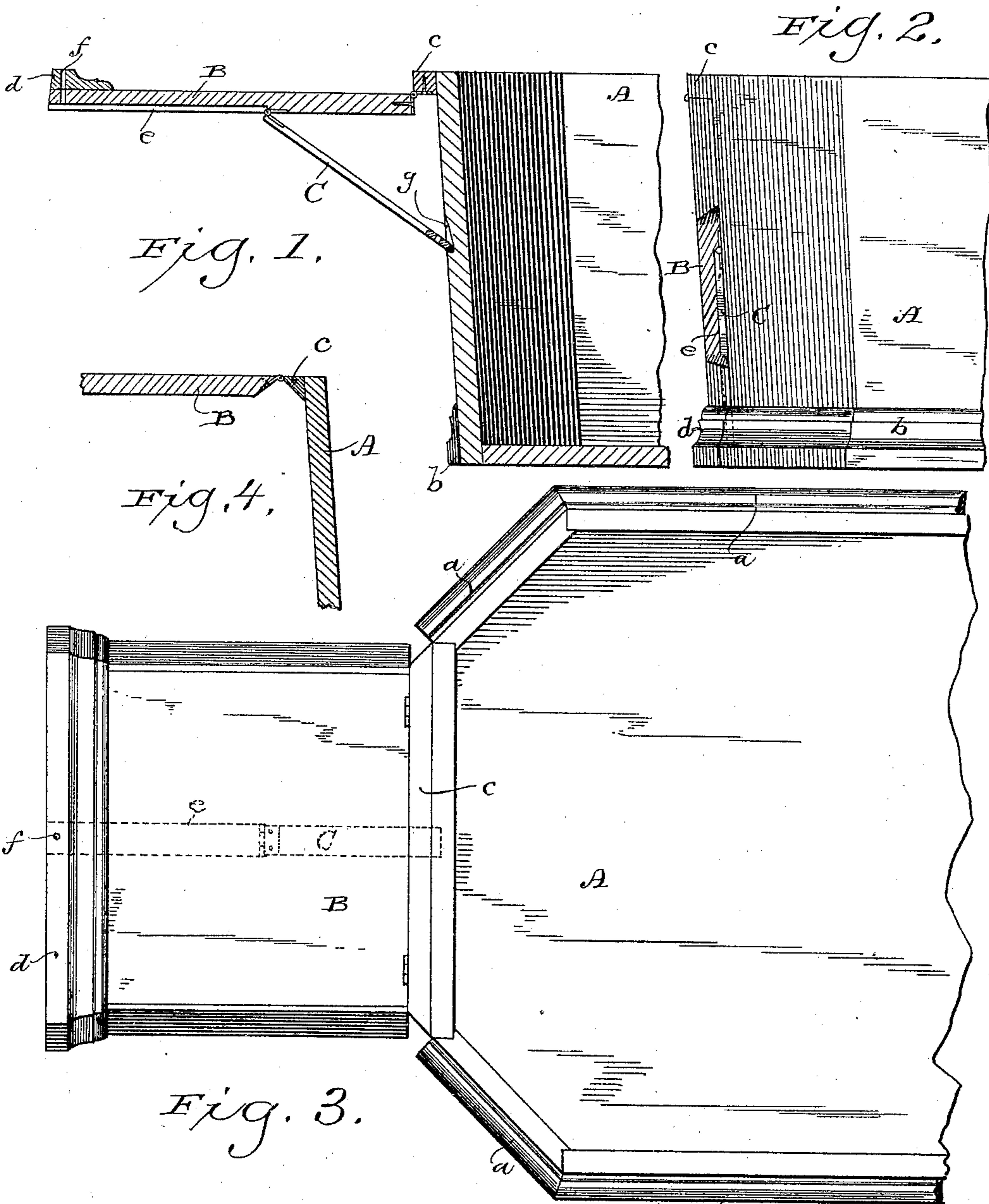


(No Model.)

D. R. JOHNSON.
COFFIN.

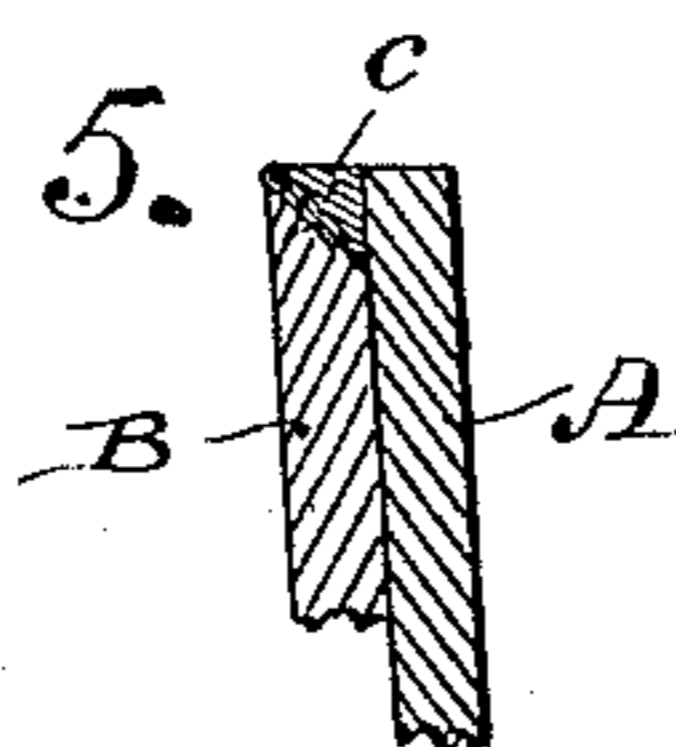
No. 417,042.

Patented Dec. 10, 1889.



Witnesses
Geo. W. Louny
William Klug

Fig. 5.



Inventor
David R. Johnson
By Stout & Underwood
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID R. JOHNSON, OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

COFFIN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 417,042, dated December 10, 1889.

Application filed July 15, 1889. Serial No. 317,559. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID R. JOHNSON, of Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee and in the State of Wisconsin, have invented
5 certain new and useful Improvements in Coffins or Burial-Cases; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention relates to coffins and burial-
10 cases, and will be fully described hereinafter.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section of one end of a coffin embodying my invention and showing my folding shelf extended. Fig. 2 is a like view
15 showing it closed. Fig. 3 is a plan view showing the shelf extended, and Figs. 4 and 5 are details of a modification.

A is the body of the coffin, which is provided with the usual moldings *a b* on the
20 sides and an upper molding *c* on each end, and to a molding *c* is hinged a shelf B, which has a bottom molding *d*, that corresponds to the side moldings, and to the inside of this shelf a brace C is hinged, so that when the
25 shelf is folded against the end of the coffin it will lie in a groove *e* in the shelf, and thus permit the latter to fit close up against the coffin end, where it may be secured by a screw passed through it at *f*. The end of
30 the coffin is notched, as at *g*, and when the shelf is lifted the brace is caught in the notch, and thus the shelf is held in position to receive flowers, candles, or any other such devices or decorations, which have been heretofore placed on separate stands.

The form of the molding *c* and the adjacent portion of the shelf may be varied without departing from the spirit of my invention, as
40 shown in Figs. 4 and 5, and is therefore not an essential feature of my invention:

While I have shown my device as applied to only one end of the coffin, it is obvious that it may be applied to either or both ends or to any portion or portions of the side.

45 The shape or style of the brace C may be varied in any manner desired, and it is immaterial whether it is hinged to the shelf, as shown, or directly to the coffin-body; but in
50 inner side of the shelf shall be provided with

the described groove *e* to receive said brace C, so that when the shelf is not in use it may receive said brace and lie close against the end or side of the coffin-body, and it is also
55 essential that the extreme end of my shelf should be formed or provided with a molding exactly the same as that surrounding the bottom edge of the coffin or burial-case, so that when said shelf is down its existence
60 may not be apparent.

In Figs. 1 and 2 I show the shelf B at a plane lower than the top of the coffin, and in Figs. 4 and 5 I show the top of the shelf flush with the top of the latter.

I am aware that heretofore coffin-lids have
65 been made in hinged sections, so that a part thereof may be turned back and serve as a shrine for the receptacle of flowers or other articles; but such become useless when the
70 lid is removed, as is frequently the case at funerals, whereas my invention is capable of use with an entirely opened casket; and I am also aware that shelves have been hinged or removably hooked directly to the coffin-
75 body; but so far as I am aware said shelves have never been provided with a groove on the inner or under side to receive the supporting-bracket, nor have such shelves been
80 provided with an end molding corresponding to that around the bottom of the coffin, nor have such shelves ever been constructed to be flush with the top edge of the coffin-body, which several features constitute my present improvements.

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

As an article of manufacture, a coffin, casket, or burial-case provided with an upper
90 and a lower molding, the upper molding being beveled or inclined on its under side from the outer edge inward at a given point, and the lower molding entirely removed from the body at a corresponding point, in combination with a shelf having one edge cut away
95 on its inner or under side to a corresponding bevel to that of said upper molding, and united thereto by a hinge secured to said beveled or cut-away surfaces, a molding secured to the outer or upper side of the extreme end of
100

said shelf and corresponding to the said lower
molding of the body, and a bracket hinged
to one of said parts and adapted to bear
against the other when said shelf is horizon-
5 tally extended flush with the top of said body,
substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I

have hereunto set my hand, at Milwaukee, in
the county of Milwaukee and State of Wis-
consin, in the presence of two witnesses.

DAVID R. JOHNSON.

Witnesses:

S. S. STOUT,

H. G. UNDERWOOD.