No. 659,751. Patented Oct. 16, 1900.

F. E. MESSLER.

COFFIN SUPPORT.

(Application filed Mar. 15, 1900.

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

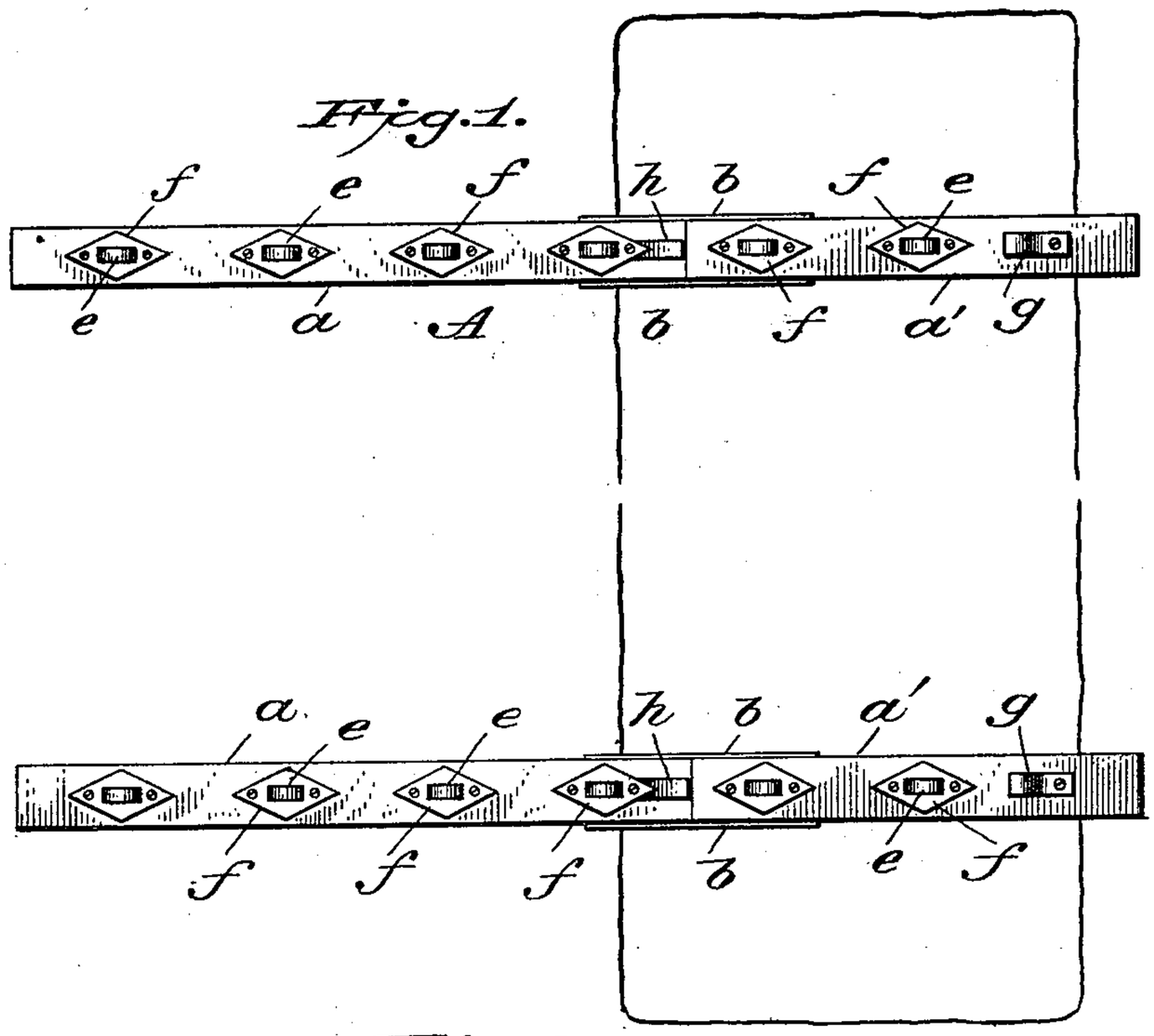


Fig. 2.

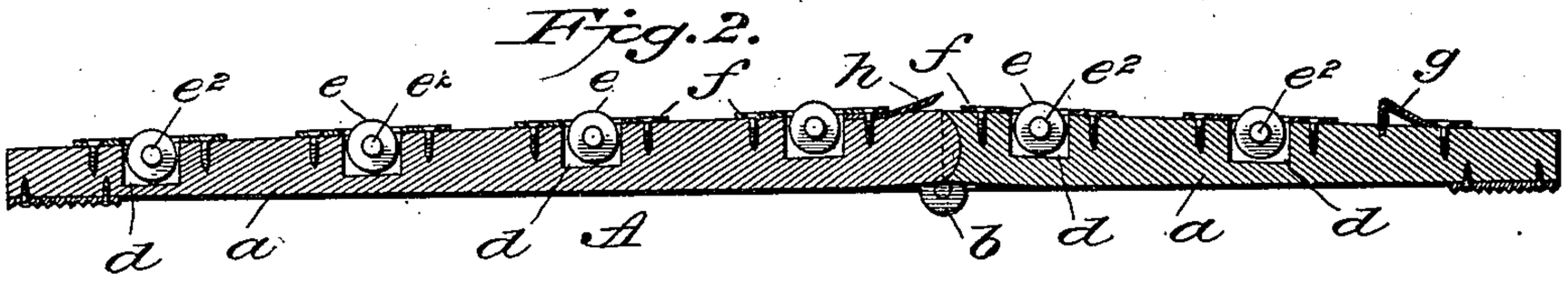


Fig. 3.

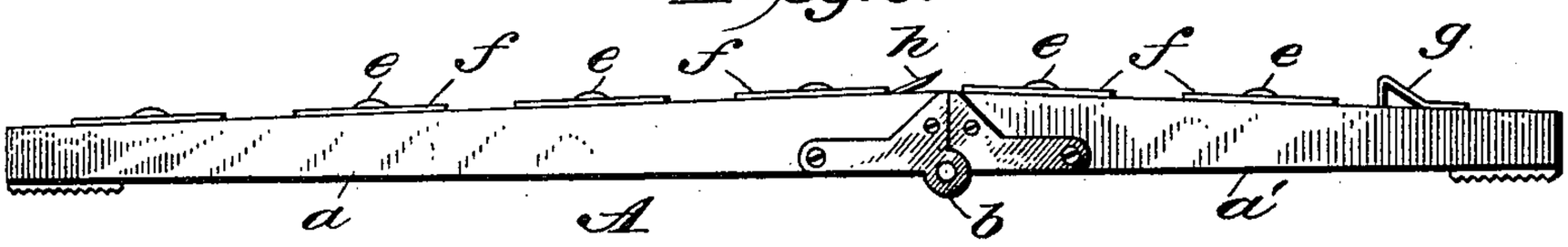


Fig. 4.

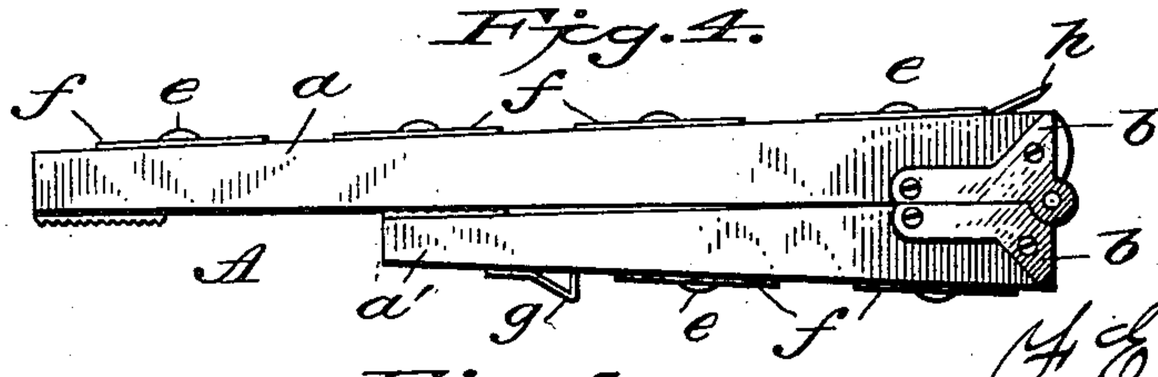
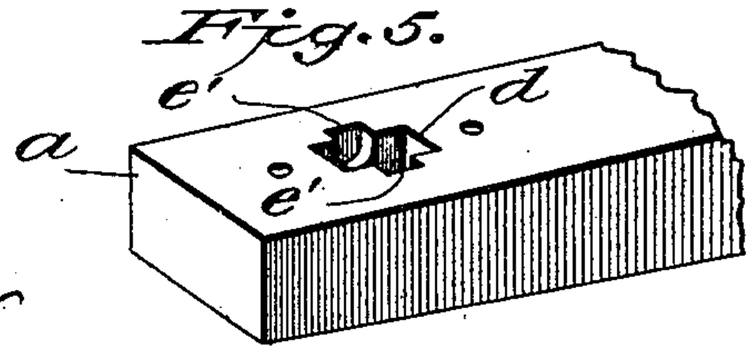


Fig. 5.



Witnesses
G. S. Elliott.
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Inventor
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRED E. MESSLER, OF CANTON, ILLINOIS.

COFFIN-SUPPORT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 659,751, dated October 16, 1900.

Application filed March 15, 1900. Serial No. 8,809. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRED E. MESSLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Canton, in the county of Fulton and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Grave-Sticks or Coffin-Supports, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in grave-sticks or coffin-supports, such as are used by undertakers to maintain a coffin or casket above a grave prior to depositing the same therein.

The object is to provide grave-sticks or coffin-supports of such construction that when the same are not in use they may be folded to occupy but little space and when extended for use will be rigid and of a length to place across the grave and extend on one side of the same sufficiently to permit the pall-bearers to deposit the coffin on the sticks.

The invention consists in the construction of grave-sticks or coffin-supports, each stick being made in two sections hinged together, so that when extended the adjacent ends will abut to provide a rigid bar, said bar having on its upper side rollers and stops for holding the coffin in place, as will be hereinafter set forth, and specifically pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view showing a pair of grave-sticks or coffin-supports in place for use. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view. Fig. 3 is a side elevation. Fig. 4 is a side elevation showing the bar folded for transportation, and Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view showing the construction of a bearing for a roller.

Each one of the bars or grave-sticks A is made up of two sections or parts $a\,a'$, one of the sections a being of greater length than the other, the sections being of corresponding dimensions at the meeting ends, where they are connected by a hinge b. The adjacent ends of the sections in order to provide a rigid joint when in alinement are shaped so that one end will be concave and the other end convex, the pintle of the hinge being on a line with the under side of the sections and the side plates of the hinges being preferably attached to the sides of the bars. The sections a a' taper from their abutting ends toward the opposite ends and on the under side may have attached corrugated plates of rubber or metal, which will prevent the sticks slipping when in use. The sticks are preferably made of hard wood, though metal may be used without departing from my invention.

In the upper sides of the sticks are formed recesses d of a size to receive the major portion of rollers e, the recesses having side extensions or bearings e', in which are seated the journals e^2 of the rollers. To the upper sides of the sticks are secured plates f, having openings through which a part of the rollers pass, and these edges of the plates may be beveled.

Near one end of the upper side of the shorter section a' there is attached a stop g, which projects considerably above the plane of the rollers, and near the hinge to the other section a of the stick is secured a spring-catch h, one end of which is made fast in any suitable manner, while the other end projects upward and is provided with a beveled edge, so that the same will engage with the bottom of the coffin or casket and prevent movement of the same in one direction. The casket will slide over this spring-catch when moved in the direction of the fixed stop g.

In use a pair of similarly-constructed sticks are placed parallel with each other over the grave, and when so placed the longer member or section a will extend a sufficient distance to one side of the grave to permit the pall-bearers to deposit the coffin upon the sticks, after which the coffin may be slid over the grave. In moving the coffin toward the fixed stop the spring-catch will yield and then spring up and engage the coffin, so as to hold the same against movement in one direction, and these spring stops or catches are very effective, especially when it is necessary to place the sticks at an incline, as on a hillside. When the coffin is raised preparatory to lowering, the sticks may be moved to one side, and when the shorter ends pass beyond the side of the grave they may swing to a vertical position therein or said sticks may be wholly removed.

The device herein described may be modi-

fied or the construction changed within the scope of my claims without departing from my invention.

I claim—

1. In a device of the character set forth, a bar made up of two sections which are connected by a hinge so that when the sections are in alinement the adjacent ends will abut, rollers journaled in said bars to project beyond one side of the sections, a rigid stop attached adjacent to the end of one of the sections and a spring-catch attached to the other section, substantially as shown.

2. In a device of the character described, a bar or support made up of two sections, one section being longer than the other, the shorter section having attached thereto a projecting portion or stop, a plurality of rollers, journaled to project beyond the face of the sections of the bar, and a spring-catch, substantially as shown and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a device of the character described, a bar made up of two sections which are hinged to each other so that the ends will abut when the sections are in alinement, a series of projecting rollers journaled in the sections, plates attached to the bar to retain the rollers in place, a stop or projection on one of the sections and a depressible spring-catch on the other section, substantially as shown.

4. In a device of the character described, a bar or grave-stick made up of two sections which are hinged together in such a manner that they will be rigid when brought in alinement, antislipping devices on the under side of the ends of the sections, rollers and stops attached to the upper sides of the sections so as to project above the plane thereof, substantially as shown.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FRED E. MESSLER.

Witnesses:
W. T. DAVIS,
J. W. POPER.