W. E. HAWORTH.

BURIAL VAULT.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 27, 1908.

931,299. Patented Aug. 17, 1909.

Fig. 1.

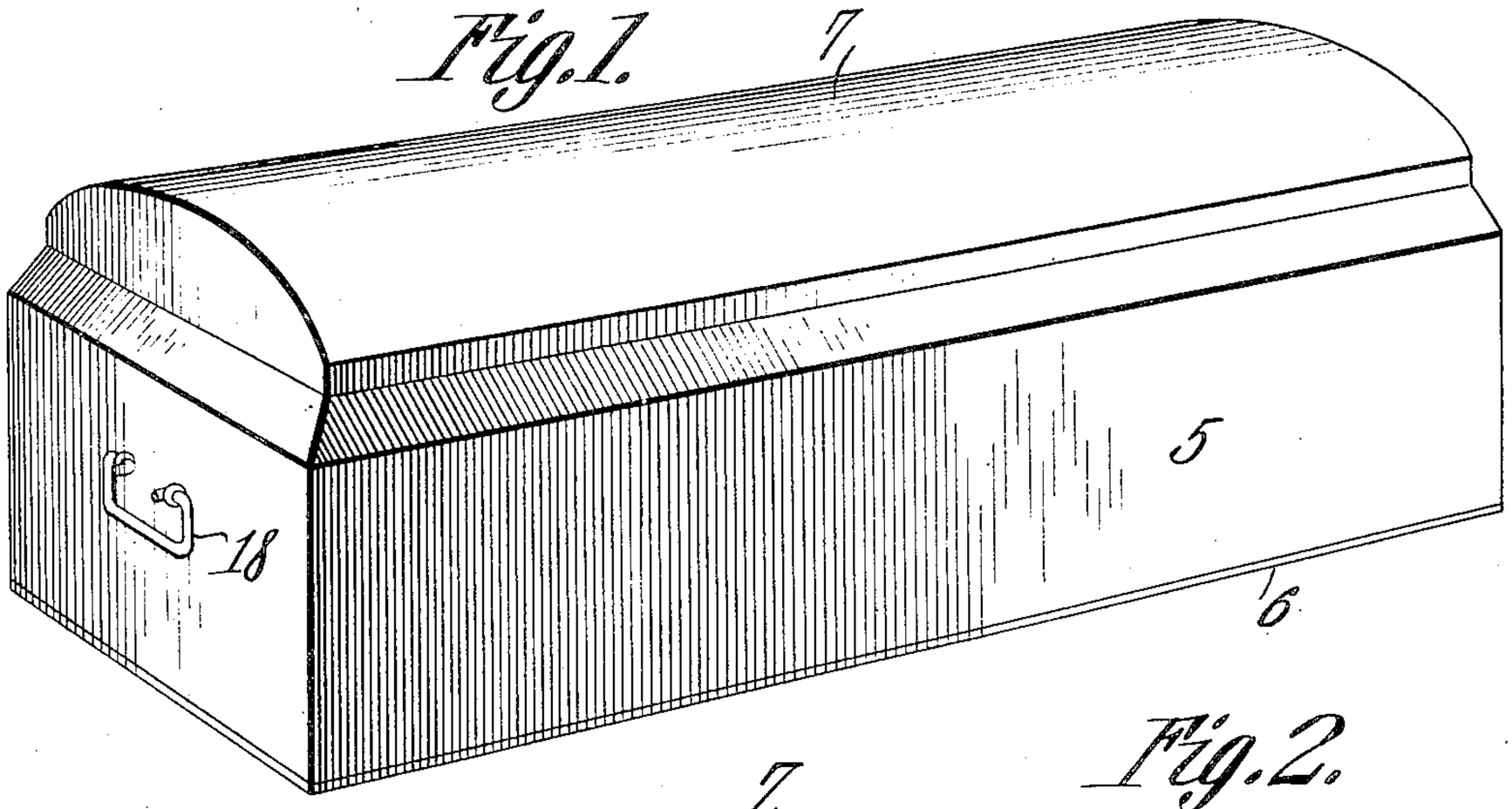



Fig. 2.

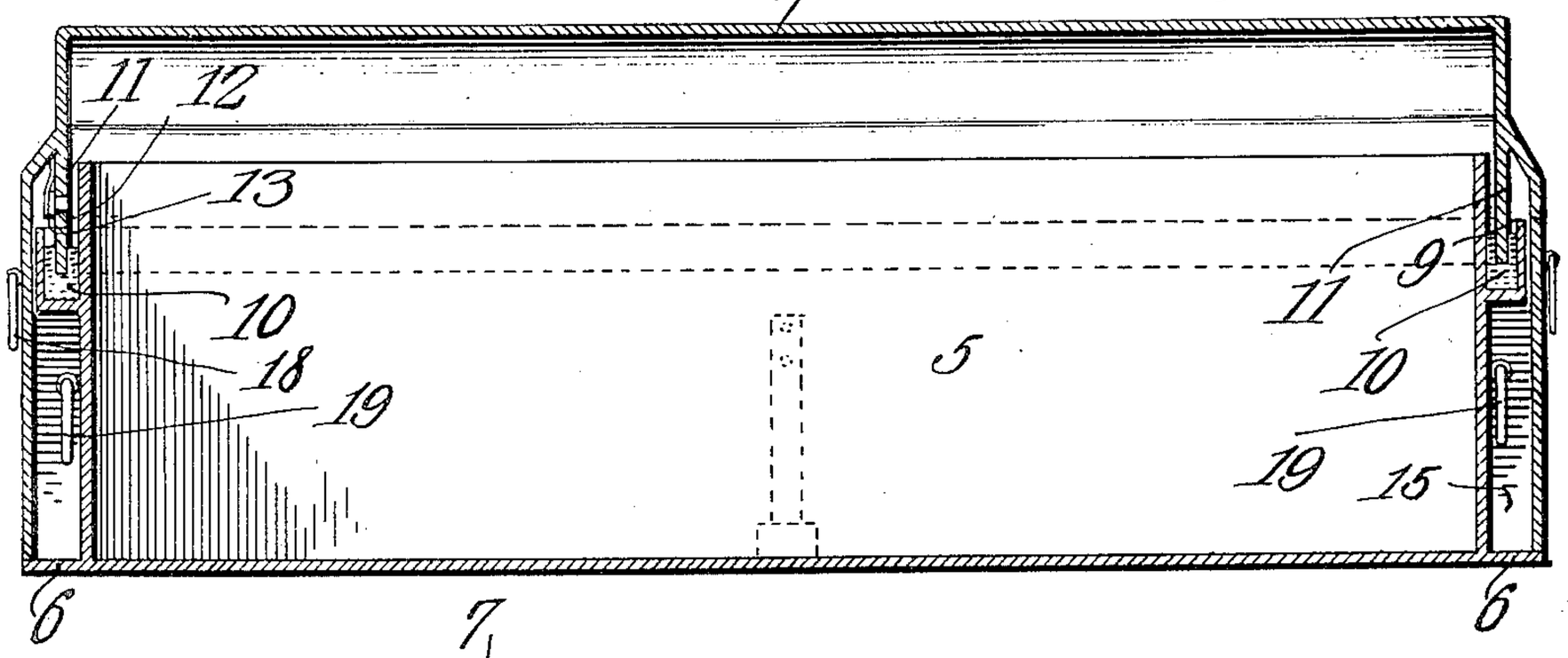



Fig. 3.

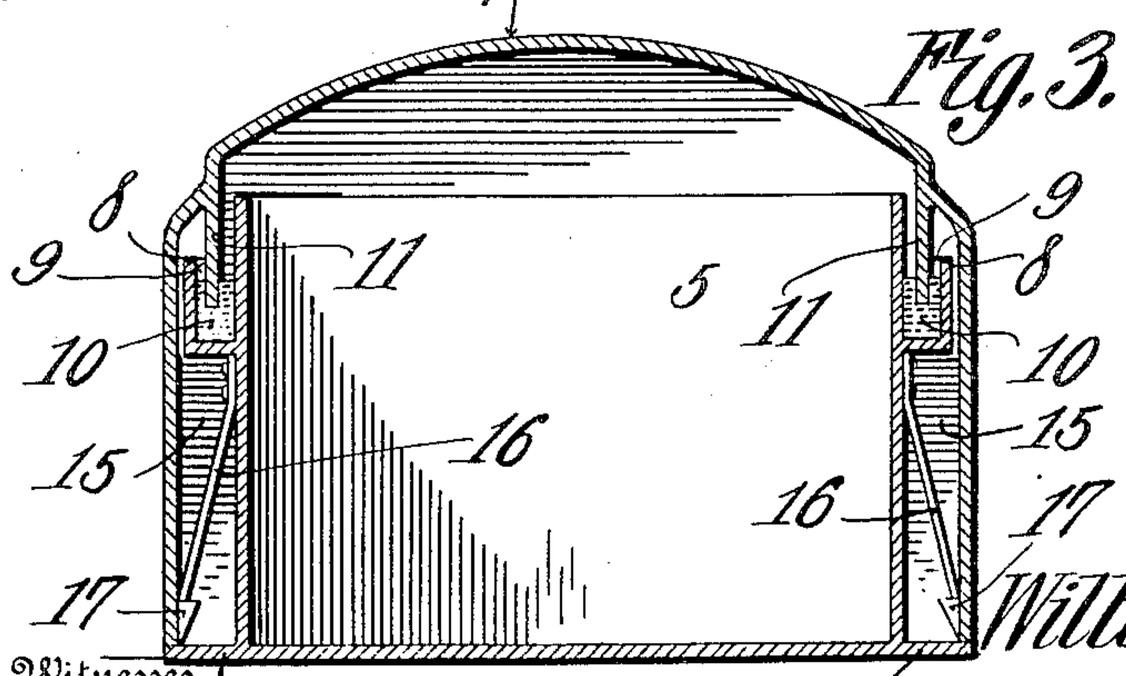
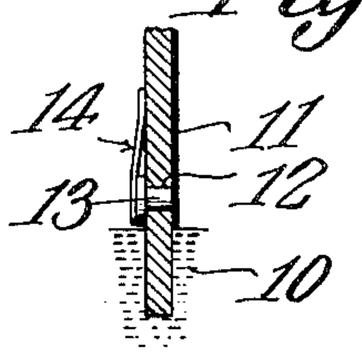



Fig. 4.




Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## BURIAL-VAULT.

No. 931,299. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 17, 1909.

Application filed July 27, 1908. Serial No. 445,565.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. HAWORTH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Ridge Farm, in the county of Vermilion and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Burial-Vault, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to burial vaults and has for its object to provide a strong, durable and thoroughly efficient device of this character having a double seal or closure thereby to render the vault practically air and moisture proof.

A further object of the invention is to provide a vault including top and bottom sections, one of which is provided with a cement receiving groove or pocket and the other with a depending flange adapted to be embedded in the cement in said pocket to form a seal at the upper edge of the vault.

A further object is to provide a vault in which the vertical walls of the top section overlap the side and end walls of the bottom section, the latter being provided with a marginal flange at the base thereof for engagement with the lower longitudinal edge of said top section.

A still further object is to provide improved means for locking the top and bottom sections of the vault in closed position, and means for permitting the escape of gas from the interior of the vault.

Further objects and advantages will appear in the following description, it being understood that various changes in form, proportions and minor details of construction may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification: Figure 1 is a perspective view of a vault constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view. Fig. 4 is a detail vertical sectional view of the valve.

Similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in all of the figures of the drawings.

The improved burial vault forming the subject matter of the present invention includes a bottom section 5 preferably rectangular in shape, as shown, and formed of metal, glass, concrete, porcelain or other suitable material, said bottom section being open at the top and provided at its base with a laterally extending flange 6 entirely surrounding the lower section, as shown.

The upper section 7, which may be also formed of metal, concrete or other suitable material, is provided with a curved upper portion to assist in shedding the water, the side and end walls of the top section being extended downwardly for engagement with the upper surface of the flange 6, thereby to form a housing for the bottom section and assist in preventing any water or moisture in the grave from entering the interior of the vault.

Secured to or formed integral with the exterior walls of the lower section 5 is a vertically disposed flange 8, the latter having its upper edge spaced from the lower section to form a pocket 9 for the reception of a quantity of cement, mortar or other adhesive material, indicated at 10.

Arranged within the upper section 7 and preferably formed integral therewith is a depending flange 11 adapted to be embedded in the cement 10, thereby to form a seal or closure at the top of the vault.

Formed in the flange 11 are one or more vent openings 12 to permit the escape of gas generated within the vault by the decomposition of the body, said vent opening being normally closed by a suitable valve 13 yieldably held to its seat by a leaf spring 14.

Attention is here called to the fact that the valve 13 is arranged above the upper longitudinal edge of the groove forming flange 8 so as to prevent the cement from interfering with the operation of said valve.

It will also be noted that the valve 13 is protected by the depending skirt of the top section, while the outward movement of said valve is limited by engagement with the interior wall of the skirt so as to prevent the valve from being entirely dislodged from the vent opening in case of excessive gas pressure.

The depending vertical walls or skirt of the upper section are spaced from the exterior walls of the lower section to form a circumferential air chamber, and disposed within said chamber and riveted or otherwise rigidly secured to the exterior walls of the bottom section 5 are one or more spring locking members 16 adapted to engage suitable catches 17 fastened to the vertical walls of the top section.

The catches 17 are inclined or beveled so that when the top section is positioned over the bottom section of the vault the inclined face of the catch will move the locking member 16 laterally to permit the passage of the same, the spring or locking member automatically returning to normal position above the catch thereby to prevent an unauthorized person from opening the vault.

The bottom section 6 is preferably high enough to prevent any water that may be present in the bottom of the grave from entering the interior of the vault, the seal at the top of the vault forming an effective closure at the juncture of the top and bottom sections.

In using the vault the bottom section 5 is first positioned within the grave after which the casket is lowered within the bottom section and the top section placed over the bottom section open end down.

As the top section is positioned over the bottom section the depending flange 11 will enter the cement in the groove 8, while the lower longitudinal edges of the top section will bear against the marginal flange 6, the locking device 16 automatically engaging the catch 17, in the manner before stated.

As the top section is lowered the air in the bottom section will be compressed and a portion of the same forced outwardly through the vent opening 12 thus preventing the entrance of water to the interior of the vault when sealing the same.

The end walls of the top section 7 are preferably provided with suitable handles 18, there being similar handles 19 formed on the end walls of the bottom section 5, the latter handles being housed within the chamber 15. These handles, however, may be placed on either the end or side walls of the vault sections, or both.

It will of course be understood that any number of valves may be employed in connection with the vault and that the locking devices may be arranged on either the side or end walls of the vault, or both.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed is:

1. A burial vault including top and bottom sections, one of which is provided with a depending flange adapted to enter a cement receiving groove formed in the mating section, the vertical side and end walls of the flange carrying section being extended downwardly over the cement-receiving groove and to the bottom of the mating section, thereby to form a housing for said cement-receiving groove.

2. A burial vault including top and bottom sections one of which is provided with a laterally extending flange and the other with a depending flange adapted to enter a cement receiving groove formed in the mating section, the vertical side and end walls of the top section being extended downwardly over the cement-receiving groove and arranged to bear against the laterally extending flange, thereby to form a housing for the cement receiving groove.

3. A burial vault including top and bottom sections one of which is provided with a depending flange adapted to enter a cement receiving groove formed in the mating section, the vertical walls of the flange carrying section being extended downwardly over the cement-receiving groove to the bottom of the mating section to form a housing for said cement-receiving groove, and means for locking said sections in closed position.

4. A burial vault including a bottom section having its base formed with a laterally extending marginal flange and its upper portion provided with a cement receiving groove, a top section having a depending flange adapted to enter the said cement receiving groove and having side walls of approximately the same height as the bottom section and extended downwardly over the cement-receiving groove for engagement with the marginal flange of the latter, thereby to form a housing for said cement receiving groove.

5. A burial vault including a bottom section having its base provided with a laterally extending marginal flange and its upper portion formed with a cement receiving groove, a top section having a depending flange adapted to enter the cement receiving groove and provided with vertical walls, the lower longitudinal edges of which are extended downwardly over the cement-receiving groove and adapted to rest on the marginal flange of the bottom section, a catch secured to the vertical walls of the top section, and a spring locking member secured to the bottom section for engagement with said catch.

6. A burial vault including a bottom section having its base provided with a laterally extending marginal flange and provided at its upper portion with a cement receiving groove, a top section having a depending flange adapted to be embedded in the cement in said groove and having its vertical walls of approximately the same height as the bottom section and extending downwardly over the cement-receiving groove for engagement with the flange of the bottom section, there being a vent opening formed in said flange, and a spring pressed valve forming a closure for the vent opening.

7. A burial vault including a bottom section having its base formed with a laterally extending marginal flange and its upper portion provided with a cement receiving groove, a top section having a depending flange adapted to enter the cement in the groove and provided with vertical walls of approximately the same height as the bot-

tom section and extended downwardly over the cement-receiving groove for engagement with the flange of the bottom section to form a housing for said cement-receiving groove, there being a vent opening formed in the depending flange, a valve seated in said vent opening, a spring bearing against the valve, said valve being protected by the adjacent vertical wall of the top section and arranged to bear against the inner face of said wall for limiting the opening movement of said valve.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM E. HAWORTH.

Witnesses:
MONROE EWING,
J. T. LEWIS.