

SICKEL & BRENZ, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.**

Plate No. 298. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S WAGON.

Hub May 1897 page 91.

Fashion Plate No. 298 illustrates a funeral director's wagon built by Sickel & Brenz, of Philadelphia, and exhibited by them at the carriage exhibition held in Philadelphia. It was designed for undertakers' use. A tail gate is provided at the rear by which access can be had to the body. The side panels are divided, one portion being of imitation basket or cane work, below which is an imitation wheel house. A silver plate, is placed between the cane work and the wheel-house moldings, which serves as a name plate. The body is suspended upon a three-spring perch gear.

Dimensions of Woodwork.--Body: With across bottom, 31 inches. Width of seat across top, 42 inches; across bottom, 38 inches. Wheels, plain. Height, front, 41½ inches; rear, 44½ inches. Hubs, length, 6½ inches; diameter at center, 4 inches; front end, 3 inches; back end, ¾ inches. Size of spokes, 1¼ inches. Number of spokes, 14 and 14. Stagger, ¼ inch. Depth of rims, 1 15/16 inches. Tread of rims, 1 3/16 inch. Depth of bands, front, 2¼ inches; back, ¾ inch. Distance between center of axles, 53 inches.

Dimensions of Ironwork.--Springs, front, 35 inches long between centers of heads, with 7 inches opening on main leaf. Width of steel, 1 ¼ inches. Number of plates, four. Thickness, Nos. 2, 3, 3 and 3 steel. Back, 34 inches long, with 7½ inches opening on main leaf. Width of steel, 1¼ inches. Number of plates, four. Thickness, Nos. 3, 3, 3 and 4 steel. Axles, front and rear, 1½ inches. Tires, 1¼ inches by ¾ inches.

Fifth wheel, 16 inches diameter. King-bolt, 3 inches back of center of axle. Track, outside, front and rear, 4 feet 8 inches.

Painting.--Body and gear, black. Gear striped with a fine line of yellow.

Trimming.--Leather cushion and back, made up in blocks. Finish, lamps, rail and name-plate silver plated. Also printed in the book *Horse-drawn Funeral Vehicles 19th Century Funerals* published by Carriage Museum of America.

Charles Brenz & Co., Southeast corner Thirty-seventh and Filbert Streets. Coach, carriage, and Wagon builders. successors to sickel & Brenz, established 1870. factory photo can be seen in *Philadelphia Pennsylvania, the Book of Its Bourse & Co-operating Bodies*, by George Washington Engelhardt, published by Lippincott Press, Philadelphia, 1898-1899 page 391.