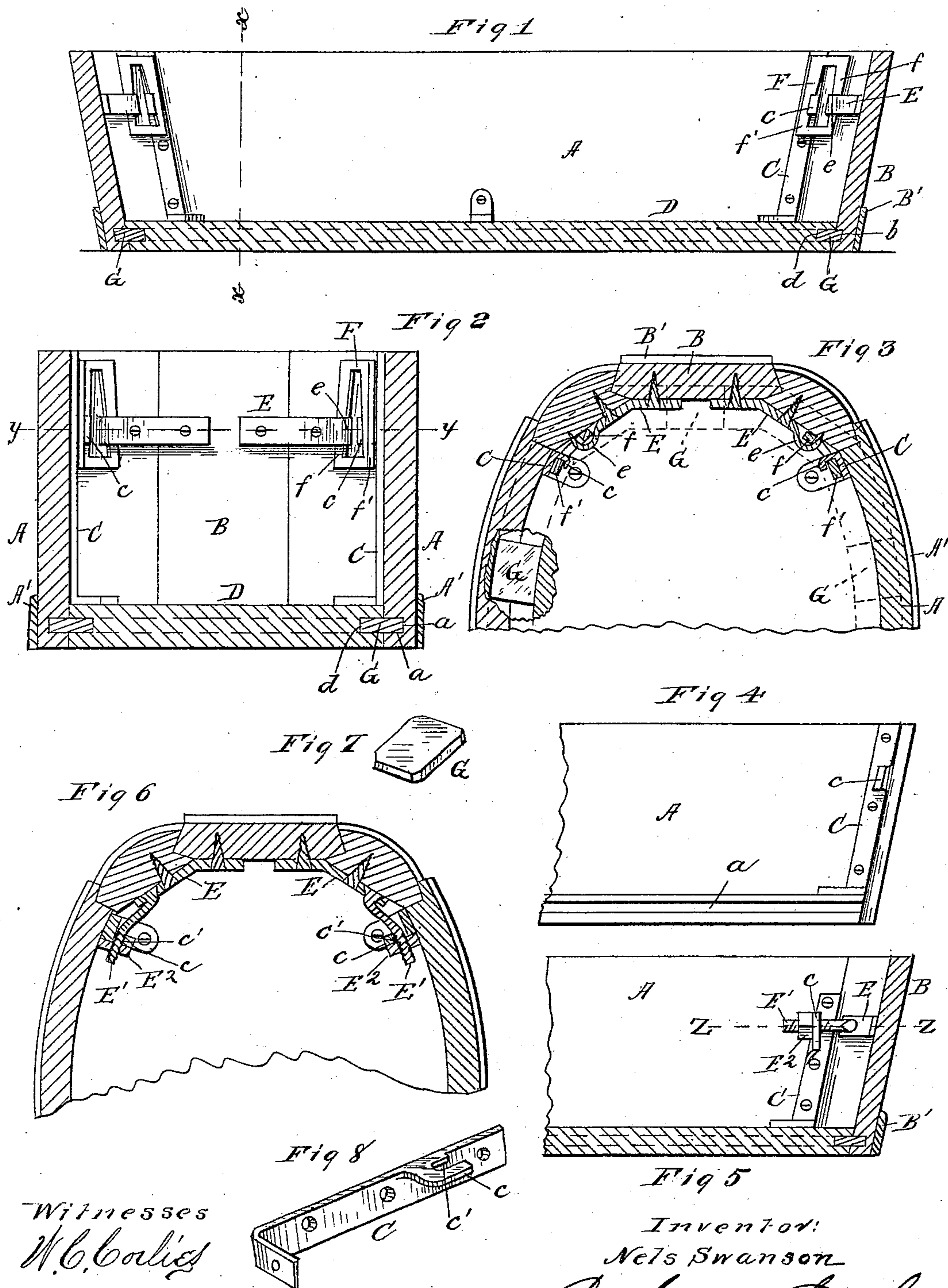


(No Model.)

N. SWANSON.
KNOCKDOWN COFFIN.

No. 284,986.

Patented Sept. 11, 1883.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NELS SWANSON, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR OF TWO-THIRDS TO
JESSE V. LEWIS AND JOHN T. RICHARDS, BOTH OF SAME PLACE.

KNOCKDOWN COFFIN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 284,986, dated September 11, 1882.

Application filed December 28, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NELS SWANSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook, in the State of Illinois, have
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Knockdown Coffins, which are fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical section of
10 a coffin having my improvements. Fig. 2 is an enlarged section on the line xx in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a plan section on the line yy in Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is an inside elevation of one of the side pieces detached, showing only one end.
15 Fig. 5 is a longitudinal vertical section, showing only one end, with a modified locking device. Fig. 6 is an enlarged section on the line zz in Fig. 5. Fig. 7 is a detailed perspective view of one of the keys which join the bottom
20 to the side and end pieces. Fig. 8 is a detailed and enlarged perspective view of modified upright straps shown in Fig. 5.

The same letters denote the same parts in all the figures.

25 My invention relates to that class of coffins which are shipped from the manufactory in separate sections, for convenience of packing, and are put together by the retailer; and the object of it is to provide fastenings for the sev-
30 eral parts of such a coffin which shall be secure and durable, and at the same time readily removed and applied.

To this end it consists in the several devices and combinations of devices, which will be fully
35 set forth hereinafter, and definitely pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, A denotes the side pieces of the coffin, and B the end pieces. Each side piece is rabbeted at the ends from top to bot-
40 tom to receive the end pieces. The narrowing of the coffin toward the ends gives the rabbets a direction oblique to the length of the coffin, and the vertical edges of the end piece are cut into a wedge shape to fit them, and a
45 joint is thus formed which resists separation horizontally. A strap, C, of metal, is fastened on the inner side of each side piece, and extends from top to bottom of it, just without the rabbet. The strap is made somewhat longer than
50 the interior height of the coffin, and the sur-

plus is bent horizontally and fastened to the bottom D also by screws or other detachable means. A hook-shaped lug, c , projects horizontally from that edge of the strap which ad-
joins the rabbet, the hollow of the hook being
55 toward the strap. A pair of vertically-tubular keepers, e , are fastened to the inner surface of the end piece at the same height as the lugs on the side pieces, one keeper near each vertical edge of the end piece. This keeper may be
60 formed by bending one end of a metal strap, E, into a half-cylinder having an axis transverse to the strap, and then fastening the unbent part of the strap in a horizontal position on the end piece, with the convexity of the cyl-
65 inder outward, the end piece being slightly recessed to receive the bent end of the strap. This keeper incloses one leg, f , of a link, F, also of metal, whose legs f and f' diverge from
70 top to bottom, and are of a thickness to slide easily within the keeper e and lug c , respectively. The distance of the legs apart at the top is less than the distance between the keeper and the free edge of the lug c . At the bottom
75 it is considerably greater. Consequently by moving the link upward within the keeper it can easily be slipped in or out of the lug, and after being slipped into the lug it may be
80 crowded downward, when it will be irremovable and will hold the side piece and end firmly together. By affixing a strap and lug such as I have described at each end of each side piece, and a keeper and link at each side of each end
85 piece, I provide a means of fastening the side pieces of the coffin to the end pieces, which is at once cheap, simple, perfectly secure, and capable of being readily unfastened.

Instead of the usual tongue-and-groove or dovetailed joint for fitting the side and end pieces through the bottom, I cut a horizontal
90 groove, a , in each side piece, and a similar groove, b , in each end piece, just above the lower edge, and a similar groove, d , on each edge of the bottom. In the latter groove I put a suitable
95 number of keys, G, of, preferably, hard wood, of suitable shape and size to fit in without crowding, and to project a distance not greater than the depth of the corresponding groove in the side or end piece. The side and end pieces
100 being applied, the keys will slip into the re-

spective grooves *a b* also, and the bottom will be joined to the side and end pieces in such a way as not to be liable to the splitting and breaking which often results from the warping of imperfectly-seasoned boards dovetailed together, or joined by means of tongues and grooves.

The side and end pieces may advantageously be provided with re-enforcing strips *A'* and *B'* on their outer sides at the backs of the grooves *a* and *b*.

Figs. 5, 6, and 8 of the drawings illustrate a modification of the device for fastening the side and end pieces together. The lug *c* on the strap *C*, instead of bending laterally to form a hook for the link which is attached to the strap *E* of the end piece, has a notch, *c'*, cut in its upper edge, to receive the free end of a bar or latch, *E'*, which is pivotally set in the nearer end of the strap *E*. This latch is threaded at its outer end, which projects a little beyond the lug *c*, and receives a nut, *E²*, which may be screwed close against the lug, and thereby hold the latch in its place in the notch. By unscrew-

ing the nut far enough to bring it out of contact with the lug, the latch can readily be lifted out and the side and end pieces separated. For all ordinary purposes, however, the construction first described will be found preferable.

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

1. In a knockdown coffin, the combination of a strap, *C*, arranged at the upright edge of the side piece and having a hook bent thereon, and a catch pivoted on the end piece and arranged to engage with the hook, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. The combination of the strap *C*, provided with the bent lug *c*, the strap *E*, provided with a tubular keeper, *e*, and the tapering link *F*, arranged to turn laterally and slide vertically in the keeper, substantially as and for the purpose described.

NELS SWANSON.

Witnesses:

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