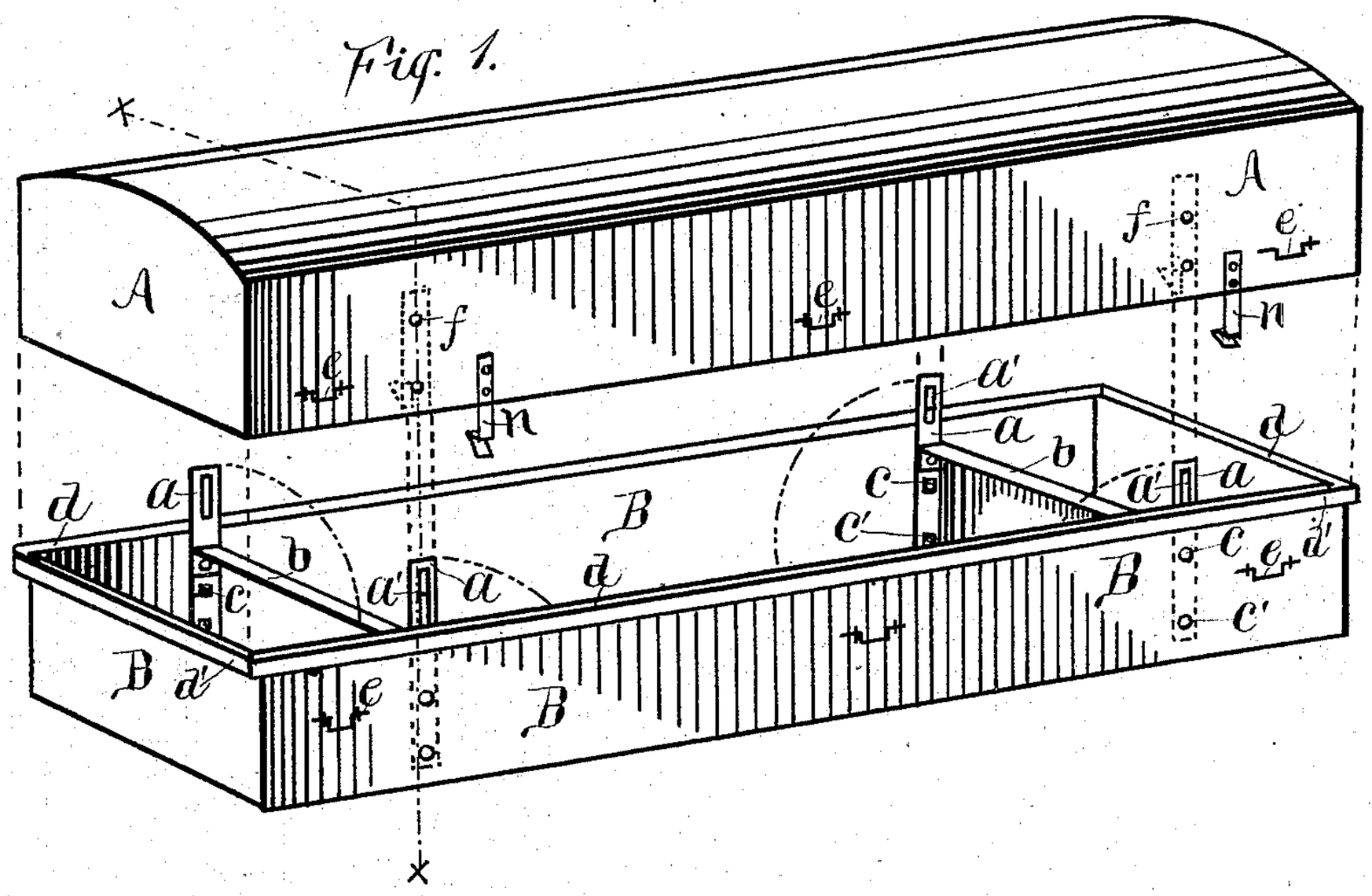
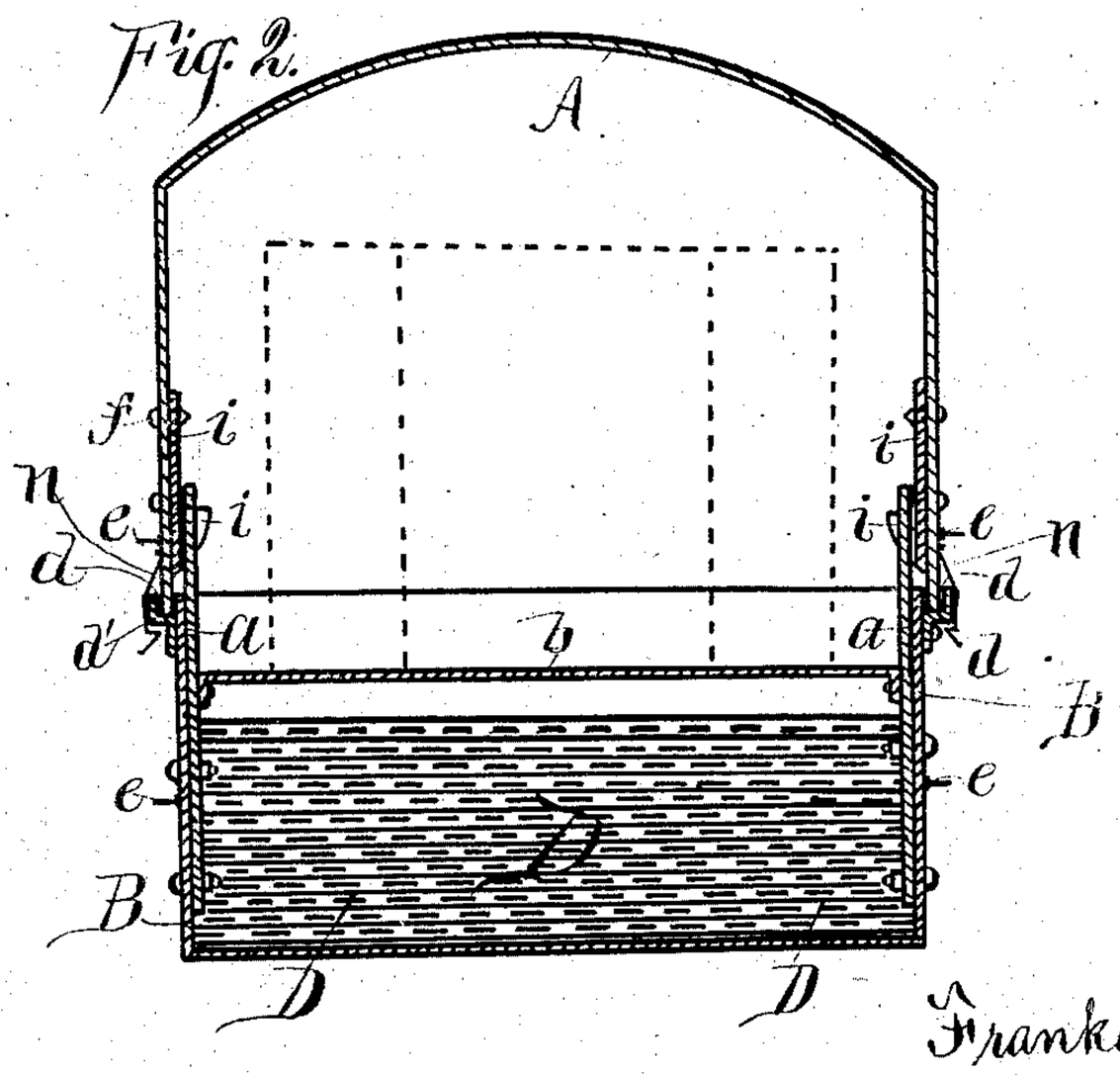


Fig. 2.



Franklin Miller,

WITNESSES:
L. A. Adamson.
A. G. Adamson

INVENTOR.
Chas. E. Adamson,
HIS ATTY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANKLIN MILLER, OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO WILLIAM SHICK, OF SAME PLACE.

GRAVE-VAULT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 278,354, dated May 29, 1883.

Application filed January 29, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANKLIN MILLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Muncie, in the county of Delaware and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Grave-Vault, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in grave-vaults; and the object of my improvements is to construct a cheap, simple, and durable grave-vault. I attain this object by the mechanism illustrated by the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention. Fig. 2 is a cross-section of the same, showing the vault closed.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

My invention consists of the lid A and bottom B. In these parts a coffin is secured air-tight and burglar-proof, locking itself from the inside when closed together.

The body B is constructed of metal and of a suitable size and shape. A strip, *d'*, which is secured to the upper edge of the body, forms a gutter, *d*, around the whole edge, as shown in each figure. The lock-bars *a* are secured to the inside of the body, near the bottom, by bolts *c'*. The said bars are provided at their upper ends with slots *a'*, all as shown. The said bars are connected together by a cross-bar, *b*, which is firmly bolted to the bars *a*, as shown. The bolts *c* are not to be put in place until the bars *a b* are raised up to be locked, the said bars being turned down, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 1, at all times until the vault is ready to be locked. The upper part or lid, A, is provided with outside snaps or hooks, *n*, to form a temporary fastening or lock for convenience in handling or shipping the vault, the said hooks snapping down over the groove *d'*, as shown in Fig. 2.

The lid A is constructed about the same size of the body, being wholly of metal. On the inside and at proper places are bolted the hooks *i*, so that when the bars *a* are up, as shown, the hooks will catch in the slots *a'*, forming a permanent lock. The bars are made so they will spring in slightly in locking, in order that the hooks will fit up tight, as shown in Fig. 2.

When the vault is ready to be used the bars *a* are raised and bolts *c* are inserted in their places. The bottom B is then lowered in the grave by the aid of the handles *e* and filled up to the bars *b* with stone or other heavy substance, (shown at D in Fig. 2.) This makes the vault several hundred pounds heavier and supplies a weight which has heretofore been made up by the metal used in constructing vaults. The groove *d'* is then filled with sealing substance, and the coffin is then placed down in the vault, resting on the bars *b*. (Shown by dotted lines in Fig. 2.) The lid A is then carefully let down so that the lower edge of the lid will fit in the groove, and so that the hooks will all snap in the slots *a'*, thus completing the locking and sealing of the vault, which cannot be unlocked or removed from the grave.

Having thus described my invention, I claim the following, and desire to secure the same by Letters Patent:

In a grave-vault, the bars *a*, being pivoted near the bottom of the inside of the body B by a bolt, *c'*, the said bars having cross-bars *b*, and having slots *a'* in their upper ends to engage with the hooks *i* on the inside of the lid A, all arranged as and for the purpose set forth.

FRANKLIN MILLER.

Witnesses:
LOUISA A. ADAMSON,
A. G. ADAMSON.