

No. 854,833.

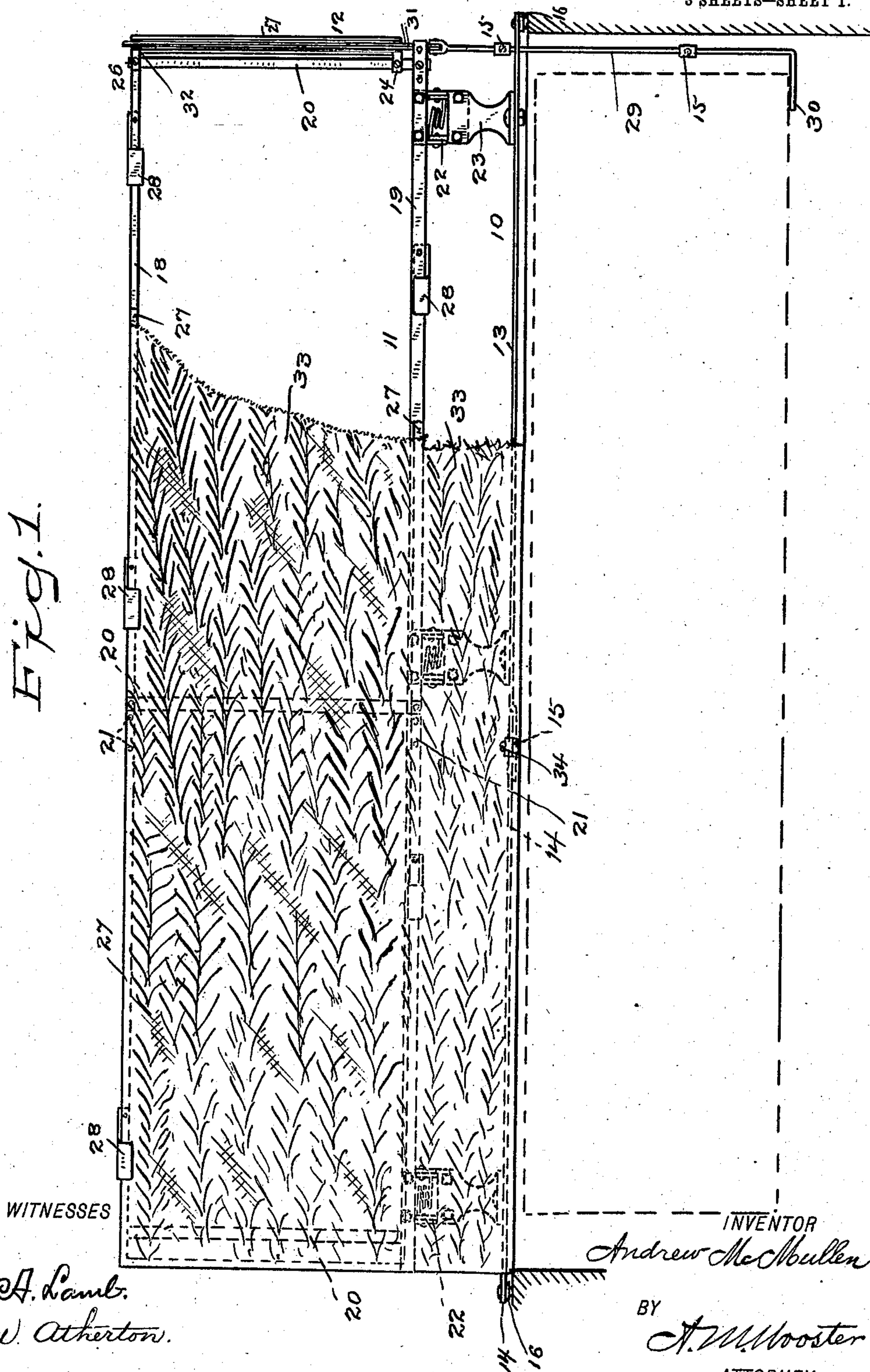
PATENTED MAY 28, 1907.

A. McMULLEN.
DEVICE FOR COVERING GRAVES.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 4, 1907.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



WITNESSES

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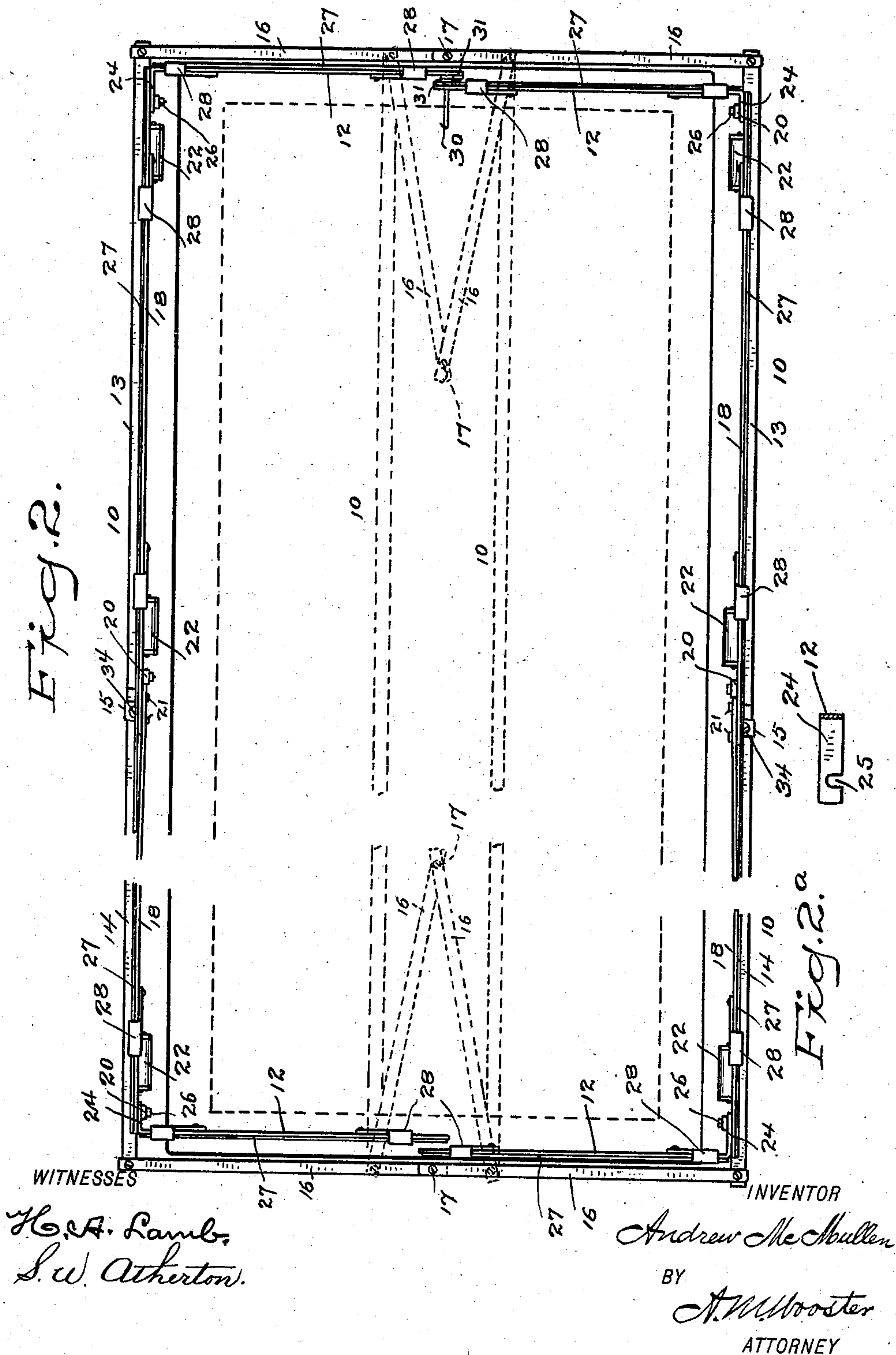
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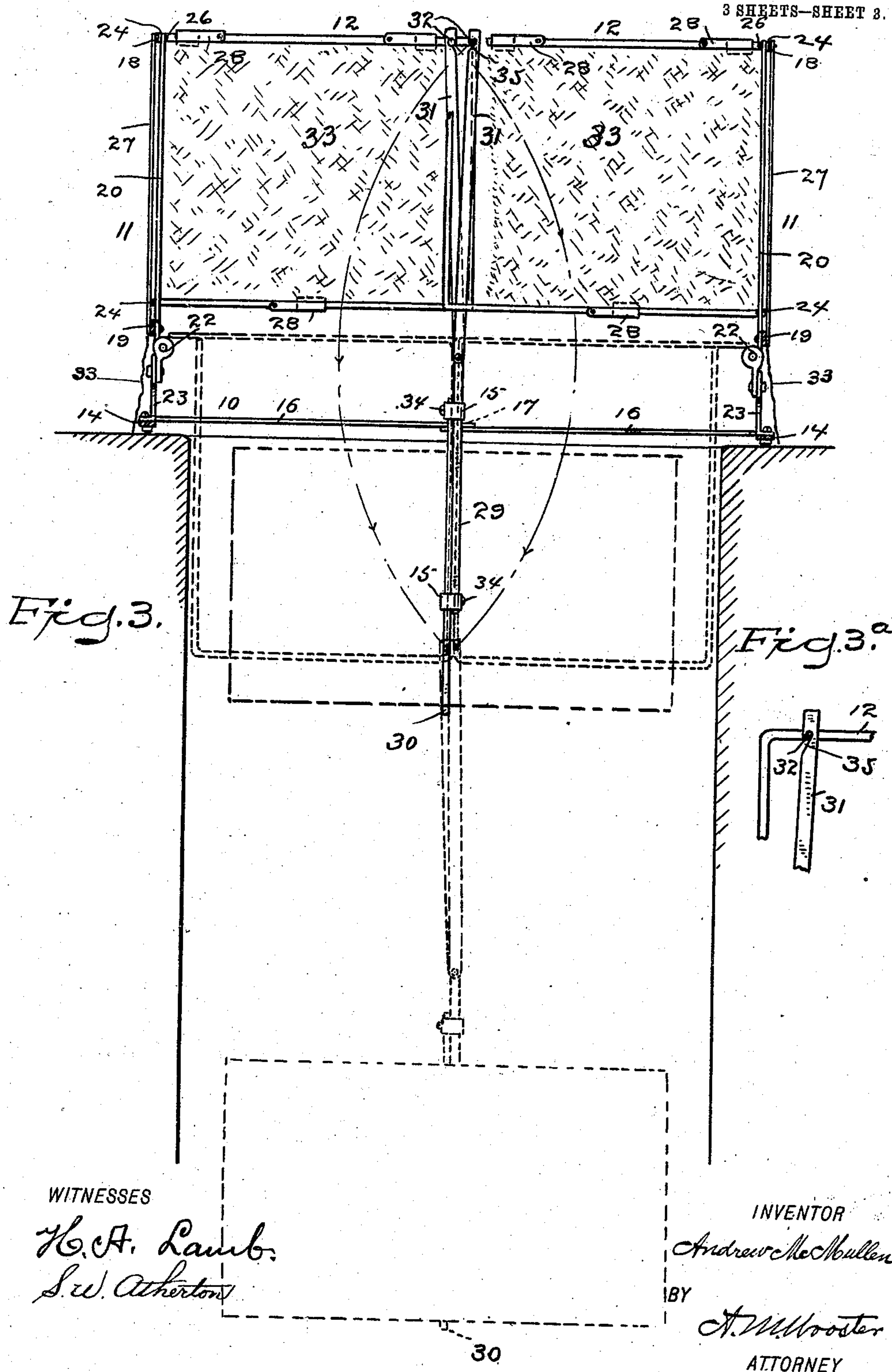
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WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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DEVICE FOR COVERING GRAVES.

No. 854,833.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 28, 1907.

Application filed February 4, 1907. Serial No. 355,561.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDREW McMULLEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Westport, county of Fairfield, State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Device for Covering Graves, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object to provide a device for use at interments, that will conceal the box which receives the casket and when the box with the casket therein is lowered into the grave will automatically cover and wholly conceal the grave.

With this object in view I have invented the novel grave covering device, of which the following description in connection with the accompanying drawings is a specification, reference characters being used to indicate the several parts:

Figure 1 is a side elevation partly broken away, illustrating my novel covering device as in use, a box, indicated by dotted lines, being lowered to a position in which it engages the closing rod; Fig. 2 a plan view corresponding with Fig. 1, a partly collapsed position of the base frame being indicated by dotted lines; Fig. 2^a a detail view illustrating the detachable connection of the end frames to the side frames; Fig. 3 an end view, the covering device being shown in full lines in the position it occupies before the box is lowered, and the box being shown in dotted lines lowered to a position in which it engages the closing rod and also in dotted lines at the bottom of a grave, and the cover being shown in dotted lines in the fully closed position; and Fig. 3^a is a detail view illustrating the detachable connection of one of the closing rod arms to the end frame.

10 denotes the base frame, 11 side frames and 12 the end frames. In order that the device when not in use and for transportation may be packed into very small compass, I make the side strips of the base frame and the side frames in two parts, make the ends frames detachable, pivot the end strips of the base frame to the side strips thereof and provide the end strips with joints at their mid-length, thus making the base frame collapsible.

13 and 14 denote the parts of the side strips of the base frame which is use are rigidly secured together by removable bolts or by a clip 15 which may be provided with a set screw 34.

16 denotes the end strips of the base

frame which are pivoted to the ends of the side strips thereof and are provided with joints 17 at their mid-length so that the base frame carrying the side frames with it may be closed together by folding the end strips, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 2.

The side frames comprise upper strips 18, lower strips 19 and vertical strips 20. In practice, for the sake of compactness, strips 18 and 19 are made in two parts which are secured together by clips or by removable bolts, as indicated at 21 in Figs. 1 and 2. The side frames are connected to the base frame by means of spring hinges 22 which are shown as set upon brackets 23 rigidly secured to the side strips of the base frame. These hinges are ordinary stop spring hinges and act to hold the side frame in the raised position, as in full lines in the drawings, the hinges themselves stopping the frames from being swung further outward and the closing movement of the frames being against the power of the springs.

The end frames are made from a single strip of metal bent to form three sides of a rectangle. In order that they may be readily attached to and detached from the side frames and will be rigid when in place, I provide feet 24 at the ends of the strip and provide the feet with recesses 25 which receive the bolts 26 by which vertical strips 20 are attached to upper and lower strips 18 and 19 of the side frames. The end frames may be readily removed by loosening these bolts and rigidly locked to the side frames by tightening up the bolts. In the raised position, the inner ends of the end frames lap past each other, and when moving to the closed position they pass each other freely.

27 denotes cover frames which are made to correspond in size with the side frames and the end frames and are detachably secured thereto in any suitable manner as by hinged catches 28. These catches are hinged to the upper and lower strips of the side and end frames and are made wide enough so that when closed down to place they will inclose the side or end frame and also the corresponding cover frame thereby securing the latter in place. The construction of the cover frames is not of the essence of the invention. The frame proper is made of light metal and corresponds in size with the frame to which it is to be attached. This frame is covered with wire netting or other suitable material to which evergreens or flowers are secured by

wiring, thus making of the outer sides of the side and end frames a solid mass of evergreens or flowers. The covering of evergreens or flowers upon frames 27 is indicated
 5 by 33. In the drawings, I have shown the coverings upon the side frames as extending below the frames themselves so as to cover the space between the frames and the ground. The coverings upon the end frames
 10 may likewise be extended to the ground.

The closing of the frames over graves when the box is lowered is effected by means of a closing rod 29 at one end of the device. This closing rod is made in two parts so as to be
 15 extensible. These parts are held together by means of clips 15, one or both of which are provided with set screws 34 to lock the parts in place after adjustment. At the lower end of the closing rod is an angle piece
 20 30 which projects into the path of a descending box, as clearly indicated in Fig. 1.

31 denotes arms pivoted to the upper end of the closing rod and provided at their upper ends with downwardly inclined slots 35 to
 25 adapt the upper ends of the arms to be detachably engaged with pins 32 on the respective inner ends of the upper strips of the end frames, see Fig. 3^a in connection with Fig. 3.

30 My novel covering device is adapted for use under all of the ordinary conditions of interment. If the box is placed in the grave and the casket lowered into it, the closing of the covering device would be effected by the
 35 lowering of the casket. It makes no difference whether the box or casket is lowered by means of straps or by means of a mechanical lowering device. Ordinarily the box is supported by cross pieces over the grave, where
 40 it is inclosed and concealed by the covering device. The casket is placed in the box which is then closed and lowered into the grave. In adjusting the closing rod to a grave, the set screw 34 in the clip is loosened
 45 and the rod adjusted to such a length that when angle piece 30 engages the bottom of the grave, the side frames will be just drawn to the closing or covering position, the end frames swinging downward into the grave,
 50 as will be readily understood from Figs. 1 and 3. As funerals are ordinarily conducted, the grave is left covered until the friends have gone away, after which the covering device is removed and the grave is filled.
 55 To detach the closing rod, one of the side frames is pressed downward, which, owing to the shape of the slot 35 in the upper end of the corresponding arm 31, will detach said arm from the corresponding pin 32 on an end
 60 frame and the arm will drop downward. The other arm may then be readily detached and the closing rod given a quarter turn to disengage angle piece 30 from the bottom of the box, which permits the closing rod to be
 65 withdrawn. The end frames are then de-

tached from the side frames by loosening the bolts 26 by which they are attached in place, which leaves the end frames free to be removed. The side frames are then closed
 toward each other by folding the end strips 70 of the base frame, as indicated in Fig. 2. The parts comprising the side strips of the base frame and side frames may or may not be disconnected from each other, as preferred.

Having thus described my invention I
 claim:

1. A device for covering graves comprising a base frame, side frames on opposite sides thereof, spring hinges connecting the side frames to the base frame and normally retaining the side frames in the raised position
 80 and means operated by a descending box for closing the side frames over a grave.

2. A device for covering graves, comprising a base frame, side frames hinged thereto
 85 and normally retained in the raised position, cover frames having covering material thereon detachably secured to the side frames and means operated by a descending box for closing the side frames and cover frames over a
 90 grave.

3. A device for covering graves, comprising a base frame, side frames on opposite sides thereof, spring hinges connecting the side frames to the base frame and normally
 95 retaining the side frames in the raised position, end frames connected to the side frames and a closing rod connected to the end frames at one end and having an angle piece adapted to be engaged by a descending box
 100 whereby the side frames are closed over a grave, the end frames swinging downward into the grave.

4. A device for covering graves, comprising a base frame, side frames on opposite
 105 sides thereof, spring hinges connecting the side frames to the base frame and normally retaining the side frames in the raised position, end frames connected to the side frames, cover frames having covering material thereon
 110 detachably secured to the side and end frames, whereby a box over a grave is concealed and means operated by a descending box for closing the side frames over the grave, the end frames passing downward into
 115 the grave.

5. A device for covering graves comprising a base frame consisting of side strips and end strips, joints at the mid-length of the end strips, so that the side strips may be closed
 120 together, side frames hinged to the side strips of the base frame, means for retaining the side frames in the raised position and means operated by a descending box for closing the side frames over a grave.
 125

6. A device for covering graves, comprising a base frame consisting of two-part side strips detachably secured together and end strips provided with joints at their mid-length, two-part side frames hinged to the
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base frame, end frames detachably secured to the side frames, whereby the device is made compact for transportation, and means actuated by a descending box for closing the side frames over a grave.

7. A device for covering graves, comprising a base frame, side frames hinged thereto, end frames attached to the side frames and having pins 32 near their upper inner corners and an adjustable closing rod having an angle piece adapted to be engaged by a descending box, for the purpose set forth, and having at its upper end pivoted arms which detachably engage the pins on the end frames, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

8. A device for covering graves, comprising a base frame, side frames hinged thereto, end frames attached to the side frames, cover frames having covering material thereon detachably connected to the side and end frames and a closing rod having arms detachably connected to the upper inner corners of the end frames and having an angle piece adapted to be engaged by a descending box, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

9. A device for covering graves, comprising a base frame, side frames hinged thereto, end frames attached to the side frames, cover

frames corresponding with the side and end frames and having covering material thereon, hinged catches by which the cover frames are secured to the side and end frames and a closing rod adapted to be engaged by a descending box and having arms detachably connected to the end frames.

10. A device for covering graves comprising a base frame, side frames hinged thereto, end frames detachably connected to the side frames and having pins 32 near their upper inner corners and an adjustable closing rod adapted to be engaged by a descending box and having at its upper end pivoted arms provided with downwardly inclined slots which detachably engage the pins on the end frames.

11. A device for covering graves, comprising a collapsible base frame, side frames hinged thereto, end frames detachably connected to the side frames and an adjustable closing rod detachably connected to the end frames, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

ANDREW McMULLEN.

Witnesses:

A. M. WOOSTER,
S. W. ATHERTON.