

No. 609,262.

W. H. BLACKFORD.  
BURIAL CASKET.

Patented Aug. 16, 1898.

(Application filed Mar. 2, 1898.)

(No Model.)

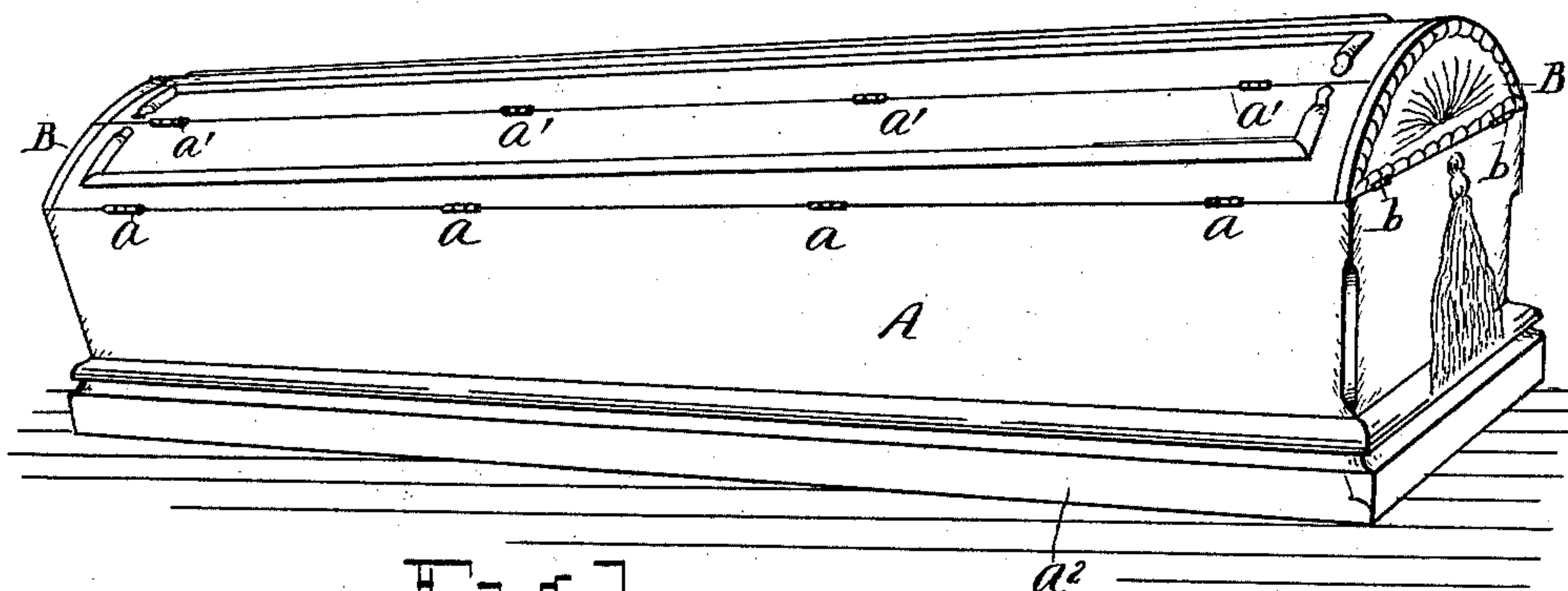


Fig. 1.

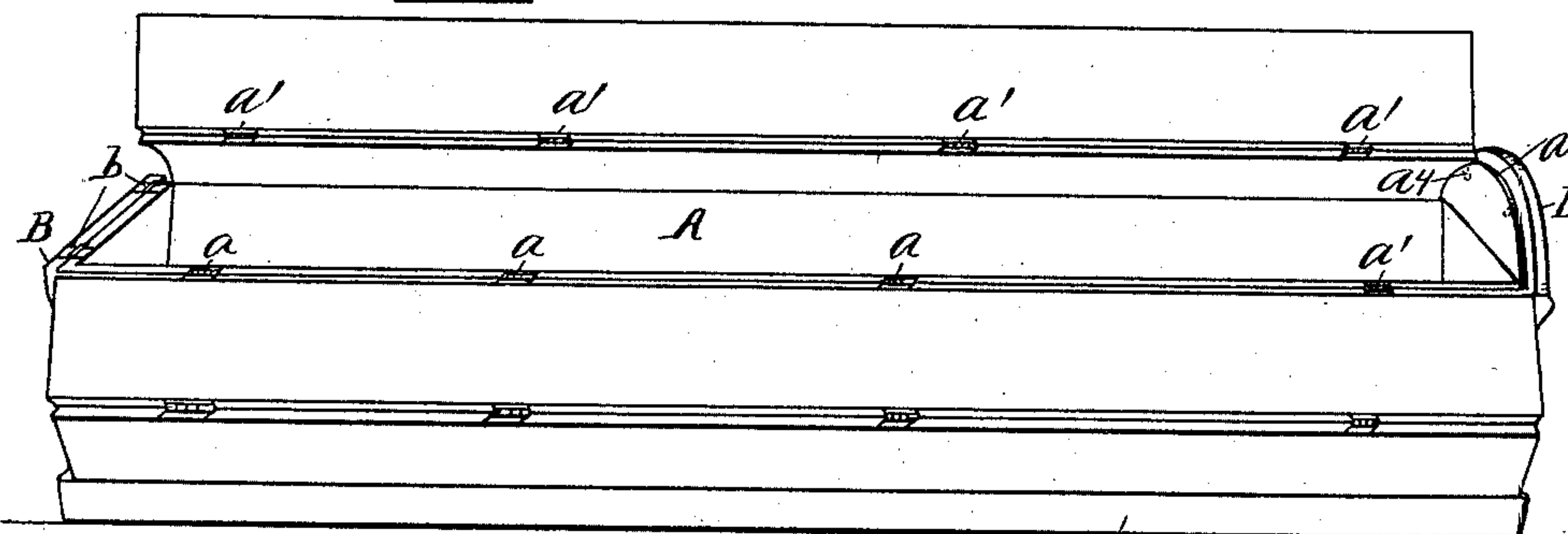


Fig. 2.

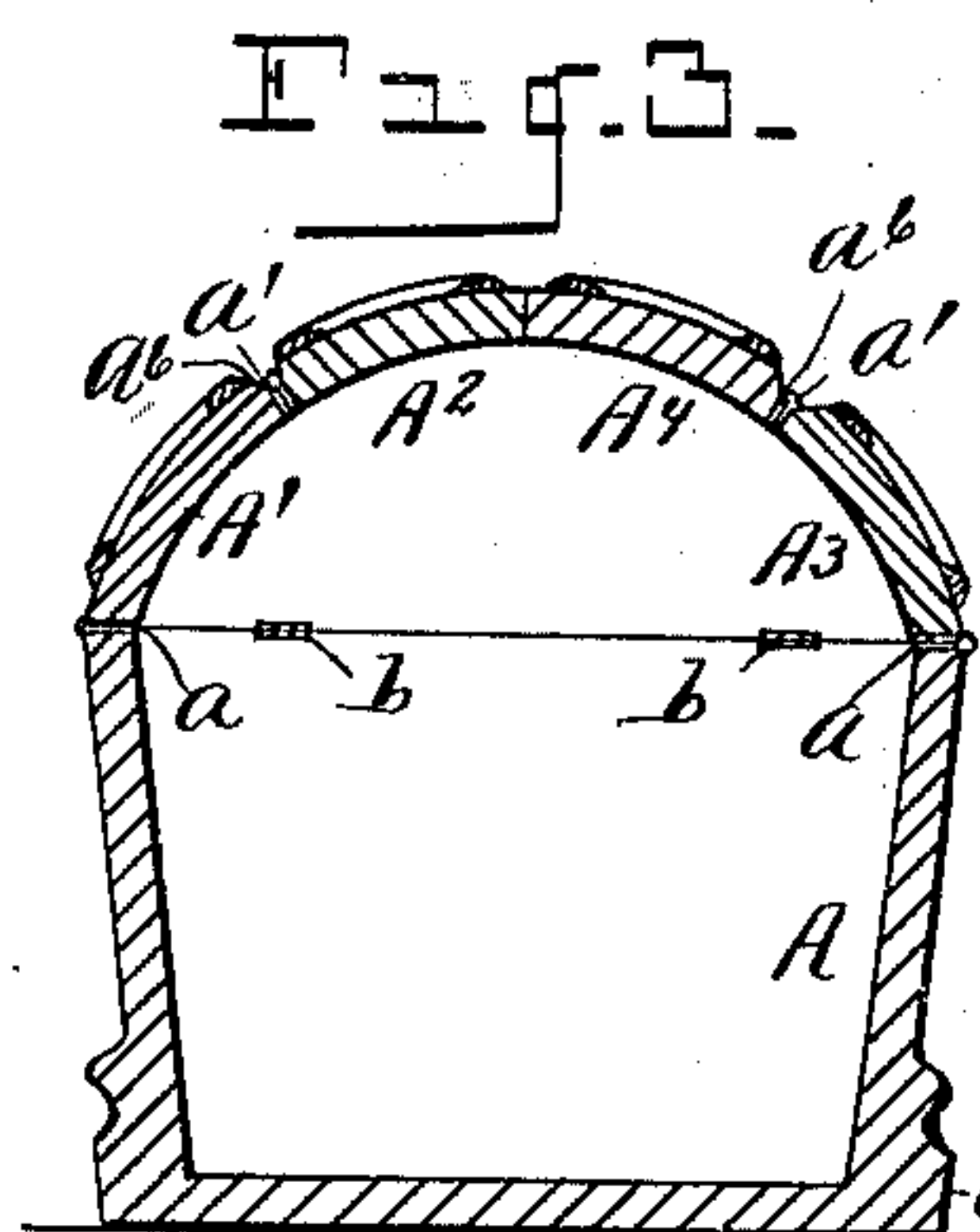


Fig. 3.

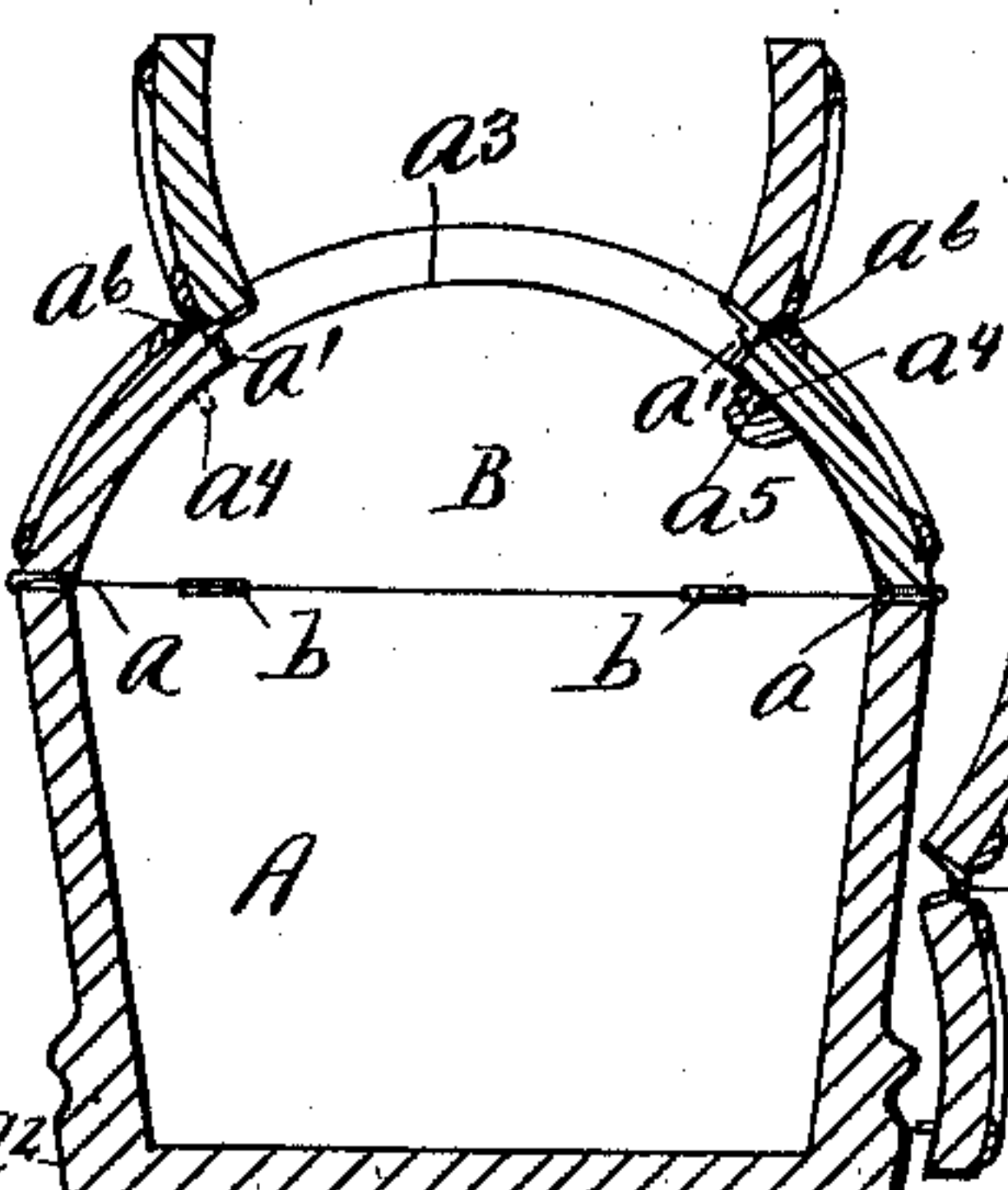


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

WITNESSES.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. BLACKFORD, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR TO THE  
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## BURIAL-CASKET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 609,262, dated August 16, 1898.

Application filed March 2, 1898. Serial No. 672,295. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. BLACKFORD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Detroit, county of Wayne, State of Michigan, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Burial-Caskets; and I declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention has for its object certain new and useful improvements in a burial-casket; and it consists of the construction, combination, and arrangement of devices hereinafter described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a view in perspective illustrating my invention, showing the cover in closed position. Fig. 2 is a view in perspective showing the cover in open position. Fig. 3 is a vertical cross-section showing the cover in closed position. Fig. 4 is a similar view showing the cover in opened position, and Fig. 5 is a similar view showing portions of the cover in closed position and other portions in open position.

I carry out my invention as follows:

In the drawings, A represents the body of the casket. The cover of the casket is formed of folding panels, said panels preferably arranged in two sets, each set preferably consisting of double leaves or panels, (indicated at A' A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> A<sup>4</sup>.) Each set of cover portions or panels is hinged to the body of the casket, as indicated at *a*, the double leaves A' A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> A<sup>4</sup> being respectively hinged together longitudinally, as indicated at *a'*. The leaves or panels A' A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> A<sup>4</sup> are shown extending the whole length of the casket, preferably, although my invention is not limited to making them of full length. The sets of cover portions or panels are constructed and arranged to rise above their respective hinges *a* in closed position and meeting in closed position at the longitudinal center of the casket.

The cover illustrated in the drawings is made of curved form, presenting a neat and tasteful appearance; but I do not limit myself

solely to this particular form, as the cover may be made rounding or of angular form, as may be preferred, within the scope of my invention. The extremities of the body are provided with end portions B B. These end portions are preferably hinged, as indicated at *b*, to the upper edge of the extremities of the body, as indicated in the drawings. I do not, however, limit myself to hinging these end pieces B. When the cover is closed, these end pieces B B project upward above the body of the casket, the same being their normal position. If hinged, they may either be left standing upward when the cover is opened, as indicated, for example, at the right-hand end of the casket shown in Fig. 2, or the end pieces may be folded down when the casket is open, as indicated at the left hand in Fig. 2 and also in Fig. 4. The cover of the casket, it will be perceived, is independent of these end pieces.

It will be observed that by this construction of the casket I am enabled to dispense with the cove commonly employed, as the two panel portions of the casket may be hinged on each side directly upon or to the upper edge of the sides of the body. It will be understood, of course, that the casket may be upholstered in any desired manner.

The casket so constructed is in the nature of a "shrine" casket, so called, and the cover portions may be hinged in many different positions when open. Thus the front portion of the cover may fold entirely down before the front of the body, while the rear portion of the cover may stand partially upward, as indicated in Fig. 1 and at the left of Fig. 5, or both portions of the cover may fold downward below the upper edge of the body to the front and rear, as indicated in Fig. 4. Either portion may simply hang downward, as indicated at the left of Fig. 4, or the lower of the unfolded or opened panels may rest upon a molding toward the bottom of the casket, such a molding being indicated at *a*<sup>2</sup>.

The end pieces B B, it will be seen, close the casket at the extremities of the cover and preferably close against the extremities of the cover, as shown. The end pieces B are preferably rabbeted to form a shoulder *a*<sup>3</sup>, upon which the adjacent extremities of the



panels rest, the portion of the end pieces B projecting above said shoulder closing against the extremities of the panels.

To hold the panels in firm engagement with the end pieces and to prevent the end pieces, if hinged, from displacement, any suitable means may be employed—as, for instance, the shoulder  $a^3$  may be provided with an orifice (indicated at  $a^5$ ) to receive a dowel-pin  $a^4$  upon the panels in hinged connection with the body of the casket. The panels hinged together may be preferably beveled at their adjacent edges, as indicated at  $a^6$ . Such a construction will serve to support the inner panel of each set in raised position, (indicated in Figs. 2 and 5,) if desired.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. In a burial-casket the combination of a casket-body, a cover formed of two sets of panels, each set of panels consisting of two leaves jointedly connected at their adjacent edges and having the outer leaves of each set hinged directly to the sides of the body, respectively, said sets of panels normally projecting upward and inward from the upper edges of the body above and over the top of the body and meeting at the longitudinal center of the cover, and arranged to fold outwardly from the upper edge of said body at the front and rear thereof, whereby either of

said sets of panels may fold over and depend alongside the adjacent upright surface of the body, and end pieces secured to the ends of the body to close the casket at the extremities of the cover, substantially as set forth.

2. A burial-casket having in combination a casket-body, a cover formed of two sets of folding panels, each of said sets of panels consisting of two leaves jointedly connected at their adjacent edges and having the outer leaves of each set of panels hinged directly to the upper edge of casket-body at the front and rear thereof, said sets of panels normally projecting upward and inward from the upper edges of the body and over the top of the body and meeting at the longitudinal center of the cover, said sets of panels arranged to fold outwardly from said body at the front and rear thereof, whereby either of said sets of panels may fold over and depend alongside the adjacent upright surface of the body, and end pieces hinged to the upper edges of the ends of said body to close the casket at the ends of the cover, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I sign this specification in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM H. BLACKFORD.

Witnesses:

N. S. WRIGHT,  
MARY HICKEY.